

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

**Minutes of September 27, 2021**

**SBAB Room 559**

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

Brenda Lampon, VR  
 Dr. Michelle Cumming, FIU

**School Board Member**

Lucia Baez-Gellar

**School Personnel Present**

Tracie Abner (Virtual)  
 Elena Camacho (Virtual)  
 Marisol Diaz (Virtual)  
 Magaly Ercilla (Physical)  
 Tabitha Fazzino (Virtual)  
 Luis Garcia (Virtual)

Ava Goldman (Virtual)  
Gabrielle Gonzalez (Virtual)  
Josee Gregoire (Virtual)  
Ray Novo (Physical)  
Vivian Nunez (Virtual)  
Alina Rodriguez (Virtual)  
Patrick Salmasi (Physical)

### **Guests**

Melanie Morales, FIU

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM. Mr. Escallon shared that today's meeting is being recorded.

### **Welcome and Introduction of Panel Members/Visitors**

Ms. Angie Torres welcomed Ms. Tracie Abner, and two presenters from the School Board Attorney's office. Mr. Enrique Escallon welcomed all members and visitors.

### **Review of Agenda**

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

### **Presentations**

#### **Overview of Florida's Sunshine Law**

Luis M. Garcia, Esq.

Deputy Assistant School Board Attorney, Board Attorney's Office

Mr. Luis Garcia presented information about Florida's Sunshine Law. He explained that any meetings through the advisory panels and committees must meet three basic requirements:

- Reasonable public notice of the meeting must be given
- The meeting must be open to the public, in a location accessible to the public; and
- Minutes of the meeting must be taken and made available to the public.

Mr. Garcia also explained that any violation can lead to the invalidation of any action taken by a board or committee. Mr. Escallon asked if the presentation can be shared with the panel. Presentation will be shared. Ms. Ratti asked about the sharing of information via email before the panel meetings. Mr. Garcia suggested that the information should be sent to the panel liaison, with a note that members are not to respond, and that items are being provided for informational purposes. Mr. Escallon and Ms. Torres thanked Mr. Garcia for the presentation. Mr. Escallon shared that all communication must go through the staff liaison.

## **Meeting Norms**

Angie Torres

Administrative Director, Department of Exceptional Student Education

Meeting norms were reviewed by Ms. Torres. Discussion included norms for physical and virtual participants.

## **Parental Bill of Rights**

Tabitha Fazzino

Chief Intergovernmental Affairs and Compliance Officer

Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and Compliance

Ms. Fazzino shared that House Bill 241, Parental Bill of Rights, was passed at the last legislative session. The Parent Bill of Rights mandates that the school board adopt a policy that memorializes all the components of the Bill of Rights in one location. Initial Reading of Proposed Policy 5780 will be completed at the October School Board Meeting. The policies include plans for parental participation in schools, curriculum, access to information, and how parents can provide input about instructional materials. Information will be posted on the Parent Portal and will be included in the school-specific parent handbooks.

Ms. Fazzino shared that the link to the FDOE guidance on the ESE SP&P will be included. She explained that the policy is one part of the plan as a result of legislative session. The Proposed Policy will be part of the October School Board Meeting Agenda as well. Ms. Fazzino shared that the district's Strategic Plan for 2021-2026 includes pillars that intend to reinforce the message of how important parent engagement is and how welcoming the district strives to be for families. Ms. Fazzino shared there is a timeline, and final reading of the proposed policy should be in December 2021.

Question about concerns relating to consent for health care services for students was shared. Ms. Fazzino explained that when a student is a minor, there is always need for parental consent. She shared that school Principals will participate in a presentation about the Parent Bill of Rights on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Mr. Escallon thanked Ms. Fazzino for today's presentation.

## **Consent Agenda and Approval of Steering Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Escallon reviewed the process for review of the agenda. Mr. Escallon asked if there were any objections or changes recommended for the agenda and Steering Sub-committee Meeting Minutes. No changes were recommended.

## **Proposed Panel Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022**

Mr. Escallon shared the proposed Panel Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022. Ms. Torres explained that the meetings are proposed to take place the first Thursday of the identified months. Dr. Hunter-Sheppard moved to confirm the proposed dates. Motion was seconded. Motion passed and proposed dates were accepted.

### **Proposed Panel Meeting Topics for 2021-2022**

Ms. Barbara recommended topic of Disability Employment Awareness and Transition. Ms. Baez-Gellar shared that she would be happy to put forth an item in the next School Board Meeting to highlight Disability Employment Awareness Month. Ms. Heller made a motion to add Transition as a topic for the January Panel Meeting. Motion was seconded. Proposed Panel Meeting Topics with the addition of Transition to the January meeting were approved.

### **Proposed Sub-Committees for 2021-2022**

Mr. Escallon shared the list of the Active Sub-Committees for 2021-2022. Members who participated virtually will receive the list via email for review and completion.

### **ESE, Gifted, and Early Childhood Updates**

Ms. Torres shared updates about ESE, including information about:

- Current enrollment data
- Accomplishments
- Strategic Plan Alignment
- New Initiatives

Ms. Yvonne Leon presented information about the updated State Board of Education Rules. (take notes from slides) Ms. Barbara asked if there is an exception to the rule. Ms. Leon shared that at this time, there is not an exception to the rule that all students in kindergarten must be changed to standard curriculum. Ms. Rancano asked how students will be impacted. Mr. Escallon asked that this topic be addressed again at a later Panel Meeting.

Ms. Heller made motion to extend the Panel Meeting for 20 minutes.

Dr. Lisette Rodriguez provided Gifted Updates, including information about:

- Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test 3 (NNAT-3)
- Javits Gifted Grant – Project ExCEL
- Legislative Platform

Ms. Marisol Diaz provided Early Childhood Updates, including information about:

- VPK Title 1
- Pre-K ESE
- VPK Assessment (AP3)
- Ready Rosie Family Access
- Pre-K ESE Staffing

### **Meeting Wrap-Up**

Mr. Escallon asked for public comments. No public comments were made.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.