

MINUTES

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

Minutes of January 24, 2019

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

Members Present

Diane Adreon – CARD	Elias Seife – Parent	
Sandy Ames – FCC	Mark Thompson – Sp Olympics	
Rosa Maria Barbara – Parent	Angie Torres – MDCPS	
Lauren Bustos – PTP	Chris Reigadas – Honorary (T)	
Michelle Cumming – FIU	Kathy Vergara – Parent	
Enrique Escallon – Parent		
Ava Goldman-MDCPS		
Kelli Hunter-Sheppard-MDCPS		
Lynn Miskiel – MCCD		
Mary Wilson Palacios – Parks		
Maria Ratti – Parent		

Parent Alternates

None

Agency Alternates

Michelle Schladant (MCCD)

School Board Member Designee

Maria Delgado (Dr. Martin Karp)

Laurie Malman (Dr. Lawrence Feldman)

Members Absent

Irenaida Diaz – ACT

Dr. Lawrence Feldman – Honorary Member

Beverly Heller – Parent

Dr. Martin Karp – Honorary Member

Ernie Martinez – Parent

Janet McDaniel – Parent

Lisette Rodriguez – MDCPS

Amara Condon – Easter Seals

Miguel Suau – Honorary Member

School Personnel Present

Dr. Angel Rodriguez

Maria Selleck

Guests Present

Brenda Lampon – VR

Hermine Wilson-Lang - Parent

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm.

Introduction and Welcome

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

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Barbara opened the floor to review the minutes for the meeting held on November 8, 2018. Mr. Enrique Escallon moved to approve the minutes as corrected and Sandy Ames seconded the motion. Rosa Maria Barbara asked members to approve the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Report

Ms. Barbara reported that she is looking forward to the new things coming through the system due to the changes in leadership in the State Education Department. With the new leadership and possible legislation it can be expected that there will be new initiatives that will impact our students. Ms. Barbara also expressed concerns regarding support services for students with disabilities that may be impacted by the Federal Government furlough.

Attendance Boundary Committee

Ms. Barbara reported that there are no boundary changes in in the South area. All changes in Central and North area have been shared with the parent population and subsequent meetings will be held to discuss changes in your child's boundary

Family and Community

Involvement Advisory Committee

Ms. Barbara noted that she would be participating in a parental involvement survey to inform the committee on what issues are of concern for MDCPS parents.

Presentations

Ms. Barbara notified the Panel that there was a change to the agenda. Ms. Goldman informed the Panel that there is information regarding testing accommodations available for their review.

Ms. Goldman informed the Panel that nine students have been identified as possible student representatives for Panel. Video interviews will be held and the two representatives should be present at the next meeting to be held in March. New administrators in the Department of ESE were acknowledged: Magaly Ercilla, Instructional Supervisor, and Danita Duhart, Instructional Support Specialist.

Review of Policies and Procedures SP & P

Ms. Goldman discussed the updating and review of the Policies and Procedures. The highlighted changes include: changes in restraint or seclusion requirements to inform parents within a stipulated time period, timeline for consent, evaluation, staffing and IEE response, changes in eligibility requirements for Dual Sensory, Learning Disabilities and Visually Impaired, services that can be provided by SLP Assistants, OT/PT Assistants, Extended School Year and Manifestation Determination requirements after cumulative 10 days. Ms. Goldman reviewed the restraint and seclusion data for the 2018 school year. It was noted that there are 36,781 gifted students enrolled in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Dr. Angel Rodriguez commended the District for the positive changes in seclusion and restraint data.

Ms. Miskiel asked if the SLP Assistant would be supervised by licensed personnel. Ms. Goldman stated that a licensed SLP would serve as a supervisor and oversee the therapy. Mr. Escallon expressed concerns about the quality of service that would be provided by SLP Assistants. Ms. Miskiel explained that the Assistant would be certified by the State and required to comply with oversight requirements.

Mr. Thompson asked about the question about defining the seclusion room. Ms. Goldman stated that seclusion rooms serve as an official time out for students that may be a danger to others or themselves.

Ms. Bustos asked questions about the timeline regarding initials and re-evaluations. Ms. Goldman explained that calendar days vary based on whether it is an initial or reevaluation

Recruit and Retain Support Staff

Ms. Ratti asked for the job qualifications and job description for paraprofessionals. Mr. Seife expressed concerns regarding the salary of paraprofessionals and the inability to retain staff. Mr. Escallon suggested that the panel recommend higher salaries for paraprofessionals working with Students with Disabilities. Ms. Ratti expressed concerns about the part time paraprofessional staff. Ms. Goldman explained that the majority of the paraprofessional support is full time. Mrs. Barbara stated that through her experience in working with her son in College, she truly appreciates the work of the paraprofessional. Ms. Wilson added that there are full time paraprofessionals, however the level of qualifications for paraprofessionals is paramount to ensure that adequate support is provided.

Ms. Barbara suggested that the Panel complete a thorough review of paraprofessional qualifications and State requirements for individuals working with students with disabilities and make recommendations to the Superintendent regarding paraprofessional compensation. Mr. Seife made a motion that the District review the feasibility to increase the salary of paraprofessionals and report their findings to the Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Enrique Escallon. All voting members were in favor of the motion.

Ms. Goldman stated that she could collect information from Human Resources regarding salary schedules and job descriptions. The report will be submitted on June 13, 2019.

Ms. Wilson asked questions about the services provided by Occupational Therapist and Speech Language Pathologists. Ms. Goldman stated that she would facilitate a presentation from the OT/PT and SLP Department at the June 13, 2019 meeting.

Committee Reports (Review Submitted Minutes)

Awards Sub-Committee	Report presented by Kathy Vergara/Angie Torres
Early Childhood Sub-Committee	Report presented by Kathy Vergara No minutes submitted
Educational Programs and Inclusion Sub-Committee	No Report
Gifted Education Sub-Committee	Report presented by Marie Selleck
Low Incidence Disability Sub-Committee	Report presented by Lynn Miskiel
Mental Health Committee	Report presented by Michelle Cumming
Nominations Sub-Committee	Report presented by Ava Goldman
Parent Engagement Sub-Committee	Report presented by Angel Rodriguez No minutes submitted
Secondary Transition Sub-Committee	Report presented by Chris Reigadas No minutes submitted

Other

Sandy Ames explained the need for parents to participate in the U.S. Census. To promote participation the FCC will be working to encourage families to participate and complete the survey.

Ms. Goldman presented the recommendations for the Panel leadership. She requested nominations from the floor. None were offered. Ms. Barbara thanked the Panel for their confidence and declined the invitation to extend her term. Mr. Escallon requested consideration of Ms. Hermine Wilson to become a parent member for the Panel. Ms. Goldman stated that there are open slots for Panel membership and that we have another parent that has expressed interest in participating.

Ms. Barbara stated that Ms. Lubby Navarro requested information regarding OHI students and medical marijuana legislation. Ms. Goldman confirmed that the District has a cross departmental committee that is working to develop policies and procedures to manage the new policy.

Mr. Escallon requested a presentation on Nursing Services for the panel. Ms. Goldman confirmed that it can be completed for the agenda in 2019-2020.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 pm. Lynn Miskiel moved to adjourn. Sandy Ames seconded the motion.

The Awards Ceremony will be held on May 9, 2019 at Zelda Glaser Miami Arts Studio. There is a need to financially support the Awards Ceremony. Creative ways to fund the event were suggested and discussed.

Next Meeting

The General Membership meeting is scheduled for at 3:00 pm on March 14, 2019.