

MINUTES

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

Minutes of October 15, 2015
School Board Administration Building – Room 559
1450 Northeast 2nd Avenue
Miami, Florida 33132
3:00 P.M.

Members Present

Rosa Maria Barbara	Ernie Martinez	Camila Rocha
Elsa Clarke	Janet McDaniel	Elaine Silny
Elizabeth Cramer	Lynn Miskiel	Miguel Suau
Enrique Escallon	Christine Reigadas	Kathy Vergara
Ava Goldman		

Alternates Present

Maria Jakoniuk Ratti (Rosa Maria Barbara)

Honorary Members Present

Vickie Burley
Stephanie Mintz

School Board Members Present

Laurie Malman – Alternate Dr. Lawrence Feldman
Maria E. Delgado – Alternate Dr. Martin Karp
Evelyn Jimenez, Guest of Elsa Clarke

School Personnel Present

Jill Brookner
Katherine Cadieux
Rosalia Gallo
Kathy Maguire
Kelli Hunter Sheppard

Guest Speakers

Sharon Krantz, Executive Director Student Services
Robin Morrison, Instructional Supervisor

Guests Present

Diane Adreon, UM CARD
Eric Cintron, Student Representative Applicant

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm.

Introduction and Welcome

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

Code of Ethics

Rosa Maria Barbara reminded members to sign and return the required Code of Ethics form.

Approval of Minutes

Members of the Panel approved the minutes of the meeting of September 16, 2015 as presented as well as the minutes of the Inclusion-Education Committee meeting on October 6, 2015. Lynn Miskiel moved to approve the minutes as presented. Chris Reigadas seconded the motion. Rosa Maria Barbara asked members to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Report

Rosa Maria Barbara thanked Committee Members who volunteered to assist at the Panel table at the GIFT Conference. They are as follows: Rosa Maria Barbara, Vicky Burley, Elsa Clarke, Janet McDaniel, Elias Seife, Elaine Silny, and Chris Reigadas. She said that the conference was a fantastic event and everyone had a wonderful day. Ava Goldman reported that they are compiling evaluation data and will report at next month's meeting. Ms. Barbara said that everyone was thrilled that the Superintendent attended as well as several members of the School Board.

Ms. Barbara expressed concerns about the Panel website. It definitely needs to be updated.

Ms. Barbara said that she and several Panel members attended the School Board meeting on October 14, 2015. Dr. Rosalia Gallo, Laurie Malman, Dr. Janet McDaniel, and Ernie Martinez joined School Board Vice Chair Lawrence Feldman as he presented the Superintendent's District Advisory Panel's Inclusion Achievement Award Proclamation to Hammocks Middle School. Ms. Barbara congratulated Dr. Gallo and her team for their research in selecting this exceptional school. She said that it was an outstanding ceremony.

Regarding memberships, Ms. Barbara stated that members who do not have consistent attendance are placing their membership status at risk. This also includes member agencies.

Ms. Barbara reported that she met with School Board member Lubby Navarro regarding an item sponsored by Ms. Navarro and introduced to the School Board by the Academics, Evaluation, and Technology Committee. The subject addressed was accommodations on the College Board, ACT, and other exams for students with disabilities and/or special needs. The recommendation was linked to the Strategic Blueprint: Safe, Healthy, and Supportive Learning Environment. The School Board item passed unanimously "to direct the Superintendent to develop and implement guidelines and procedures in adherence to testing entity requirements to ensure students with disabilities and/or special needs and their families receive the information for such testing accommodations in all middle and high schools on an annual basis." The brochure Marianna Barbara developed on this topic while she was Student Representative on the Panel will be distributed to students on an annual basis. This information will open opportunities for many students enrolled in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Committee Reports

Awards Committee

Kathy Vergara/Jill Brookner

No report.

D/HH Committee

Lynn Miskiel/Linda Reiter

Lynn Miskiel reported that the first meeting of the D/HH Committee has been schedule for November 4th at Ronald Reagan High School. Their goal is to look at Professional Development.

Education-Inclusion Committee

Janet McDaniel/Rosalia Gallo

Janet McDaniel reported that the committee discussed the Inclusion-Achievement Award Proclamation that was presented on October 14, 2015 at the School Board Meeting.

They also discussed the committee goals for 2015-16. The Inclusion Goal is as follows:

Given the opportunity to disseminate information through such practices as 1) Professional Development to school personnel (teachers, support staff, and administrators), 2) Parent outreach and communication, the Panel will collect inclusion data on special education programs and provide recommendations which will result in an increase in the overall inclusion rate in the district from 51.2% to 52.5% (based on the SPED EMS data of August 2015-16).

