

# MINUTES

## Miami-Dade County Public Schools SUPERINTENDENT'S DISTRICT ADVISORY PANEL FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (SWD)

Minutes of February 16, 2017

**iPreparatory Academy**  
**1500 Biscayne Blvd.**  
**Miami, Florida 33132**

### **Members Present**

Magaly Abrahante	Martin Karp	Janet McDaniel
Rosa Maria Barbara	Ava Goldman	Ernie Martinez
Elizabeth Cramer	Elias Seife	
Enrique Escallon		
Diane Adreon		

### **Alternates Present**

Maria Delgado (Martin Karp)  
Laurie Malman (Dr. Lawrence Feldman)  
Maria Jakoniuk Ratti (Rosa Maria Barbara)  
Michelle Schladant (Lynn Miskiel)  
Ana Torres (Angel Rodriguez)

### **Members Absent**

### **Honorary Members Present**

### **School Board Members Present**

### **School Personnel Present**

Marisol Diaz  
Kelli Hunter-Sheppard  
Robin Morrison  
Ana Maria Sasseville

### **Guests Present**

Orfi Sanchez  
Lucia Barbeyto

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:11pm.

### **Introduction and Welcome**

After introductions, Ms. Rosa Maria Barbara, Panel Chair, welcomed members and guests.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Members of the Panel approved the minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2017 as corrected as well as the minutes of the Education and Inclusion Committee and Panel Transition Committee.

Enrique Escallon moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Ernie Martinez seconded the motion. Rosa Maria Barbara asked members to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Chair Report**

Consideration of the panel to have more representation from universities. Invite Access Centers/Disability Services from universities to identify what college students need. Ava Goldman stated MDCPS will reach out to number of institutions (such as Carlos Albizu, Barry School of Social and Psychology, Florida Memorial Education Department) to invite them to the meetings.

Consideration of the panel for more representation from agencies and honorary members. Ms. Barbara will request a steering committee meeting to address these considerations.

### **Presentations**

Orfirio Sanchez, Director ESE technology solutions from MDCPS, presented an overview of ESE electronic management system (new IEP Electronic Management System). This new system is to replace former SPED EMS, now it will be called ESE EMS system. Mr. Sanchez presented the history of ESE records. Through 2001, paper documents were used. 2001-2009 WISE system was used- an electronic version of paper system. Most remained on paper system. With over 75,000 students (which includes gifted students), paper system was inefficient. In 2009, SPED-EMS was developed- an electronic, fillable form. System was used until 2016. Many unresolved data errors resulted. In 2016 to present, ESE EMS was developed. This new system allows development of a true Quality IEP that considers the needs of the full student. Prompts in Present Levels guide services, accommodations, and other supports to the student. Rigorous RFP to select vendor. Vendor, Accelify specializes in special education EMS systems and has a large portfolio consisting of several large states, entities, school districts with similar EMS systems. Vendor is outside of Florida; however, there is a large local team dedicated to implementation of this system. Wait-time for technical support is minutes to several hours during high volume periods.

Provided general overview of EMS-ESE IEP:

Present Levels section- broken into several domains with guiding questions to address the whole child. Starting off with child's strengths, how does the disability affect the child's learning. Questions address specialized instruction for the student, setting, accommodations and supports. Built in error check system to make sure all sections are addressed. Videos and resources are available to guide user throughout.

Services section- based on answers from Present Levels section, specialized services are generated. Option to enter location, start/end date, frequency, etc.

Accommodations section- A drop-down menu appears to identify specific accommodations. Custom accommodations can be added.

Distribution Manager section: Post office for information within the system to document information out of the system. Outline how information is being distributed. Language, how information was communicated (e.g., by email). It can also link to other documents (e.g., draft of IEP).

Support Resources and Training for Users: Training began in July 2016. To date, 2,200 teachers have received face-to-face trainings by vendor, Accelify. In November, ESE staff took over the trainings. 2,800 have also received training via live webinar conducted by Accelify. On-demand videos with closed-captioning are now available. Short videos are also available on most pages in the ESE-EMS system. In addition, quick reference guides, FAQs are available. Support resources are available to link to Quality IEP and Matrix of Services handbooks. ESE-email, phone for technical support

Top User Issues and Resolution: System slowness, errors, and crashes. This issue has been resolved by software optimization and additional system server hardware. To date, this issue has been resolved. Support requests are being tracked and there have been no recent performance issues detected or reported.

