

MINUTES

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT'S DISTRICT ADVISORY PANEL FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (SWD)

Minutes of June 1, 2017
School Board Administration Building – Room 559
1450 Northeast 2nd Avenue
Miami, Florida 33132
3:00 P.M.

Members Present

Magaly Abrahante	Eric Cintron	Janet McDaniel
Diane Adreon	Elsa Clarke	Linda Reiter
Sandy Ames	Ava Goldman	Elias Seife
Rosa Maria Barbara	Ernie Martinez	Kathy Vergara

Alternates Present

Maria Jakoniuk Ratti (Rosa Maria Barbara)
Michelle Schladant (Mailman Center for Child Development)

Members Absent

Elizabeth Cramer (FIU)
Virginia Infante (ACT)
Enrique Escallon
Katherine Fuentes
Lauren Bustos (PTP)
Martin Karp
Yubeda Miah
Lynn Miskiel (MCCD)
Amara Condon (Easter Seals)
Myrna Charlton (ARC)
Elaine Silny (FLASHA)
Madeline Spado (Best Buddies)
Miguel Suau

Honorary Members Present

None present

School Board Members Present

None present

School Personnel Present

Reagan Chalmers, Instructional Supervisor
Marisol Diaz, Administrative Director, Early Childhood Education Programs

Robin Morrison, Executive Director
Angel Rodriguez, Family Liaison Officer, Department of Family Support Services
Ana Real-Serrano, FDLRS South

Guests Present

Odile Da Silva, Parent
Rosano Onorato, Family Friendly Hands

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm.

Introduction and Welcome

Following 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 April 20, 2017 as presented. Ernie Martinez moved to approve the minutes as presented. Sandy Ames seconded the motion. Rosa Maria Barbara asked members to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Report

Rosa Maria Barbara thanked everyone for being loyal members of the Panel. Ms. Barbara said that the Panel Awards Ceremony that took place on May 18, 2017 at Ruth Krusé Educational Center was beautiful and greatly appreciated by the award recipients. Sandy Ames and Janet McDaniel also expressed how much they enjoyed the ceremony. They said that the ceremony was elegant and dignified. Ms. Barbara thanked Ava Goldman and her team for producing such a lovely program. The parents and guests thoroughly enjoyed the ceremony. Many expressed that it gave them so much hope to see the success of the older students. Ms. Barbara expressed her thanks to Ava Goldman and Kathy Vergara for their hard work organizing the event, which was very professional. The Panel should continue this important event because it means so much to our families and students. Eric Cintron commented that he was very impressed with the employers' recognition. This part of the ceremony was very meaningful.

Ms. Barbara reminded Panel members that her term as Panel Chair has ended. She said that she learned much during the past two years and greatly respects the Panel's fabulous collaboration between Miami-Dade County Public Schools, parents of students with disabilities, and the community. The Panel is making positive changes in small steps, little by little. We impact individual lives as well as programs for our students. This position has been very humbling and it has been an honor to serve.

Ms. Barbara reported that the Attendance Boundary Committee had completed their meetings for the year and that she was unable to attend the last Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee meeting.

School Medicaid Reimbursement: National Impact

Magaly Abrahante reported that Ms. Marie Isquierdo, Chief Academic Officer, and Ms. Iraida Mendez-Cartaya, Associate Superintendent, have prepared a report about the status of Medicaid Reimbursement: National Impact for families. A draft of the report was distributed to members. Dr. Abrahante stated that Miami-Dade County Public Schools has been receiving approximately \$13,000,000 per year from Medicaid to provide critical services for students with disabilities. The Federal Government is proposing cuts to this program that will impact many children's services such as nursing and therapy services. Elias Seife asked about the approximate amount of reduction in funding. Dr. Abrahante replied that the funds

may be reduced by 30% or three and a half million per year. It is critical to reach out to legislators about the negative impact these cuts will have on services provided by the school system. Ms. Barbara thanked Dr. Abrahante for her report and agreed that Medicaid funding provides essential services for our students.

