

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

**Minutes of November 19, 2020**

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**Members Present**

Sandy Ames, Family Care Council	Yvonne Leon, M-DCPS	Lisette Rodriguez, M-DCPS
Emily Andrade, Student Representative	Laurie Malman	Elias Seife
Michelle Cumming, FIU	Ernie Martinez	Mark Thompson, Special Olympics
Enrique Escallon, Chairperson	Lynn Miskiel, UM Mailman Center	Angie Torres, M-DCPS
Beverly Heller	Gisel Prado, Miami Parks/Recreation	Kathy Vergara
Brenda Lampon, VR	Maria Ratti	Allicia Walford, PEN
Hermine Wilson -Lang	Chris Reigadas	

**Agency Alternates**

**Members Absent**

Diane Adreon, UM/NSU CARD  
Rosa Maria Barbara, Vice Chair  
Kelli Hunter-Sheppard, M-DCPS

**School Personnel Present**

Magaly Abrahante  
Sally Alayon  
Reagan Chalmers  
Lianie Cuba  
Marisol Diaz  
Magaly Ercilla  
Ava Goldman  
Juan Carlos Gonzalez  
Mary Paz

Angel Rodriguez  
Patrick Salmasi  
Orfirio Sanchez  
Maria Sellek

**Guests Present**

Melanie Morales

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM.

**Welcome and Introduction of Panel Members/Visitors**

Mr. Enrique Escallon welcomed all members and visitors.

**Review of Agenda**

Mr. Escallon reviewed the agenda. He asked if any changes to the agenda were needed. No changes were requested. Mr. Escallon asked if any changes to the October 22, 2020 Steering Committee meeting minutes were recommended. Minutes were approved without changes. Mr. Escallon also addressed the proposed schedule for panel meetings.

**Presentations**

**Mental Health Awareness**

Sally J. Alayon, Assistant Superintendent  
Educational Services  
School Operations

Lianie Cuba, Director  
Department of Mental Health Services  
School Operations

Sally Alayon provided an overview of the Department of Mental Health Services which was established in July 2018. The department works in full collaboration with all District offices, Regions and school sites. Ms. Alayon described the trainings and programs provided as school-based supports. Seventy-three Mental Health Coordinators provide direct support to students and families. Mental Health Awareness training has been provided to staff members, including non-instructional personnel. Parent training and community awareness presentations on various topics have been provided as well. Ms. Alayon also shared information about Threat Assessment Teams, Suicide Prevention/Intervention, Mental Health/Social Emotional Learning Programs and initiatives. Ms. Cuba provided clarification about the process for referring a student to the Department of Mental Health Services.

**Amended By-Laws**

Dr. Magaly Abrahante, Assistant Superintendent  
Division of Student and Family Support Programs  
Sub-Committee Co-Chair

Ernie Martinez, Sub-Committee Co-Chair

Ernie Martinez thanked sub-committee members for providing feedback about the by-laws. He asked Chris Regaidas to provide input she previously shared during this meeting. Questions about the student representative, sub-committee meeting participants, and meeting schedules were voiced and discussed. Mr. Escallon asked for the sub-committee to schedule a meeting to address concerns and recommendations for the proposed by-laws (December 3, 2020). After this sub-committee meeting, the panel will reconvene to vote on the proposed by-laws on December 8, 2020. Motion was moved by Beverly Heller. Ernie Martinez seconded. Mr. Escallon asked the panel for approval of the amended panel meeting calendar. Panel approved amendment.

### **Meeting Wrap-Up**

Mr. Escallon asked if there were any announcements.

Angie Torres clarified that a list of all sub-committees and members has been shared via email.

Mr. Escallon shared information about Give Miami Day provided by Maria Ratti.

Patrick Salmasi shared a flyer for an upcoming webinar for parents in collaboration with the Parent Education Network (PEN).

Angel Rodriguez shared the link for weekly webinars for parents from the Parent Academy.

Beverly Heller shared that a team is meeting November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to update the Parent Handbook. She asked for stakeholders to contact Sarah Walkup if they have suggestions.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Escallon moved to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 4:56 PM