

Miami-Dade County Public Schools
SUPERINTENDENT’S DISTRICT ADVISORY PANEL
FOR EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

Minutes of January 6, 2022

SBAB Room 559

Members Present

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| Sandy Ames, Family Care Council (Physical) | Laurie Malman (Virtual) | Elias Seife (Physical) |
| Rosa Maria Barbara, Parliamentarian (Physical) | Lynn Miskiel, UM Mailman Center (Virtual) | Mark Thompson, Special Olympics (Physical) |
| Sabrena Bishop (Virtual) | Gisel Prado, Miami Parks/Recreation (Virtual) | Angie Torres, M-DCPS (Physical) |
| Dr. Michelle Cumming, FIU (Virtual) | Sandra Rancano, Parent to Parent (Virtual) | Kathy Vergara (Virtual) |
| Enrique Escallon, Chairperson (Physical) | Maria Ratti (Physical) | Alicia Walford, PEN (Virtual) |
| Beverly Heller (Physical) | Lisette Rodriguez, M-DCPS (Physical) | Hermine Wilson –Lang (Virtual) |
| Kelli Hunter-Sheppard, M-DCPS (Virtual) | Patrick Salmasi, M-DCPS (Physical) | |

Members Absent

Brenda Lampon, VR
Ernie Martinez
Diane Adreon, UM/NSU CARD
Irenaida Diaz, Advocacy Network (Virtual)

School Board Member

Lucia Baez-Gellar (Virtual)

School Personnel Present

Tracie Abner (Virtual)

Reagan Chalmers (Virtual)

Marisol Diaz (Virtual)

Martha Diaz (Virtual)

Magaly Ercilla (Physical)

Ava Goldman (Virtual)

Josee Gregoire (Virtual)

Ray Novo (Physical)

Vivian Nunez (Physical)

Alfredia Robinson (Virtual)

Alina Rodriguez (Virtual)

Maria Sellek (Virtual)

Natalie Tappert (Virtual)

Latonya Troutman (Virtual)

Guests

Amanda Ley

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM.

Welcome and Introduction of Panel Members/Visitors

Mr. Enrique Escallon welcomed all members and visitors. Ms. Angie Torres welcomed Ms. Tracie Abner. Ms. Abner welcomed everyone and encouraged members and visitors to invite additional community members to attend Panel Meetings. Ms. Angie Torres then welcomed special presenter, Ms. Martha Diaz, Chief Budget Officer.

Review of Agenda

Mr. Escallon reviewed the agenda. He explained that voting will take place once quorum is established.

Presentations

IDEA Grant Budget Report for 2020-2021

Shannon Gottardi

District Director

Department of Exceptional Student Education

Ms. Gottardi provided information and descriptions of the IDEA K-12, IDEA Preschool, FDLRS and SEDNET grants. She reviewed the 2020-2021 IDEA Grant budget and provided a summary of final budgeted amounts and expenditures for the grants. Ms. Gottardi provided an update on the 2020-2021 IDEA K12 budget. She also reviewed the salary and non-salary expenditures. A summary of the 2020-2021 IDEA Pre-K Budget and salary expenditures were discussed. Ms. Gottardi also reviewed non-salary expenditures of the IDEA Pre-K Budget. The 2020-2021 IDEA

FDLRS Budget was discussed. Ms. Gottardi then provided information about the 2021-2022 IDEA Grants. She clarified that the district has not received the final award yet.

Mr. Seife asked for clarification about the employee expenditures, fringes, and benefits in the 2020-2021 IDEA K12 Budget. Ms. Gottardi explained that medical insurance increased. Ms. Diaz explained that fringes only apply to full-time employees. Mr. Seife asked about the American Rescue Plan and how long it will be available. Ms. Gottardi explained that this plan will run through September 2023. Ms. Ratti asked if FDLRS funds can roll forward or if the funds must be spent before the end of the school year. Ms. Gottardi explained that the funds are tied to specific categories. Ms. Ratti asked how the district can ensure that the state and district are seeking funds that the district is entitled to throughout the year. Ms. Diaz clarified that the district has an Office of Grants Administration, which the community can contact to inquire about grants and possible eligibility.