Election of Officers

At the April meeting, Jacquelyn Needelman, Nominating Committee Chair, announced that according to the Bylaws, election of officers shall take place every two years unless a seat becomes vacant earlier. Ms. Needelman announced that Rosa Maria Barbara had agreed to accept the nomination for Panel Chairperson and Enrique Escallon had agreed to accept the nomination for Panel Vice Chairperson. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

The decision was made that the general election of officers will take place at the meeting of June 1st scheduled to take place at 3:00 pm in the School Board Administration Building, Room 559. Voting would be conducted by written ballot distributed to voting Panel members.

Kathy Vergara and Ava Goldman distributed paper ballots to authorized voting members including following proposed slate of officers:

Panel Chairperson: Rosa Maria Barbara
Panel Vice Chairperson: Enrique Escallon

The ballots were then collected and the results were tabulated. Ms. Goldman announced that Panel members had re-elected Rosa Maria Barbara and Enrique Escallon to the respective positions of Panel Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Panel members expressed their congratulations, gratitude, and appreciation to Ms. Barbara and Mr. Escallon for their service. Mr. Escallon was not present during the meeting.

Membership

Kathy Vergara announced that Odily da Silva had submitted an application for membership as a parent of a child with special needs to the Nominating Committee. Ernie Martinez moved that the Panel endorse Odily da Silva's application for membership. Janet McDaniel seconded the motion.

Discussion followed about the need to update Panel By-Laws regarding membership. Mr. Martinez reminded Panel members that the Superintendent has the ultimate authority to authorize applicants for membership. Dr. Abrahante recommended that the By-Laws include language that membership represent diversity and students with disabilities served by the District. There was discussion about strategies to recruit individuals for membership. Mr. Martinez suggested that we change the time of Panel meetings.

Rosa Maria Barbara called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Awards Committee
See above

Kathy Vergara/Ava Goldman

D/HH Committee
No report

Lynn Miskiel/Linda Reiter

Education-Inclusion Committee

Janet McDaniel/Reagan Chalmers

Reagan Chalmers said that the committee is planning to focus on the Inclusion Award of Excellence the selection process for next year.

Early Childhood

Marisol Diaz/Kathy Vergara

Marisol Diaz reported that the committee met on May 25, 2107 and the agenda included attendance, transition to Kindergarten, and updates on referrals for Prekindergarten. Evaluations are being conducted during the weekdays and on Saturdays. An Ad Hoc Committee will be created to review the current Half-Day Speech Language Program. Next year the committee will invite a representative from Miami-Dade County Public School’s High School Early Childhood Training Programs.

ESE Family Engagement Committee

**Ernie Martinez/Angel Rodriguez/
Kelli Hunter-Sheppard**

No report

Panel Secondary Transition Committee

Chris Reigadas/Ernie Martinez/Vivian Nunez

Robin Morrison that the committee met on May 15, 2017. Chris Reigadas led the meeting and reviewed committee goals for 2016-17. She emphasized that a need for 2017-18 would be to bring resources to students that involve early intervention programs for alcohol and drug abuse as well as suicide prevention.

Ad-Hoc Budget Committee

Elias Seife/Dr. Magaly Abrahante

Elias Seife reported that at the last meeting the committee reviewed comparisons between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Broward County. Next year the committee will focus on the many challenges today with cuts in funding from the Federal Government and State of Florida.

Nominating Committee

Jackie Needelman-Report as needed

See above

Steering Committee

Rosa Maria Barbara-Report as needed

Ms. Barbara stated that a meeting would be scheduled during the summer.

Legislative Update

Enrique Escallon-Report as needed

No report

Committee Representation

See above

Transition Task Force

Vivian Nunez

No report

Other

Ms. Barbara reminded members about the Second Annual Javi Perez Road to Recovery event on June 3, 2017. Mr. Perez is the Principal that was hit by a car while coaching his child’s sports game.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 PM. Ms. Barbara wished members a wonderful summer.