

MINUTES

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

June 13, 2019, Meeting

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

Members Present

Diane Adreon – CARD	Elias Seife – Parent
Sandy Ames – FCC	Angie Torres – MDCPS
Rosa Maria Barbara – Parent	Kathy Vergara – Parent
Enrique Escallon – Parent (T)	Chris Reigadas – Honorary (T)
Maria Ratti – Parent – (T)	Beverly Heller – Parent
Kelli Hunter-Sheppard-MDCPS	
Janet McDaniel – Parent	
Lynn Miskiel – MCCD	
Mary Wilson Palacios – MDC Parks	
Ernie Martinez - Parent	

School Board Member Designee

Maria Delgado (Dr. Martin Karp)

Members Absent

Emily Adradae – Student Representative
Jalon Howard-Sejour – Student Representative
Lauren Bustos
Amara Condon
Michelle Cummings
Irenaida Diaz
Hermine Wilson-Lang
Lissette Rodriguez
Madeline Spado
Mark Thompson

School Personnel Present

Dr. Magaly C. Abrahante (T)
Ms. Ava Goldman
Kristen Calzadilla
Reagan Chalmers
Magaly Ercilla
John IaFelipe

Yvonne Leon
Dr. Angel Rodriguez
Dr. Ann Marie Sasseville (T)
Maria Selleck
Sara Walkup

Guests Present

Sabrena Bishop (Parent)
Susana Piscoya (Hope for Miami)
Melanie Morales (FIU representing Michelle Cummings)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:19 pm.

Introduction and Welcome

Ms. Rosa Maria Barbara, Panel Chair, welcomed all members and guests. She opened the floor for all members and visitors to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Barbara opened the floor to review the minutes for the meeting held on March 14, 2019. Mr. Seife expressed some concerns regarding the fact that the election was held after 5:00 pm. Ms. Barbara stated that she requested that the Panel allow the meeting to be extended prior to the election. Ms. Beverly Heller moved that the minutes be approved. Lynn Miskiel seconded the motion. Rosa Maria Barbara asked members to approve the motion. The motion passed with one no vote.

Chair Report

Ms. Barbara expressed her appreciation for the support of the members of the Advisory Panel. She stated that her experiences as a mother have taken her on a path that has provided her with the opportunity to volunteer in an area that is important to her and her family. Ms. Barbara extended thanks to Superintendent Carvalho, and Board Members Dr. Feldman and Ms. Navarro for their support. She charged all members to continue the work that they have begun through the Panel. Dr. Abrahante thanked Ms. Barbara for her work as the Panel Chair and stated that the District is thankful for her commitment and work on behalf of the students of Miami Dade County Public Schools.

Conduct Vote for Vice Chair and Recording Secretary

Ms. Barbara opened the floor for the election of Vice Chair and Recording Secretary. Ms. Goldman stated that the Nominating Sub-Committee met on June 3, 2019, to discuss candidates for the slate. The Nominating Sub-Committee reviewed the By-Laws and considered all individuals who expressed interest in serving as Officers on the Panel. Ms. Goldman also reminded attendees that at the end of the March meeting, Dr. Abrahante stated that any member with an intent to run for office should email Ms. Goldman regarding their interest. Ms. Goldman then announced that the Nominating Sub-Committee recommended for Panel consideration Rosa Maria Barbara-Olsen for Vice Chair and Lynn Miskiel for Recording Secretary.

Mr. Seife stated that he expressed interest in running for office after the January meeting. He read a statement regarding his concerns. Ms. Barbara reminded the Panel members that nominations from the floor were requested at the January meeting. She stated that no nominations were offered at that time. Mr. Seife stated that he felt his interest in being a Panel Officer was not considered. Dr. Abrahante stated that she directed Ms. Goldman to present the names of Mr. Seife and Mr. Martinez to the Nominating

Sub-Committee to be considered for Officer vacancies on the Panel. Ms. Goldman indicated that all members who expressed an interest in being nominated for a vacant Panel Officer position were considered by the Nominating Sub-Committee. Mr. Seife stated that he believes the By-Laws are not clear on the methods in which the Nominating Sub-Committee makes decisions.

