

## MINUTES

Miami-Dade County Public Schools  
**SUPERINTENDENT'S DISTRICT ADVISORY PANEL  
FOR EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION  
STEERING SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING**

August 29, 2019

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

### **Members Present**

Sandy Ames – FCC	Angie Torres – MDCPS
Rosa Maria Barbara – Parent	Kathy Vergara – Parent
Enrique Escallon – Parent	Hermine Wilson-Lang - Parent
Beverly Heller – Parent	Ernie Martinez, Parent
Kelli Hunter-Sheppard-MDCPS	
Lynn Miskiel – M CCD	
Maria Ratti – Parent	

### **Parent Alternates**

None

### **Agency Alternates**

None

### **School Board Member Designee**

None

### **Members Absent**

Diane Adreon  
Michelle Cummings  
Janet McDaniel –  
Mary Palacios  
Lissette Rodriguez  
Elias Seife  
Mark Thompson  
Emily Andradae  
Jalon Howard Sejour

### **Distric Support Personnel Present**

Dr. Magaly C. Abrahante  
Dr. Angel Rodriguez  
Magally Ercilla  
Ava Goldman  
Marisol Diaz

## **Guests Present**

Sabrena Bishop

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm.

## **Introduction and Welcome**

Ms. Enrique Escallon, Panel Chair, welcomed all members and guests. He thanked all that were in attendance and opened the floor for introductions of all members and visitors.

## **Discussion Items:**

**Proposed Panel Meeting Schedule:** Mr. Escallon opened the floor for a discussion of the meeting dates for the 2019-2020 Panel Meeting Schedule. Mr. Ernie Martinez asked if the Steering Sub-Committee Agenda was approved by the Panel. Dr. Abrahante stated that Sub-Committee meetings are fact finding meetings and therefore it is not required for their agenda to be approved by the Panel. Although not required, Mr. Escallon called for a motion to approve the Steering Sub-Committee Agenda by the Panel members in attendance. It was moved that the agenda be approved by Beverly Heller and seconded by Sandy Ames. Mr. Martinez requested that the By-Laws agenda item be moved up on the agenda order. Mr. Escallon brought a motion to the floor to keep the agenda as is. The motion was approved.

Two dates were proposed for the September Panel Meeting, the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion on both dates as there was not an available meeting space at the School Board Administration Building on the 12<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made to approve the meeting date scheduled for September 12, 2019 at J.R.E. Lee Educational Center. All approved the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. The proposed meeting dates 11/21, 1/16, 3/19, 6/11 were approved unanimously by the Steering Sub-Committee for presentation to the full Panel for a vote. Mr. Escallon discussed the Sub-Committee schedules and requested that dates be assigned so the meeting dates can be posted in a timely manner. Mr. Escallon also requested information from members regarding their interest in serving as Chairs for Sub-Committees. He also asked that meeting locations be assigned. Ms. Goldman suggested assigning dates and or times for various Sub-Committees so members may participate in various committees as desired. Ms. Goldman offered as a point of information that all Panel and Sub-Committee Meetings are posted on the dadeschools.net Home Page on the Master Calendar. Mr. Escallon moved to approve the Sub-Committee Meeting calendar as discussed. The motion was approved unanimously by the Steering Sub-Committee for presentation to the full Panel for a vote.

## **Proposed Topics for Panel Meetings (2 Topics per Meeting)**

The following proposed topics were discussed for the Panel Meetings for the 2019-20 school year:

ESE Update, ESE Performance Indicators, Entry into ESE, Early Intervention, Supplementary Curricular Resources, ESE Support Services, and Engaging Parents/Resources for Parents

Mr. Escallon also suggested the addition of a Budget presentation to the Panel. Ms. Goldman stated that the topics encompass all students that fall under the ESE umbrella; which includes gifted students and students with 504 Plans. A topic proffered by Ms. Barbara was that each of the Community Partners are given the opportunity to present about the services they provide. Ms. Vergara inquired if some of the topics could be discussed at the Expo.

In light of the School Board Member changes scheduled to take place during the 2020 elections, Ms. Heller asked if there could be a presentation about how Panel Members can approach Board Members to increase awareness of the Panel. Mr. Escallon stated that the request was not germane to the scope of the Panel as this Panel's role is to make recommendations to the Superintendent. Dr. Abrahante stated that once the transition of School Board Members is complete, she will remind the Superintendent to advise the new School Board Members of the Panel and its role.

Ms. Goldman suggested that the topic Engaging Parents and Resources for Parents can be embedded throughout all presentations. Ms. Heller stated that she did not agree and believes that it should be a stand-alone topic. As a point of information, Dr. Rodriguez stated that Family Support Office has a site called Family Matters. This site provides information for families about the various activities and resources available from the various departments. Mr. Escallon asked Dr. Rodriguez to spearhead the collection of information and post for parents to review.

Mr. Escallon made a motion to have another Steering Sub-Committee meeting to finalize the agendas for the subsequent meetings. Ms. Ames suggested that we have the Steering Sub-Committee meeting before January. It was suggested that the Steering Sub-Committee Meeting be scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **By-Laws**

Mr. Escallon stated that the discussion of the By-Laws would be postponed. Dr. Abrahante stated that there were some concerns about the Panel elections and the By-Laws Sub-Committee provided an opportunity for the Panel Members to discuss their concerns. The Panel has the opportunity to revise the current By-Laws, if two thirds of the Panel members agree to do so. Ms. Miskiel wanted to clarify to the Steering Sub-Committee that the copy of the By-Laws provided at the Sub-Committee meeting for discussion was only a potential way for the By-Laws to be amended, if the Panel decided to make that decision Ms. Ratti suggested that discussions regarding elections or discord be kept to the appropriate Sub-Committee meeting. Mr. Escallon confirmed that this point was made and clarified in the agenda. It was confirmed that the By-Laws would be discussed in the By-Laws Sub-Committee, if two thirds of the Panel members vote to revise the By-Laws.

#### **Adjournment**

Ms. Miskiel moved to adjourn. Mr. Martinez seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 pm.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next Steering Committee meeting will be scheduled for December 12, 2019.