

MINUTES

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

Minutes of September 26, 2013
School Board Administration Building – Room 916
3:00 P.M.

Members Present

Vickie Burley	Lynn Miskiel	Doris Shorkey
Elsa Clarke	Linda Reiter	Miguel Suau
Elizabeth Cramer	Christine Reigadas	Kathy Vergara
Ava Goldman	Liliana Salazar	
Yubeda Miah	Elaine Silny	

Alternates Present

Alexian Hueso
Nancy Torres

Honorary Members Present

Jane Blake

School Board Members Present

Laurie Malman – Alternate Dr. Lawrence Feldman

School Personnel Present

Jill Brookner
Rosalia Gallo
Mary Paz

Guests Present

Call to Order

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

Introduction and Welcome

Following introductions, Ms. Chris Reigadas, Panel Chair, welcomed members and guests. She then asked members to review the recommended meeting calendar and to update the member directory.

Ms. Reigadas asked for a motion to approve the Meeting Calendar for 2013-2014. Lynn Miskiel so moved and Ava Goldman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting dates are as follows:

September 26
October 17
November 21
December 12
January 23
February 20
March 13
April 10
May 8 (Awards Banquet - tentative)
May 22 (Meeting or Steering)

Approval of Minutes

Members of the Panel approved the minutes of the meeting of May 30, 2013 as presented. Lynn Miskiel moved to approve the minutes as presented. Liz Cramer seconded the motion. Chris Reigadas ask members to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Items

**Overview of the Gallery of Information for Teachers and Students (GIFTS) Conference
Liliana Salazar, District Director Exceptional Student Education**

Ms. Reigadas asked Liliana Salazar to present an overview of the GIFTS Conference. Ms. Salazar announced that the conference will be on Saturday, November 16, 2013 at Coral Gables Senior High School. The conference is for students, parents, teachers, and community members. The focus will be on students with disabilities. Ninety-five (95) participants have already registered for the conference.

The GIFTS Conference will follow six Strands: Achievement, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Behavior, Early Childhood, Student Experience, and Transition. Many distinguished speakers have been invited.

Rosalie Gallo discussed Exhibitors and Community Resources. She said that they now have forty-seven (47) exhibitors registered to attend. Elsa Clarke mentioned that we need the new DOH-CMS logo and that last year CMS presented at the conference and would like to present this year.

Ms. Salazar reviewed the conference schedule:

8:00 – 8:45	Registration
8:45 – 9:00	Welcome Ceremony
9:00 – 10:15	Session I
10:15 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:00	Session II
12:00 – 12:30	Lunch
12:30 – 12:45	Session III
1:45	Closing Ceremony/Raffle

Sessions will be longer this year as per parent request. Everyone is very enthusiastic about the scheduled student performances. Food and Nutrition is donating box lunches. The conference will end with a raffle.

Jill Brookner is chair of the volunteer committee. Ms. Brookner stated that volunteers and donations are greatly needed. She distributed a volunteer sign-up form.

Chris Reigadas thanked Ms. Salazar, Ms. Brookner, and Dr. Gallo for their presentation. She asked Panel members to please sign up to volunteer at the conference.

What is New in ESE – Ava Goldman, Administrative Director Office of Special Education and Education Services

Chris Reigadas introduced Ms. Ava Goldman who presented an update about ESE Programs and Resources. Ms. Goldman reported that 347,133 students are currently enrolled in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). Ten percent (10%) or 37,787 are students with disabilities. Of this number nine percent (9%) represent students with autism, eight percent (8%) represent students with emotional/behavioral disabilities, and forty-five percent (45%) represent children with learning disabilities. Other disabilities are represented by the remaining thirty-eight (38%).

Fifty-seven percent (57%) of students with disabilities graduate with a regular diploma.

Data trends indicate that there is a yearly increase of students with autism, Pre-K students with developmental disabilities, and language impairment while the number of children with emotional/behavior disabilities and learning disabilities is decreasing.

Exceptional Student Education Services include nursing, counseling, clinical therapies, physical therapy, and speech-language therapy. Approximately 12,000 students receive speech and/or language therapy. Individual Paraprofessional support is provided for 655 students

The Panther LIFE Program at Florida International University (FIU) has been expanded to the north campus. New Pre K Programs have been established at Thena C. Crowder Special Education Early Childhood and Diagnostic Center. A new “jumpstart” program for students with autism spectrum disorder will be launched in January 2014. Bridges to Tomorrow Vocational Skills programs have been expanded to JRE Lee Opportunity Alternative Education School and Campbell Drive Middle School.