Mr. Escallon shared that panel members did not sign up for the Financial Sub-committee earlier this year. He explained that Ms. Torres will email all panel members after the panel meeting to ask about interest in this sub-committee.

ESE Budget Report for 2020-2021

Martha M. Diaz

Chief Budget Officer, Budget Management

Office of Financial Operations/Budget

Ms. Diaz provided a detailed review of amounts budgeted for programs that are ESE-related. She discussed the 2020-2021 vs. 2019-2020 General Fund ESE Budget Variance. Mr. Seife asked if the information shared includes any federal funds. Ms. Diaz clarified that the information presented did not include federal funds. Ms. Diaz presented an update of the 2020-2021 General Fund ESE Budget, with details about programs and employees budgeted. She shared a summary of the ESE expenditures per cost report. Ms. Diaz explained that she will send a detailed report of expenditures by program to Ms. Torres so the report may be distributed to the panel members.

Ms. Ratti asked to advocate for salary increase for paraprofessionals. Ms. Diaz explained that the state dictates who qualifies for specific funds. Mr. Escallon recommended that the panel follows up with advocating for this group of professionals.

Consent Agenda and Approval of November Panel Meeting Minutes

Mr. Escallon asked if there were any objection or change recommended for the agenda and the March Meeting Minutes. Ms. Rosa Maria Barbara moved to extend the meeting for 15 minutes. Motion passed.

Presentation of Sub-Committee Meeting Updates

Dr. Rodriguez recommended that due to time constraints, members and guests review Sub-committee updates independently. Recommendation was made to move on to the department updates. Panel agreed with the suggestion.

Early Childhood Updates

Marisol Diaz
Administrative Director
Office of Early Childhood Programs

Ms. Diaz shared information about upcoming virtual sessions for parents. She shared that several professional development sessions have also been scheduled to continue to support Early Childhood teachers. Ms. Heller asked how many teachers have participated in the sessions. Ms. Diaz will provide an update on participation. Ms. Ratti asked for information about early detection of Autism in young students. Ms. Gregoire shared that Early Childhood in collaboration with ESE have begun the arena model for evaluation, an initiative to help parents go through the evaluation process in an expeditious manner. Mr. Escallon asked for further information about the impact of staff shortage on the evaluation process is shared at the next panel meeting. Ms. Walford asked if parent sessions will be offered in Haitian Creole as well.

ESE Updates (Transition)

Magaly Ercilla
Instructional Supervisor
Department of Exceptional Student Education

Ms. Ercilla shared information about the Transition Services and Programs available for students who choose to defer receipt of the standard high school diploma. Descriptions of each program and site were provided, including information about new Project Victory programs at M-DCPS Department of Transportation and South Florals-Flower Market.

Ms. Walford shared that FND have been working on a webinar for parents about diploma options which will be shared with Ms. Torres.

Gifted Updates

Dr. Lisette T. Rodriguez
Executive Director, Advanced Academics
Division of Academics

Dr. Rodriguez shared information about the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability test and provided an update on the department's goal of identifying more underrepresented students for Gifted programs. Ms. Heller asked for detailed data about the students identified. She also asked if this test will be available after this school year. Dr. Rodriguez shared that the use of this screening was part of an initiative for this school year, and it will be considered for following years. Ms. Heller asked about gifted competitions for this school year. Dr. Rodriguez explained that information about the upcoming competitions will be shared during the Gifted subcommittee meeting in February.

Mr. Escallon made a motion to extend the Panel meeting by five more minutes. Motion was approved.

Meeting Wrap-up and Adjournment

Ms. Heller asked about the student representatives for the Panel. Ms. Torres explained that student representatives were selected and will be informed in January. Student representatives will be in attendance for the next Panel meeting.

Mr. Escallon thanked School Board Member Baez-Gellar for joining the panel meetings.

Meeting Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:12 PM.