The Achievement Goal is as follows:

Given a random sampling of high achieving schools (using FSA Reading data), the committee will review the types of special education programs and review IEPs of selected students to see what is effective for the achievement of students with disabilities at the high achieving schools.

Dr. McDaniel reported that there was a lively discussion regarding the Achievement Goal. Several members were concerned with the wording because there are too many variables and it will be difficult to gather accurate data. This topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

Dr. McDaniel reported that there was much discussion about accommodations for the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). An Independent Verification Report outlines the types of areas where some students were not able to access the information. For example, there were no accommodations for the listening section for students with auditory processing and/or auditory speed deficits. This violates two main premises of IDEA: the ability to access information and demonstrate performance. If students cannot access the information, how can we appropriately determine performance?

Rosa Maria Barbara expressed her concerns about the Florida Standards Assessment Process. She recommended that the Panel send a letter to the Superintendent regarding providing appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. Following discussion, Ms. Barbara asked for a motion. Christine Reigades so moved and Ernie Martinez seconded the motion. Ms. Ava Goldman will help draft the letter. Ms. Barbara called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Panel Secondary Transition Committee

Chris Reigadas/Ernie Martinez/Jill Brookner

Jill Brookner reported that the committee met on October 6th. There was discussion about the fact that many parents do not attend their student's transition meeting. Concerns were expressed that the

information is not getting to the parents and discussion followed about what could be done to encourage parents to attend. Many parents choose to sign the Proceed Without Me Form. It was suggested that parents may be willing to view an easily accessible video about transition. Laurie Malman has made this suggestion many times.

There was a request for data at the meeting. For example, how many students with disabilities are enrolled in high school? How many have an IEP? How many have a 504 Plan? How many parents actually attend the meetings?

The Transition Team has drafted a “top ten list” regarding the transition process from Middle School to High School. It is very important to begin the process early. Information about this list will be presented at the next Panel meeting.

Questions were raised about the supports needed in schools to implement successful transition meetings. Ms. Brookner suggested the ESE Chair and Program Specialist in each school may be of assistance.

Ad-Hoc Budget Committee

Elias Seife/Dr. Magaly Abrahante

In the absence of Elias Seife and Dr. Magaly Abrahante, Ava Goldman reported that the Ad-Hoc Budget Committee met on September 25th at Blue Lakes Elementary School. The committee is planning to define the funding streams for Exceptional Student Education and will present this information to the Panel. Panel members may want to ascertain how we can secure additional funds for students with disabilities.

At the present time the committee is in a fact finding, research mode.

Nominating Committee

Jackie Needelman - Report as needed

Rosa Maria Barbara introduced Eric Cintron to the Panel members. Eric has submitted his application to be the next Student Representative on the Panel. His application has been reviewed by the Nominating Committee and Jackie Needelman has recommended that the Panel approve the application to be submitted to the Superintendent. Ms. Barbara asked for a motion. Elizabeth Cramer so moved and Miguel Suau seconded the motion. Ms. Barbara called the question. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Barbara will submit a letter to the Superintendent requesting that he appoint Eric Cintron to the Panel as Student Representative.

Steering Committee

Rosa Maria Barbara - Report as needed

No report

Committee Representation

Attendance Boundary Committee

Rosa Maria Barbara/Kathy Vergara

Rosa Maria Barbara is the representative and will attend the first meeting on October 20th.

Family and Community

Rosa Maria Barbara

Involvement Advisory Committee

Rosa Maria Barbara attended first meeting. She said that discussion focused on encouraging students to remain in M-DCPS rather than moving to Charter Schools.

Transition Task Force

Jill Brookner

Jill Brookner said that the first meeting was centered on Employment First. Ms. Ava Goldman and Dr. Magaly Abrahante attended the meeting as well as facilitators from Boston. This is an amazing collaboration of local agencies to support employment for students with disabilities. The morning focused on presentations and the afternoon included development of an initial plan and interagency collaboration agreement. Interested people are invited to join the Transition Task Force.

ESAC

No report.

Presentations:

Values Matter: Ms. Sharon Krantz, Executive Director Student Services

Rosa Maria Barbara introduced Ms. Sharon Krantz. Ms. Krantz began by sharing a little about herself. She said that she was a School Counselor for many years and is now Executive Director of Student Services. Ms. Krantz reported that Values Matter is a huge campaign currently being implemented throughout the school system. Superintendent Carvalho has initiated a new commitment to address and change behavior in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. It is important to teach successful behaviors and support positive behaviors. The School Board initially adopted the program, Values Matter, in 1995. Values Matter includes Citizenship, Cooperation, Fairness, Honesty, Integrity, Kindness, Pursuit of Excellence, Respect, and Responsibility.