Additional issue with output document discrepancies. Corrections are continuously identified by users and staff, and fixes are applied to the system by the vendor. Virtually all errors have been eliminated.

Matrix of services miscalculations issues. Many of the issues reported were related to training-detailed video recordings now available that explain the Present Levels> Services> Matrix connection for each Domain.

Process takes longer than with the former system. Former system was in place for 7+ years, new system is less than 5 months old. Continued user training and user “seat time” are reducing meeting durations. Performance and functional improvements to the user experience.

As the process moves forward- ongoing management and resolution of issues will continue.

Advantages to Parents include increased specificity and individualization of IEP for the student. Process forces review of individual needs and establishment of appropriate supports. Services and accommodations are justified by the current needs of the individual student, and focused on improvement and growth. Continuity of plan documentation from year to year. Increased fidelity of implementation and tracking of services and supports. Documentation provided to parents is more clear.

Concerns/considerations addressed by panel- Level of parent participation during development of IEP. For example, parents’ ability to see checkboxes in the ESE EMS system to ensure parents can provide input when the team is completing the IEP. Level of experience and end-user ability to navigate the system to get quality results is another concern. The number of teachers trained to date seems small. There is a help desk available to help ESE staff when technical assistance is needed. Several other mechanisms are also in place (e.g., phone number to contact vendor) to assist IEP teams on demand.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Awards Committee**

No update. Next meeting on Tuesday, February.

**Kathy Vergara/Ava Goldman**

### **D/HH Committee**

Dr. Hunter-Sheppard and Lynn Miskiel organized a full day professional development activity available to M-DCPS teachers and instructional personnel who work with students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The training took place on February 13 and was presented by Kathleen Vergara and Lynn

**Lynn Miskiel/Linda Reiter**

Miskiel. The topic was Listening and Spoken Language Strategies for Students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. There were 26 attendees and the feedback from the training was very positive. The committee is planning organize additional trainings.

**Education-Inclusion Committee** **Janet McDaniel/Reagan Chalmers**  
Worked on packets for inclusion award. Same format will be used. See report.

**ESE Family Engagement Committee** **Ernie Martinez/Angel Rodriguez/  
Kelli Hunter-Sheppard**  
Two highlights: Launched first series of trainings. 22 schools. First, English and Spanish webinars took place. 200 parents attended. Topics based on needs assessment in the beginning of parents helping parents. Next series in March topic MTSS process. Secondly, collaboration with Dr. Kramer to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. Dr. Kramer received a grant to support this work.

**Early Childhood PreK Committee** **Kathy Vergara/Marisol Diaz**  
Feb. 24 lottery date for fee supported pre-k programs. Ready Set and Roll Campaign. Continue to roll out RSR with banners in the community. Pre-k ESE website is now linked to ESE website.

**Panel Transition Committee** **Ernie Martinez/Vivian Nunez**  
See report. Transition Top 10 Things to Know distributed to panel. Family Network on Disability had a presentation. Ernie recommends chair to invite Joe Label from FND to present to panel.

**Ad-Hoc Budget Committee** **Elias Seife/Magaly Abrahante**  
No report.

**Nominating Committee** **Report as needed**

**Steering Committee** **Report as needed**

**Committee Representation**

**Attendance Boundary Committee** **Rosa Maria Barbara**

**Family and Community  
Involvement Advisory Committee** **Rosa Maria Barbara**

**Other**

Legislative Update: Enrique will be going to Tallahassee for Legislative week in March and then to D.C. Enrique will provide an update next month.

Dr. Abrahante provided update on Every Student Success Act- states are encouraged to continue working on plans as before. However, there may be changes to the plans.

Ms. Goldman provided information on two upcoming parent workshops from the SFACS Autism Community.

Breakfast with the Experts- Format changes to be more parent friendly. More variety of staff and

topics. MDCPS will be going in the community with round table discussions so parents can pick which experts to sit with on different topics.

Saturday, February 25 at FIU Project Operate- Master's degree with a focus on autism.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17pm.

**Next Meeting**

The General Membership meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2017 at 3:00 pm in the School Board Administration Building – Room 559.