

Superintendent's District Advisory Panel for Exceptional Student Education  
Early Childhood Subcommittee Meeting  
February 20, 2024

**MINUTES**

Attendees: Calantha Senat Davis, Danita Duhart, Josee Gregoire, Katie Hart, Beverly Heller, Laurie Malman, Lynn Miskiel, Patricia Ortega, Victoria Quintanilla, Javonie Wilcox, Delsey Yancoskie

I. Welcome/Introductions

- The meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m.
- Introductions

II. Review/Approval of Minutes

- Dr. Gregoire shared meeting agenda and minutes. Ms. Miskel made a motion to accept the agenda. Dr. Hart seconded the motion. The motion to accept the agenda was approved. The minutes were approved without corrections. Ms. Heller stated that she enjoyed reading the minutes.

III. Review of Survey Results

- Dr. Wilcox reviewed the results of the Early Childhood Subcommittee Meeting survey. The results were as follows:
  - 88% of survey participants stated that the time of the Early Childhood Subcommittee meetings should be kept the same with one hour allocated.
  - 100% of survey participants stated that the Early Childhood Subcommittee should not meet more frequently than the current practice (every other month).
  - 75% of survey participants stated that presentations during Early Childhood Subcommittee meetings should be limited to 15 minutes.
  - 88% of survey participants stated that meetings should continue in dual-modality (virtual and in-person).

IV. FDLRS Presentation

- Dr. Duhart introduced Ms. Calantha Senat Davis, the presenter for the FDLRS Awareness presentation.
- FDLRS is a discretionary project of the Florida Department of Education with primary functions including Child Find, Parent Services, and HR Development.
  - Child Find: Conducts early childhood developmental screenings.
  - Parent Services: Provides information, training, and support to the districts it serves and their families to promote effective parent participation in the education of children with disabilities or exceptionalities.
  - HR Development: Provides professional learning opportunities to educators and staff.
- Dr. Duhart informed the committee that FDLRS is currently offering the 40-credit reading endorsement free of charge for educators. The next course will start on March 4, 2024. Interested parties can visit <https://fl-pla.org/> for information on FDLRS-facilitated and independent courses.

## V. Early Childhood Update

- Ms. Ortega reported that the VPK Lottery selection date is February 23, 2024. Head Start registration is open for new applicants.
- The Kindergarten Rocks campaign is underway, and parents are encouraged to register their children in M-DCPS.
- TTK Ambassadors provide training to private centers throughout the year.
- 98% of schools have completed their CLASS observation. Only three schools need to be reassessed.
- Ms. Heller requested an update on the proposed state bill to expand VPK hours. Ms. Ortega stated that she would follow up with Dina Westberg, VPK Executive Director, and will provide an answer at the next committee meeting. Ms. Heller reminded the committee that the PTA has a standing legislative committee supporting and lobbying legislation.

## VI. Pre-K ESE Update

- Dr. Gregoire reported that articulation meetings for students transitioning to kindergarten will start on March 1, 2024. Schools have already been informed of meeting dates. Pre-K ESE staff provided training and resources to teachers at several in-person meetings. It was recommended that teachers share drafts of their IEPs for input prior to the articulation meetings. Dr. Gregoire stated that the district will hold articulation meetings for all regions from February 21-23, 2024. Dr. Hunter is spearheading those meetings.

## VII. Other Updates

### ▪ F.I.U.

- Dr. Hart stated that enrollment is underway for their summer intervention program. The program will be held at Paul Bell Middle and Thena Crowder. Dr. Hart will share flyers with Dr. Gregoire to distribute to committee members. For more information, please contact Dr. Hart at ([khart@fiu.edu](mailto:khart@fiu.edu)).
- Dr. Hart reminded the committee that The Parent Club offers parent workshops in multiple languages and the Reading Explorers Program supports children from birth to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. For more information, please visit <https://ccf.fiu.edu/>. She also stated that the Children's Trust has programs for early childhood students and rising kindergartners. Ms. Malman requested a list of M-DCPS schools participating in the Reading Explorers Program. Dr. Hart will provide the list at the next committee meeting.

### ▪ University of Miami Debbie School

- Ms. Miskiel informed the committee that the Debbie School will host a free virtual conference on mental wellness the week of February 26, 2024.

## VIII. Q & A

- Ms. Heller inquired about how FDLRS informs the community about the availability of its services. Dr. Duhart explained that FDLRS is a state-discretionary project and will present to any group if invited to present about its services and resources. Ms. Heller stated that she would reach out to higher ups to recommend that FDLRS be invited to future Principals' meetings.
- Dr. Duhart requested to be added to Dr. Hart and Ms. Miskiel's email blast.

## IX. Next meeting (s)

- Tuesday, April 23, 2024; Time: 10:30 a.m.; Location: TBA

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.