M-DCPS has submitted an application to the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to provide vocational and life skill programs to M-DCPS students ages 22-25. M-DCPS is also planning to expand ADS secondary MAPS program at Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School and Terra Environmental Research Institute.

A new ESE Service Center has been established deep in the heart of Homestead. UM CARD satellite has been established at Homestead Middle School.

Screening Programs have been conducted for students in North and South Miami-Dade

County. Nancy Torres asked what happened to those students who were discovered to need services as a result of the screening. Ms. Goldman said that they are referred for additional evaluations.

Ms. Goldman hopes to target the Doral area in the near future.

Ms. Reigadas thanked Ms. Goldman for her very informative presentation.

iCare Program – Mary Paz/ Miguel Suau

Chris Reigadas asked Mary Paz and Miguel Suau to present information about the iCare Customer Service Initiative. Mary Paz said that the initiative began through the Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee (FCIAC) and was completed in conjunction with the Parent Academy. Ms. Paz and Mr. Suau participated in the video developed to promote the iCare Initiative. M-DCPS believes that a major component of ensuring high student achievement is establishing a school-learning environment in which customers feel welcomed and valued. The iCare Initiative endorses a high standard of customer service. Everyone should be gracious to anyone who contacts M-DCPS for any reason. Parents especially need to be treated with courtesy and respect.

Mr. Suau and Ms. Paz described the video. Mr. Suau said it was created in a Family Feud format and includes a polite school and rude school. Mr. Suau said that the purpose of the program is to change culture and change perception that the public has of the school system. Training is being provided for everyone through the LEAs. M-DCPS has provided training for principals and will continue as per the Superintendent's guidelines. The video is about five minutes and is like an infomercial. Miami Dade College assisted with the development of the model.

Chris Reigadas thanked Mr. Suau and Ms. Paz and said that we would love to see the video.

Update on Suggested By-Laws Changes

Chris Reigadas explained that the By-Laws Committee had met several times. She asked Kathy Vergara to review the recommendations. Ms. Vergara explained that at the present time there are two categories of membership: voting and non-voting honorary. The By-Laws committee recommended that five (5) honorary non-voting positions be established to recognize the contributions of senior parent members of the Panel. The length of term would be as long as the honorary member continues to be an active participant.

Liz Cramer moved and Doris Shorkey seconded a motion authorizing the Panel to establish five (5) non-voting honorary positions for senior parent members. The length of term would be as long as the honorary member continued to be an active participant. Parent members will automatically transition into this membership classification three years after the time their child has graduated or departed from Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Parent members in this category, who are serving as officers, would be able to continue as active voting members until he/she is no longer serving as an officer. Active honorary members would be eligible to be members of committees.

Chris Reigadas called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Vergara reported that the By-Laws Committee recommended that for general business purposes, quorum shall be declared upon reaching 40% of the voting membership (now By-Laws state: upon reaching 51% of the average voting member attendance of the preceding three (3) meetings).

Lynn Miskiel moved and Miguel Suau seconded a motion authorizing for general business purposes, quorum shall be declared upon reaching 40% of the voting membership.

Chris Reigadas called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Vergara reported that the By-Laws Committee recommended that the By-Laws include all committees in the list of sub-committees included in the By-Laws. The Panel Chairperson will appoint at his/her discretion members to represent the Panel on School District Committees such as the Attendance Boundary Committee.

Vicky Burley moved and Elsa Clarke seconded a motion authorizing the Panel to include all Panel committees in the list of sub-committees.

Chris Reigadas called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathy Vergara reported that at the By-Laws Committee meeting, Enrique Escallon highly recommended that the requirement for members to sign the Certification of Compliance-Code of Ethics for Individuals Serving on Advisory Committees (non-employees) of the School Board of Miami-Dade County be included in the By-Laws.

Lynn Miskiel moved and Miguel Suau seconded a motion that the Panel include a statement in the By-Laws that Panel members will be compliant with policies and procedures pertaining to individuals serving on Advisory Committees established by the School Board of Miami-Dade County.

Chris Reigadas called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Chris Reigadas distributed committee sign-up lists for members to sign-up.