The School Board Attorney in attendance at the Panel meeting stated that if there is an issue with the By-Laws another meeting must be held to review the By-Laws. However, according to the process as it stands, the Panel appears to be following the approved said By-Laws. The Attorney stated that if Mr. Seife has issues with the By-Laws, as it relates to nominations, his concerns can be considered by the Panel. Ms. Ratti stated that she rescinded her vote for Vice Chair because she felt that the position could be better served by another member. She encouraged Mr. Seife to support the many activities that the Panel supports. Mr. Martinez stated that he did not receive any emails to attend the Nominating Sub-Committee meeting. He stated that in his opinion the nominating process through the Nominating Sub-Committee does not allow for transparency. Ms. Barbara reminded the Panel that many individuals participated in the development of the By-Laws. The role of the Nominating Sub-Committee is part of the Panel's By-Laws. The Attorney stated that the By-Laws allowed for nominations from the floor. The nominating committee process allows for the development of a slate of officers as recommended by Robert's Rules of Order. The Attorney further stated that if there is a need to change the By-Laws, that can be accomplished with a 2/3 vote from the Panel. Ms. McDaniel stated that it is problematic that the slate only includes one person per office. The Attorney stated that nominations can be accepted from the floor in January to allow for a variety of candidates. Ms. Heller requested that nominations be allowed from the floor. The Attorney stated that allowing this type of motion at this time was not allowed under the current By-Laws. Dr. Abrahante recommended that a roll call of voting members be made to determine whether there was a simple majority present that could proceed with the voting for Officers. Ms. Barbara agreed. The ballots were distributed to all voting members present. The Attorney asked if the representatives for members were voting on their behalf. The two delegates in question presented abstentions from voting. After members voted, ballots were collected, and results were counted by the Attorney. Ten Panel Members voted for the Nominated Slate, 2 Panel Members abstained from voting, 3 Panel Members submitted blank ballots, and 1 Panel Member wrote "reject" on the ballot. Ms. Rosa Maria Barbara Olsen was elected as Vice-Chair and Ms. Lynn Miskiel as elected as Recording Secretary by the majority of the Panel members. Members congratulated Ms. Barbara and Ms. Miskiel.

Attendance Boundary Committee

No Report

Family and Community

Involvement Advisory Committee

No Report

Committee Reports and Highlights 2019 (Review Submitted Minutes)

Awards Sub-Committee

Report submitted by Kathy Vergara/Angie Torres

Early Childhood Sub-Committee

Report submitted by Kathy Vergara

Educational Programs and Inclusion Sub-Committee

Report submitted by Reagan Chalmers

Gifted Education Sub-Committee	No report submitted
Low Incidence Disability Sub-Committee	Report submitted by Lynn Miskiel
Mental Health Sub-Committee	Report submitted by Beverly Heller
Nominations Sub-Committee	No Report Submitted
Parent Engagement Sub-Committee	Report submitted by Maria Ratti
Secondary Transition Sub-Committee	Report submitted by Chris Reigadas

Other

Ms. Barbara stated that she hopes that members participate actively in the Sub-Committees. She also wants Panel members to support the new Chair. Ms. Adreon would like to know when the Sub-Committee meetings will be held. It is recommended that a calendar be established for the year. Mr. Seife stated that he is a member of the District’s Budget Committee and heard that the ESE Department may have to set aside 15% of the IDEA budget due to the inclusion rate. Ms. Goldman stated that we will not have to set aside monies this year. She mentioned that it would be a good idea to share information regarding the LEA profile. Mr. Escallon stated that he will be working with the Steering Sub-Committee during the summer and he is hoping that all members will be active participants in the work of the Panel. If there are new parents interested in joining the Panel, please inform Ms. Goldman. Dr. Abrahante stated that she wanted to remind the Panel that the general meetings are scheduled for every other month. If there is a desire to change the general meeting date’s schedule, the By-Laws must be amended first.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm. Mr. Seife moved to adjourn. Ms. Vergara seconded the motion.

Next Meeting

The General Membership meeting will be scheduled after the Steering Sub-Committee meeting.