

Superintendent's District Advisory Panel for Exceptional Student Education
Early Childhood Subcommittee Meeting
October 25, 2023

MINUTES

Attendees: Marsha Francois, Josee Gregoire, Beverly Heller, Lynn Maceyras, Laurie Malman
Victoria Quintanilla, Julio Suarez, Mark Thompson, Javonie Wilcox

I. Welcome/Introductions

- The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m.
- Introductions

II. Review/Approval of Minutes

- Dr. Gregoire reviewed the meeting agenda. Ms. Malman made a motion to accept the agenda. Mr. Suarez seconded the motion. Dr. Gregoire reviewed the committee minutes from April 18, 2023. Ms. Malman motioned to accept the minutes. Mr. Suarez seconded the motion.

III. Committee Goals

- Dr. Gregoire reviewed the committee's goals:
 - 1) Supporting Families.
 - 2) Supporting Pre-K ESE Program Awareness and Participation.
 - 3) Expanding and Supporting Inclusive Opportunities.
- The committee has agreed to maintain the current goals. Ms. Heller would like for the committee to provide data on the current ways it is supporting the goals to determine what has been done and other expansion opportunities.
- The committee agrees to recommend that the Superintendent's Advisory Board support the State Legislative priority of the expansion of the VPK program in Florida.

IV. Early Childhood Update

- Ms. Maceyras reported that MDCPS' VPK program currently has 235 Title 1 classes, 71 Fee-Supported classes, 47 Head Start classes, and 34 Pre-K ESE Inclusion classes.
- Ms. Maceyras explained that the VPK Provider Performance Metric is determined by Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) scores and Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) learning gains.
- During the 2022-2023 school year, 99% of M-DCPS's VPK classes met the 4.0 composite score. The 1% failing to meet the composite score was due to a staff shortage.
- For the 2024-2025 school year, public or private VPK programs with a composite score below 4.0 out of 7.0 will not be able to offer the VPK program. Information on the steps to reopen those programs is forthcoming.
- MDCPS' VPK classes are receiving tiered levels of support specific to their needs and professional learning opportunities.

V. Pre-K ESE Update

- Dr. Gregoire reported that Pre-K ESE enrollment has increased. As a result, the program has opened 11 new classrooms for the 2023-2024 school year, but some are not currently

operational because of staff shortages. To assist with class size, full-day ASD programs have been granted additional paraprofessionals.

VI. Community Agency Updates

- Special Olympic
 - Mr. Thompson informed the committee that 4 Easter Seals Head Start Centers and 30 M-DCPS schools have registered for their “Young Athletes” program.

VII. Q & A

VIII. Next meeting (s)

- Monday, December 11, 2023; Time: 10:30 a.m.; Location: TBA
- Tuesday, February 20, 2024; Time: TBA; Location: TBA

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.