The primary focus has been to create a positive school culture and reduce negative behavior. This program is designed to promote physical and intellectual safety in our schools. Each school has a Values Matter goal in their School Improvement Plan. The goal is to permeate the program throughout the entire school and to impact administrators, teachers, staff, and students. It is critical for adults to model positive behaviors.

Code of Conduct videos have been created to demonstrate each of the nine core values. The website is OSI.Dadeschools.net/valuesmatter.net. The website also includes a monthly newsletter and literacy components. The goal is to address and change behavior. The website includes a Parent Corner designed for school newsletters and suggested school wide activities.

One of the most important components of the program is positive recognition of students. Schools are now recognizing students for successfully implementing the Value of the Month. School personnel are encouraged to spot and reward success by giving out awards and having ice-cream parties, for example. Thus far, one hundred ninety-nine (199) schools have nominated students as the first Values Matter award winners. Two students were honored at yesterday's School Board meeting. Every School Board member signed the pledge of one student. Another student gave up her lunch period to search for kids who seemed lost and had lunch with them. These students did something to make a difference in their school. Ms. Krantz encouraged everyone on the Panel to support the Values Matter initiative.

Rosa Maria Barbara thanked Sharon Krantz for her presentation.

Behavior Supports and Strategies for ESE Students

Ms. Robin Morrison, Instructional Supervisor

Rosa Maria Barbara introduced Robin Morrison to the members of the Panel. Ms. Morrison thanked Ms. Barbara for inviting her to speak today. She distributed a copies of her presentation to members. Ms. Morrison said that professionals working in Emotional Behavior Disorder (EBD) Programs work on the following Behavior Components: Positive Classroom Environments; Behavior Intervention Plans; Level Systems; Progress Notes; Performance Charts; and Token Economy. Student safety is a primary concern. The website goleaps.com offers Behavior Intervention and Improvement Plans that are very helpful. Another resource is Project Adventure.

Project Adventure is a therapeutic approach to adventure through activities. Students learn skills that demonstrate pro-social interactions for handling life situations with peers and adults. The Full Value Contract is an essential component of this program.

It is necessary to teach and re-teach when teaching behavior skills. Repetition and practice, practice, practice are critical. Children in EBD Programs must be taught behavior skills. There are several websites that offer excellent guidelines. Pbisworld.com defines many behaviors and describes Tier 1, 2 & 3 interventions including data tracking guidelines. In addition, students with behavior disorders need to be taught coping skills in order to learn to function in the world.

Clinical Behavior Services has a monthly newsletter titled T.A.B.S. (Tips About Behavior Strategies) that is divided into different areas. For example, September's issue showcased the Strategy Wall. They are now considering developing an app.

Training is being provided throughout M-DCPS about behavior management guidelines. Dr. McDaniel asked if the training was only for students with disabilities. Ms. Morrison responded that the training is for all students including general education students.

Chris Reigadas asked about the incidence of arrests regarding students with disabilities who have behavior issues. Ms. Morrison said that there are not as many incidents as we have had in the past. School police now receive sensitivity training.

Ernie Martinez asked about programs for students enrolled in adult education classes. Ms. Morrison responded that she was not familiar with programs available for adult education students.

Ms. Morrison said that Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Classroom Management Training is offered throughout the school system and security guard trainings are provided when requested.

Enrique Escallon said that adults also need the training. Ms. Morrison said that it is critical to change the community culture of schools. All agreed that training is critical.

Other

Diane Adreon from CARD announced that the Medical Issues and Growing Child Conference on October 30th will be held at the University of Miami Alumni Center and is sponsored by CARD's Department of Education Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism (PEPSA)

Project.

Master Plan Points are offered for M-DCPS teachers. There is no charge for the workshop.

Dr. Adreaon said that CARD has worked on Wallet Card Project for teens and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to use to disclose their disability to the police. Information can be found on the website justdigit.org. CARD has just completed a video for police officers with the assistance of the Coral Gables Police.

Chris Reigadas thanked Ava Goldman and Dr. Magaly Abrahante for their support of the GIFT Conference.

Chris Reigadas announced that Nicklaus Children's Hospital is now planning to provide tele-health services to Miami-Dade County Public Schools and will also work with Monroe County.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20. Janet McDaniel so moved and Lynn Miskiel seconded the motion.

Next Meeting

The General Membership meeting is scheduled for November 12th at 3:00 pm in the School Board Administration Building – Room 559 – 1450 Northeast 2nd Avenue – Miami, Florida 33132

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen C. Vergara
Secretary