

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

Minutes of March 3, 2022

SBAB Room 559

Members Present

Dr. Diane Adreon, UM-NSU CARD (Physical)	Ernie Martinez (Physical)	Elias Seife (Physical)
Sandy Ames, Family Care Council (Virtual)	Laurie Malman (Virtual)	Mark Thompson, Special Olympics (Physical)
Rosa Maria Barbara, Parliamentarian (Physical)	Lynn Miskiel, UM Mailman Center (Virtual)	Angie Torres, M-DCPS (Physical)
Irenaida Diaz, Advocacy Network (Physical)	Gisel Prado, Miami Parks/Recreation (Virtual)	Shirkeyla Trimble, Student Representative (Physical)
Enrique Escallon, Chairperson (Physical)	Sandra Rancano, Parent to Parent (Virtual)	Kathy Vergara (Physical)
Beverly Heller (Physical)	Maria Ratti (Physical)	Alicia Walford, PEN (Virtual)
Dr. Kelli Hunter-Sheppard, M-DCPS (Physical)	Dr. Lisette Rodriguez, M-DCPS (Physical)	Hermine Wilson–Lang (Virtual)
Anthony Julio, Student Representative (Physical)	Patrick Salmasi, M-DCPS (Physical)	

Members Absent

Sabrena Bishop
Dr. Michelle Cumming, FIU
Brenda Lampon, VR

School Board Member Present

Lucia Baez-Geller (Virtual)

School Personnel Present

Reagan Chalmers (Virtual)

Marisol Diaz (Virtual)

Magaly Ercilla (Physical)

Ava Goldman (Virtual)

Ray Novo (Physical)

Vivian Nunez (Physical)

Alina Rodriguez (Virtual)

Maria Sellek (Virtual)

Call to Order

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

Welcome and Introduction of Panel Members/Visitors

Ms. Angie Torres welcomed all members and visitors. Ms. Angie Torres also introduced the two new Student Representatives, Anthony Julio and Shirkeyla Trimble. She then reviewed meeting norms and procedures. Ms. Angie Torres made a motion to conduct ESE Updates before reviewing the agenda. Motion was approved by Panel members.

ESE Updates

Pre-K Diagnostics Arena Model

Dr. Kelli Hunter-Sheppard

District Director

Department of Exceptional Student Education

Dr. Kelli Hunter-Sheppard provided a presentation about the M-DCPS Pre-K Diagnostics Arena Model. This new method of evaluation for students was launched in September 2021. This model consists of eight teams across the county testing children. The arena model includes three steps which takes approximately three to four months from referral to placement.

- Step 1: Referral and Appointment
- Step 2: Evaluation – One Stop Shop
- Step 3: Staffing Day

Dr. Kelli Hunter-Sheppard provided a detailed review of the referral, screening, evaluation, and staffing process. Ally Walford shared information about the PEN workshop for parents of young children and the evaluation process.

2021-2022 ESE Parent Survey

Patrick Salmasi

District Director

Department of Exceptional Student Education

Mr. Patrick Salmasi shared information about the 2021-2022 ESE Parent Survey. He explained that the Parent Survey is deployed by FDLRS-South. Ms. Ratti asked if parents need a specific code to complete survey. ESE clarified that a specific code is not necessary.

Project SOAR

Magaly Ercilla
Instructional Supervisor
Department of Exceptional Student Education

Ms. Magaly Ercilla shared information about Project SOAR, a program offered in collaboration with M-DCPS Adult Education. The program is currently available at Miami Springs Adult Education Center and Felix Varela Adult Education Center. The program focuses on providing young adults (ages 18-26) with opportunities for enhancing skills related to independent living, social interaction, community experience, employability, and leisure.

Early Childhood Updates

Marisol Diaz
Administrative Director
Office of Early Childhood Programs

Ms. Marisol Diaz shared that the Positive Parenting Practices for Parents sessions have had an increase in parent participation this school year. These sessions allow parents to ask questions and obtain feedback via email and virtual formats. Sessions are being recorded and posted for access on-demand. Ms. Diaz also shared that articulation meetings for families transitioning from Pre-K to Kinder start on March 7th, 2022.

Gifted Updates

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

Dr. Lisette Rodriguez shared information about the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test, including a review of the results according to subgroups.

Review of Agenda

Mr. Enrique Escallon reviewed minutes from the January Panel Meeting. Ms. Heller moved to approve the minutes, and Dr. Rodriguez seconded. The January Panel meeting minutes were approved as presented. Ms. Torres presented the November Panel meeting minutes for review. Ms. Heller moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Ernie Martinez seconded. Minutes were accepted as presented. Ms. Torres shared that the minutes for both meetings will be posted on the Panel website after the meeting.

Presentation of Sub-Committee Meeting Updates

Mr. Enrique Escallon thanked all sub-committee members for participating in the subcommittees.

Each subcommittee presented a review of information that was discussed at each meeting in February 2022. Subcommittee chairs also shared the dates of their next subcommittee meetings.

Meeting Wrap-Up and Adjournment

Dr. Lisette Rodriguez moved to adjourn at 5:02 PM. Motion was seconded by Rosa Maria Barbara. Meeting was adjourned at 5:02 PM.