

MINUTES

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

Minutes of November 8, 2018

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

Members Present

Sandy Ames-FCC	Angie Torres-SP
Rosa Maria Barbara-Parent	Kathy Vergara-Parent
Lauren Bustos-PTP	
Enrique Escallon-Parent	Chris Reigadas – Honorary Member
Ava Goldman-SP	Lawrence Feldman – Honorary Member
Kelli Hunter Sheppard-SP	Michelle Cummings FIU
Janet McDaniel-Parent	
Lynn Miskiel-MCCD	
Lisette Rodriguez-SP	
Elias Seife-Parent	

Parent Alternates

Maria Jakoniuk Ratti (Rosa Maria Barbara)

Agency Alternates

Melanie Morales (FIU)

School Board Member Designee

Jerold Blumstein (Martin Karp)

Maria Delgado (Martin Karp)

Laurie Malman (Dr. Feldman)

Members Absent

Diane Adreon-CARD

Martin Karp-Honorary

Ernie Martinez-Parent

School Personnel Present

Dr. Magaly C. Abrahante

Marisol Diaz

Mary Paz

School Personnel Cont.

Dr. Ann Marie Sasseville (Telephone)
Dr. Angel Rodriguez
Jesus Aviles
Maria Selleck

Guests Present

Mark Thompson (Special Olympics)
Beverly Heller
Mary Palacios (Miami-Dade Parks)
Jazmin Clements (FND)

Call to Order

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

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 September 27, 2018 as corrected; as well as the minutes of the Awards Sub-Committee, Education/Inclusion Sub-Committee, Early Childhood Sub-Committee, Low Incidence Disability Sub-Committee, Nominations Sub-Committee, Parent Engagement Sub-Committee and Secondary Transition Sub-Committee.

Sandy Ames moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Dr. Feldman seconded the motion. Rosa Maria Barbara asked members to approve the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Chair Presentation/Reports

No Reports

Committee Representatives

Attendance Boundary Committee - The process has been established to target schools that require changes in boundaries. Public meetings regarding boundary changes will be held at the selected schools.

Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee

No Report

Presentations

ESE Updates

The presentation provided an overview of the M-DCPS ESE Data points. The district is serving 37,644 SWD and 40,416 Gifted Students (which includes 833 which are twice exceptional) and over 10,797 on 504 Plans. Review of academic performance gains as evidenced by performance on the FSA ELA and Mathematics assessment, students with disabilities showed increases in proficiency. Seventy (70%) of SWD graduated in 16-17, exceeding the State average. Improvements are evident in Transition Self Assessment and Evaluation Timeline and parent engagement. Over 7000 educators have been impacted by Professional Development provided by the Department of Exceptional Student Education. Services

provided by ESE were reviewed. Selected teachers were trained on the Orton-Gillingham method in June 2018. The goal is to establish model classrooms for teachers to visit with the purpose of modeling the use of the method. Professional Development is being provided for teachers of students on the modified curriculum. The Department is implementing the VITA software in 20 high schools, expanded programs for transition and inclusion, social skills and Professional Development for teachers to assist with the identification of girls who may have autism. The Gifted program is participating in a national program. As a department, the department strives to ensure that they narrow the achievement gap. Working in conjunction with FDLRS – Advanced Academics is working to develop a professional development that will support teachers with identifying or supporting students that are twice exceptional. The Sources of Funding for the Exceptional Student Education was reviewed. Ms. Goldman expressed that IDEA funds are to supplement State and Local Funds. Eighty percent of the IDEA budget is spent on salaries. Non-salary dollars are spent on Assistive Technology, Professional Development, Equipment, Supplies and protocols. Questions regarding the number of students receiving services for Speech Language were asked. Ms. Goldman explained that the data for Speech is being reviewed and analyzed. Ms. Goldman explained how fee for service for Medicaid has increased in comparison to last year. This report is posted online for review.

Dr. Feldman stated that he believes that ESE is on track to becoming experts in curriculum and instruction. Dr. Feldman asked about increasing the number of Epi Centers in the District. He also was interested in the getting information about the 20 high schools that are implementing the VITA program and how the program is being utilized. Dr. Feldman requested a breakdown of numbers on psychologists, how many are 10 month or 12 month. Dr. Feldman was concerned about the students in ESE programs and wants to ensure that students are not in ESE due to cultural determinations. The question was posed if there is a method to provide a warning if a human input error occurs on the matrix. Dr. Feldman also inquired about the availability of sensory rooms in each school. Questions were asked if there were specific strategies used to address the ESE concerns of our Migrant families. Ms. Diaz discussed the transition process for children that are transitioning through the Pre K Programs. Dr. Abrahante stated that for the first time have met the benchmark of identifying 10 percent of Head Start students for ESE Pre K programs. Ms. Barbara requested information about the return rate of Parent Surveys. Ms. Goldman stated that over 3000 surveys were returned by parents for the FDOE Parent survey.

Committee Reports

Awards Sub-Committee

Kathy Vergara/Ava Goldman

Discussed the Award Ceremony Theme, proposed dates and venue. Dr. Feldman suggested that the committee use of Robert Morgan. The sub committee is looking for sources of funding. Ms. Ratti stated that her husband can assist with donations of food from surrounding hotels or restaurants. Minutes were submitted.

Early Childhood Sub-Committee

Kathy Vergara/Marisol Diaz

Reviewed two initiatives: Pre K Everywhere and Everywhere Learning which reviews the importance of talking, singing and reading to their children. Publix may serve as a partner. Minutes were submitted.

Educational Programs and Inclusion Sub-Committee

Reagan Chalmers

Reviewed Inclusion Achievement Awards and future meeting dates. Minutes were submitted.

Gifted Education Sub-Committee

Lissette Rodriguez/Marie Selleck

Focus is increasing awareness of twice exceptional students. Reviewed professional development for parents in multiple languages. Minutes were submitted.

Low Incidence Disability Sub-Committee

Lynn Miskiel/Kelli Hunter-Sheppard

The committee is focusing on identification of DHH students early and providing professional development to our teachers. Minutes were submitted.

Mental Health Committee

Jesus Aviles

The subcommittee established their goals for the 2018-19 school year. Question was asked about the Baker Act process. Is there a protocol to address needs of ESE students that are Baker Acted. Ms. Goldman stated that there is follow up for these students through SEDNET. Minutes were submitted

Nominations Sub-Committee

Ava Goldman/Kathy Vergara

No meeting

Parent Engagement Sub-Committee

Ernie Martinez/Angel Rodriguez

Discussed trainings provided to parents. Explained the partnerships through varying departments to reach families. Goals: Promote parent participation in IEP meetings, work with community agencies, collaborate with Parent Academy. Minutes were submitted

Secondary Transition Sub-Committee

Chris Reigadas

Ms. Reigadas reported that their committee discussed CTE and Goals. Minutes will be emailed to members.

Report as Needed Committees

Steering Committee

By Laws Committee

Other

Ms. Barbara commented that the ESE Family Forum was a wonderful event that provided a wealth of information for families.

Nicklaus Children Hospital is hosting a Mental Health and Wellness Fair. All are encouraged to attend.

Adjournment

Ms. Barbara requested that the meeting be extended by 15 minutes. The Panel agreed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2019 at 3:00 pm.