Awards Committee

Kathy Vergara/Jill Brookner

Kathy Vergara reminded members that the date selected for the Awards Ceremony and Luncheon is May 9th. The total amount carried over to this year was \$1,074.26

D/HH Committee

Lynn Miskiel/Linda Reiter

Lynn Miskiel announced that the first meeting of the D/HH Committee would be October 9th. Liliana Salazar suggested JRE Lee as a meeting location. The facility is open until 7:00 pm.

Linda Reiter announced that three DHH students are semi finalists for the Posse Foundation scholarships. Scholarship recipients have a ninety percent (90%) graduation rate and are almost assured a job upon graduation. The student finalists are Michelle Gora (DASH High School, Design Magnet), Kennedy Petain (Coral Reef High School IB Magnet), and Bianca Burks.

Education/Inclusion Committee

Rosa Maria Barbara/Rosalia Gallo

Rosalia Gallo reported that the Education/Inclusion Committee met twice during the summer. The most recent meeting was on September 11, 2013. Dr. Gallo distributed minutes of the meeting. She was thrilled to report that fifteen (15) schools applied for the Inclusion-Achievement Award. Two schools were selected as winners. They are Greynolds Park Elementary School and Terra Environmental Research Institute will be recognized through the dadeschools.net "ticker." This will create awareness and give importance to the inclusion and achievement of students with disabilities.

The applications were evaluated by specific guidelines including the increase in inclusion, data presented, and quality of the application.

The schools will be recognized at the May Awards Ceremony and Luncheon. In addition, the committee hopes to have the schools recognized through a Proclamation at a School Board meeting. Lynn Miskiel suggested contacting the Miami Herald to cover information about the Award in the Neighbors Section.

The committee also discussed the contents of Senate Bill 1108, particularly regarding inclusion. There are thirty (30) indicators related to inclusion in the Best Practices for Inclusive Education (BPIE) assessment process.

The committee discussed the Action Plan for 2013-14 school year which will include the use of the LRE/Achievement at a Glance tool to review 60 schools in key areas related to the instruction of students with disabilities.

The committee suggested that the SLD/Inclusion Team conduct Professional Development for secondary school principals on the Common Core Standards for students with disabilities.

The SLD/Inclusion Team was asked to conduct PD with iHeat Curriculum Support Specialists on the Common Core Standards. They emphasized accommodations. iHeat is a grant that provides for teacher to work with teacher in low performing schools.

Panel Secondary Transition Committee

Enrique Escallon/Jill Brookner

Chris Reigadas announced that Enrique Escallon would co-chair the Panel Secondary Transition Committee with Jill Brookner. Ms. Brookner was very excited that Mr. Escallon volunteered to be her co-chair.

Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee

Chris Reigadas/Miguel Suau

See ICare report.

Attendance Boundary Committee

Yolanda Herrera

No report.

Other

Miguel Suau asked for assistance in locating daughter when she gets lost. Numerous members had suggestions.

Chris Reigadas reported about Emergency Information Kit distributed to all members. Main number is in the booklet. The Panel helped with the development of the Emergency Information Kit

Nancy Torres recommended inviting Michelle Schladant to present about the FFAST Program at the University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development. Ms. Reigadas recommended asking Dr. Schladant to present at the GIFTS Conference. Dr. Gallo said that FFAST was already registered to exhibit.

Jane Blake updated the Panel on a concern that she raised at the April meeting regarding parking in the city of Hollywood. She received outstanding assistance from an ADA attorney Rosa Lagano from Tallahassee who reconnects with Matthew Dietz from Miami. The problem was regarding delineation of spaces for Handicapped parking in the city of Hollywood. Jane Blake advocated for the law to be rewritten. The law was never changed but three months later the no-parking signs were removed. Everyone congratulated Ms. Blake for this wonderful accomplishment.

Ms. Blake reported that Miami-Dade County owns the Miami International Airport and that the disabled have to pay to park. It was her recommendation that someone on the Panel support this cause.

Elaine Silny thanked everyone who worked on By-Laws Committee. Ms. Reigadas said that Lourdes Bravo inspired the change.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54. Liz Cramer moved and Lynn Miskiel seconded the motion.

Next Meeting

The General Membership meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2013 at 3:00 pm in the Labor Relations Conference Room 559 of the School Board Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen C. Vergara