

## Superintendent's District Advisory Pane for Students with Disabilities

### Awards Sub-Committee

February 28, 2018

### Meeting Notes

- **Members**

Co-Chairs: Kathy Vergara & Ava Goldman (phone)

Rosa Maria Barbara (absent)

Nicole Berge-Macinnnes

Isabel Garcia

Kelli Hunter-Sheppard (phone)

Janet Marrero (absent)

Ana Mendez-Londono

Vivian Nunez

Oxana Sosa

- **Awards Ceremony "Rise-Up"**

Location: Terra Environmental Research Institute

Date: Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

Time: Registration & Reception – 6:15 pm  
Awards Ceremony – 7:00 pm

The Principal of Ruth Krusé Educational Center, Nicole Berge-Macinnnes explained her concerns about continuing to have the Awards Ceremony at Ruth Krusé. The number of participants who attend the Awards Ceremony has grown through the years and there is limited space at Ruth Krusé. She suggested that we discuss the possibility of considering another location where we could conduct a traditional style Awards Ceremony in an auditorium with the capacity to seat everyone who would like to attend. She recommended that every nominee be invited to attend because recognition is so important for students with disabilities and their families.

Ms. Goldman agreed that it is important to recognize all nominees and recommended that we find an alternate Miami-Dade School location for the Awards Ceremony. She agreed that we should discontinue the luncheon format and have a reception prior to the ceremony. A high school auditorium with theater style seating would be ideal. Ms. Berge said that Ruth's Grill would coordinate the reception and help coordinate the program.

Committee members agreed with the recommended change from a luncheon format to a traditional awards ceremony conducted in an auditorium with theater style seating in a different location.

Dr. Kelli Hunter volunteered to check with the following schools to find a location for the ceremony: Terra Environmental Research Institute, Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior High School, Southwest Miami Senior High School, and Jorge Mas Canosa Middle School.

Ms. Goldman suggested that the ceremony take place during the late afternoon or early evening so that the daily school routine would not be disrupted. It was decided that the registration reception would begin at 6:15 and the Awards Ceremony would begin promptly at 7:00 pm.

Ms. Berge said that Ruth Krusé would cover the cost of security guards needed for the event.

Dr. Ana Mendez-Londono will coordinate the decorations and reception.

- **Application Process:**

Dr. Hunter has reviewed the following award applications and will distribute through the Weekly Briefing next week. Applications are due on April 6, 2018. The awards are as follows:

Student Awards of Excellence	4 awards
Prekindergarten, Elementary, Middle School & High School	
Champion of Inclusion Award	1 award
Champion of Parent Engagement Award	1 award

Vivian Nunez will review and distribute the Employer Award application:

Reno Cocchi Employer Award of Excellence	4 awards
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Inclusion Award of Excellence recipients were determined by the Education-Inclusion Committee. The 2017-18 recipients are as follows:

Devon Aire K-8 Center	South
Fienberg/Fisher K-8 Center	Miami Beach
Rubin Dario Middle School	North Miami

- **Selection Process**

Award nominations will be reviewed during the weeks of April 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Hunter will maintain a spreadsheet of all award nominations in the categories of Student Award of Excellence, Champion of Inclusion Award, and Champion of Parent Engagement Award.

All agreed that only the companies selected to receive the Reno Cocchi Employer Recognition Awards will be invited to attend.

Ms. Berge will assume the responsibility of creating certificates for nominees. In the past Parent to Parent has created the certificates and mailed them to the nominating schools to distribute to the nominees. Discussion followed about presenting nominees with medals as well. Isabel Garcia will investigate.

Kathy Vergara will notify the principal, sponsor, and parents of individuals selected to receive an award. Dr. Hunter and Kathy Vergara will create a letter to send to principals, sponsors, and families of award nominees.

Ms. Berge will help coordinate program registration and check-in. Nominee's certificates will be set-aside during registration to be presented to attendees during the Awards Ceremony.

- **Budget Report**

Parent to Parent manages the finances for the Awards Ceremony. Isabel Garcia reported that we currently have \$1,012.72 in available funds for this year's ceremony. The 2017 Awards Ceremony cost \$3,198. This included the cost of decorations (\$448), and plaques (\$674) for a total of \$1,123. In addition, we donated \$200 to Ruth's Grill and spent \$1,875 on the luncheon.

Parent to Parent traditionally donates the purchase of the Student Award of Excellence plaques and trophies for their sponsors.

This year we will try to raise \$2,000 from donors recommended by Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Kelli Hunter-Sheppard will be responsible trying to secure a donation for the third year from Human Services of Florida City. In addition, Panel members will be asked to make donations.

Ruth Krusé will provide an estimate for cost of food for the reception, menu choices, and decorations.

- **Program - Agenda**

ESE will take care of the program. Proposed must be approved by Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The 2017 agenda was as follows:

Welcome & Introductions	Principal
Pledge of Allegiance	Ruth Kruse Students
National Anthem	Ruth Kruse Students
Message	Superintendent
Greetings from the Board	Dr. Lawrence Feldman
	Lubby Navarro
Presentation	Rosa Maria Barbara
Performance	Ruth Kruse Students
Special Recognition	Rosa Maria Barbara & Enrique Escallon
Student Awards of Excellence Presentations	Ava Goldman/Isabel Garcia/Rosa M. Barbara
Song	Ruth Kruse Students
Inclusion Schools Award of Excellence	Dr. Kelli Hunter-Sheppard
Champion of Inclusion Award	Dr. Kelli Hunter-Sheppard
Champion of Parent Involvement Award	Rosa Maria Barbara
Reno Cocchi Employer Recognition Awards	Vivian Nunez
Sponsor Recognition	Ava Goldman
Song	Ruth Kruse Students
Thank You Ruth's Grill Students	Principal Rosa Maria Barbara

- **Photography**

To be discussed at next meeting. Ms. Berge has some pictures from last year's ceremony.

- **Next Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 21. Location is to be determined.**

