

## Approved MINUTES

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

Minutes of November 21, 2019

School Board Administration Building – Room 559  
1450 Northeast 2nd Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33132

#### **Members Present**

Enrique Escallon, Chairperson	Yvonne Leon, M-DCPS	
Ernie Martinez, Parent	Lisette Rodriguez, M-DCPS	
Maria Ratti, Parent	Emily Andrade, Student	
Beverly Heller, Parent	Brenda Lampon, Agency	
Hermine Wilson-Lang, Parent	Emily Andrade, Student	
Elias Seife, Parent	Sandra Rancano, Parent to Parent	
Chris Reigadas, Honorary	Michelle Cumming (FIU)	
Laurie Malman, Honorary		
Kelli Hunter Sheppard, M-DCPS		
Angie Torres, M-DCPS		

#### **Agency Alternates**

Michelle Schladant (MCCD)

#### **School Board Member Representatives**

Maria Delgado, Dr. Martin Karp

#### **Members Absent**

Rosa Maria Barbara, Vice Chair

Lynn Miskiel, Recording Secretary

Dr. Martin Karp, School Board Representative

Kathy Vergara, Honorary

Janet McDaniel – Honorary

Dr. Diane Adreon, UM/Nova CARD

Sandy Ames, Family Care Council

Mary Wilson Palacios, Miami Parks and Recreation

Jalon Howard-Sejour, Student

Mark Thompson, Special Olympics

### **M-DCPS Personnel Present**

Dr. Magaly Abrahante  
Dr. Angel Rodriguez  
Maria Selleck  
Reagan Chalmers  
Jesus Aviles  
Orfirio Sanchez  
Magaly Ercilla  
Sara Walkup  
Ava Goldman  
Marisol Diaz  
Josee Gregoire

### **Guests Present**

Dashawniese Howard  
Christian Giraldo  
Jazmin Clements

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm.

### **Introduction and Welcome**

Mr. Enrique Escallon, Panel Chair, welcomed all members and guests. All in attendance introduced themselves.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Escallon opened the floor to review the minutes for the meeting held on September 12, 2019. Mr. Escallon accepted the minutes as listed and recommended that any changes be submitted to the Staff Liaison in the Department of Exceptional Student Education.

### **Chair Report**

Mr. Escallon thanked everyone for attending. He also thanked all who have worked with the development of the subcommittees. Mr. Escallon expressed the importance of active participation in the Panel subcommittee meetings and encouraged the subcommittees to have a plan of work with actionable steps. The goal is to develop and present a report to the Superintendent on recommendations from the Panel.

Mr. Escallon represented the Panel at the recent Attendance Boundary Committee (ABC) meeting. He informed the Panel of a discussion about inclusion that occurred at the ABC meeting and noted that there was tremendous interest in supporting this initiative.

### **Presentations:**

Ms. Marisol Diaz provided information on Early Childhood Intervention Programs. The presentation included a report on Pre- K ESE data, highlights of Pre – K ESE programs and services and supports and an overview of School and Community Engagement initiatives including “Everywhere Learning”. The 2019-20 Goals for Pre-K ESE are to maximize inclusion, continue to increase enrollment so that all available seats are filled and expand parental resources and support.

Ms. Yvonne Leon asked how general education students are selected as Role Models for the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) inclusive programs. Ms. Diaz stated that the students are selected through the lottery and Role Models are screened. Ms. Diaz stated that a percentage of seats in the VPK programs are held for students with disabilities.

Ms. Ratti mentioned the trainings that are provided through the VPK programs and stated that the experience was very engaging. Ms. Ratti also asked about the outcomes of the annual Parent Involvement survey required by the Florida Department of Education. Ms. Diaz stated that the information received from the survey responses coupled with feedback received from parents who attend VPK trainings are used to enhance Pre-K ESE Programs.

