

**Miami-Dade County Public Schools
STEERING SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
FOR EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION
August 31, 2023**

**EdFed Credit Union
1498 N.E. 2nd Avenue
Miami, Florida 33132
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Members Present

Enrique Escallon, (Physical)
Dr. Kelli Hunter-Sheppard, M-DCPS (Physical)
Blanca Malagon, Parent (Virtual)
Laurie Malman, Honorary Member (Virtual)
Ernie Martinez, Chairperson (Physical)
Gisel Prado, Miami Parks/Recreation (Virtual)
Maria Ratti (Physical)
Dr. Lissette Rodriguez, M-DCPS (Physical)
Elias Seife (Physical)
Patrick Salmasi, M-DCPS (Physical)
Mark Thompson, Special Olympics (Physical)
Alicia Walford, Parent Education Network (Virtual)

Members Absent

Sandy Ames
Rosa Baria Barbara
Michelle Cumming
Beverly Heller
Anthony Julio
Brenda Lampon
Yvonne Leon
Amanda Ley
Lynn Miskiel
Sandra Rancano
Christina Rodriguez

It was proposed that a presentation on staff retention be considered, and for summer programs to include discussions on internships. Mr. Salmasi confirmed that what she was asking was for us to have Human Capital, and internship and Summer Youth Internship be discussed.

Legislative discussions began in September. Immigration students are impacting ESE. Question was raised by Mr. Escallon as to how we are going to identify students who are coming in and who have not been previously identified. This would impact all children and all needs. This discussion will be added to the September topic. Dr. Hunter explained that the District follows certain procedures when it comes to speakers of other languages and how to identify students not based on their language, age for placement, and procedures for placement in ESE for those coming from other countries. Mr. Escallon discussed the impact of mental health for some of these students who have experienced certain things in their countries. Dr. Hunter suggested that maybe FASCO can come to discuss procedures for placement for these students.

It was proposed that the panel discuss after-school care for students in ESE and that the district provide a presentation on after-school care. Mr. Salmasi indicated that we would arrange through School Operations to see who would be responsible for that.

It was proposed that panel discuss transition and different deferment programs.

It was proposed that transportation for students with special needs be discussed.

Mr. Salmasi indicated that another proposed schedule will be prepared and presented to the large group and they will approve at general meeting.

It was proposed to consider to have additional meeting for District updates in October or another time. Mr. Salmasi asked if we could put together a tentative schedule for these District updates and we could examine during the meeting.

It was proposed that the Advanced Academics presentation be presented during the November meeting.

Structure of Meetings

Mr. Salmasi reviewed the structure of meetings from previous year. He asked that the Steering Committee express how they want it to be changed.

Mr. Martinez indicated that he wanted to propose a different format which would include input from the public at the beginning of the meeting. People have concerns and issues and he wants it to be more welcoming to the public allowing for comments. He indicated that usually there is a very limited time for public comments. He proposed 15 minutes for public comments (2 minutes per person, but no more than 4 minutes).

It was proposed that the District creates the rules for the public input session and share with the group for discussion.

It was recommended that community entities have a time to share what they are doing.

- Mr. Thompson, Special Olympics shared that Miami Special Unified Team Broward and Miami groups traveled to New York and competed. They met with Leo Messi.
- Randall Flagler on behalf of Miami-Dade Parks has opened two new after-school programs at Ojus and Kendall Lakes Park for students with disabilities. He will share more information with Mr. Salmasi.
- Ms. Ratti expressed that she is obsessed in trying to get more parents here and that we are losing agencies. She feels we need to discuss this during the Engagement sub-committee meetings.
- Dr. Hunter asked if anyone moves to adjourn. Mr. Seifie moved, Mr. Escallon second, and everyone present agreed. No one opposed.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.