### Dual Enrollment Programs:

Dr. Lisette Rodriguez from Advanced Academics presented information about the Dual Enrollment programs available in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Students enrolled in this program are earning both high school and college credits. Students who qualify may enroll in college and tuition and textbook costs are waived. At present there are over 10,000 students enrolled in the Dual Enrollment Program. In M-DCPS there are several specialized Collegiate High School Programs:

- School for Advanced Studies (SAS) at Miami Dade College Kendall, North, Homestead, Doral West, and Wolfson
- Advanced Academics Academy – AAA @ FIU

Mr. Seife asked if all public schools offer Dual Enrollment programs. He also asked about the teachers of these courses and their credentials. Dr. Rodriguez stated that all high schools have the dual enrollment program. Dr. Rodriguez explained that the teachers must have a Master's degree and have 18 credits completed in the designated field. In that way, they become adjunct professors for the university.

Mr. Seife asked about the difference between Dual Enrollment programs at the schools and the programs at SAS @ MDC and AAA @ FIU. Dr. Rodriguez stated that the students attend school on the college campus and the course requirements are stipulated by program requirements. Dr. Rodriguez explained that with these specific sites, students can earn an Associate's degree when they complete the program. Mr. Escallon asked if there are agreements with other colleges. At this time, the agreements that are in place are with MDC and FIU only.

Ms. Ratti asked if there was any information about students with exceptionalities who are enrolled in Dual Enrollment programs. There are 400 students with IEPs that are taking dual enrollment courses. Ms. Ratti asked questions regarding the credentialing process which were addressed.

Mr. Escallon stated that career dual enrollment programs are available for students as well. Dr. Rodriguez explained that for a career dual enrollment, the GPA requirement is 2.5. Mr. Martinez asked if a student needs a paraprofessional and is in a Dual Enrollment program, would the paraprofessional support be provided. Dr. Abrahante explained that the student continues to be an M-DCPS student and therefore services on the IEP continue. She also added that once in college, it is up to the student to seek assistance and accommodations. Mr. Escallon asked for the representative from Vocational Rehabilitation to share information about services beyond age 22, and post-secondary education. Ms. Lampon explained that it is up to the students to disclose and seek assistance.

Mr. Seife asked if students in Dual Enrollment programs are able to participate in traditional high school graduation. Dr. Rodriguez stated that the students are graduating from High School and will receive a

High School Diploma and dependent upon the number of credits, they may receive their AA degree from MDC too.

All students, regardless of legal status, can participate in the program. Ms. Etienne asked if students must be gifted to participate in DE programs. No, they do not have to be identified as a gifted student. Students must meet entrance criteria.

Ms. Ratti asked what is being done to encourage students to disclose their disabilities and needs at the college setting. Dr. Abrahante explained how district staff support students and provide information during the Transition Process.

**Committee Reports and Highlights 2019 (Review Submitted Minutes)**

Inclusion Sub-Committee	Report submitted by Angie Torres
Awards Sub-Committee	Report submitted by Angie Torres/Kelli Hunter-Sheppard
Early Childhood Sub-Committee Educational Programs and Inclusion Sub-Committee	No Report Submitted Report submitted by Angie Torres
Gifted Education Sub-Committee	No report submitted
Low Incidence Disability Sub-Committee	No Report Submitted
Mental Health Committee	No Report Submitted
Nominations Sub-Committee	No Report Submitted
Parent Engagement Sub-Committee	No Report Submitted
Secondary Transition Sub-Committee	No Report Submitted
By-Laws Sub-Committee	No report Submitted

**Announcements**

Ms. Ratti reminded the group about the official Inclusion Week, December 2 – 6, 2019. Also, today is Give Miami Day.

Dr. A. Rodriguez emphasized the importance of promoting inclusion in all subcommittees and using social media to share inclusion successes district-wide.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm. Dr. A. Rodriguez moved to adjourn. Dr. Cumming seconded the motion.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on January 16, 2020.