

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 1, 2011

SUMMARY

Members Present:

Barbara Beasley-Williamson	Shevrin Jones	Tammy Reed
Harve Brosten	Laura Munoz	Nancy Rogan
Alfred Delgado	Catherine Owens	James Sparks
Roland Foulkes	Daljit Pannu	Suzanne Yach
Julian Gazzano	Ernestine Price	

Members Absent:

Andy Ansola	Marguerite Luster
Bari Goldberg	Esther Mizell

District Staff: Kathrine Francis, Executive Director, Student Support Services & ESE

Diversity, Cultural Outreach & Prevention Staff: Michaelle Pope, Director; Terri Jones; Carolyn Salters; Marion Williams

Guests: Daniel Enrique Caballero; Martha Caballero; Pete Caballero; Carlos Carrasco; Maria Carrasco; David Jones; Joseph Ramirez; Luis Ramirez; Maria Ramirez; Monica Romero; Mae Smith

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Foulkes called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m., with a quorum.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Committee adopted the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Ms. Beasley-Williamson, seconded by Ms. Reed to adopt June 2, 2011 Summary Minutes as amended. Motion passed 10-0.

Motion by Ms. Beasley-Williamson, seconded by Mr. Gazzano to adopt August 4, 2011 Summary Minutes as amended. Motion passed 10-1.

CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR REPORT/UPDATES/INSIGHTS

Mr. Foulkes introduced Daniel Enrique Caballero, student from Western High School. He is the recipient of the 2011 *Diversity, Inclusion, and Educational Equity Student Leader-In-Action Award*. Daniel, who holds a 4.0 grade point average, has worked to advance inclusion and awareness of diverse disabilities throughout his school years at Country Isles Elementary School, Indian Ridge Middle School, Western High School, and throughout the District. He has the distinct honor of being a multi-trophy winner as Florida's Best Orator and is a nationally recognized Master Public Speaker.

Daniel Caballero gave a moving, pointed, insightful speech regarding the beauty of imperfection in all people; noting that striving for excellence motivates as opposed to striving

for perfection, which is demoralizing. He said we are all marvelous wonders who should embrace our imperfections.

Mr. Foulkes presented the Award to **Mr. Caballero**. **Mr. Caballero** thanked the Committee for the Award; he said he was grateful and overwhelmed by the honor.

Mr. Foulkes asked Members to bring forward more students for recognition, including adult learners.

Mr. Foulkes spoke regarding a motion to bring forward a resolution regarding Diversity & Inclusive Month January 2012. **Ms. Owens** suggested that diversity training go hand-in-hand with the resolution. She suggested using BECON broadcasts, virtual assembly, or possibly getting Ph.D. or masters candidate students who can assist. She said it is critical that diversity training gets out to students, teachers, and administrative staff. **Ms. Pope** said that diversity training is a goal of the Department. Over the summer approximately 30 administrators were trained, as well as on-going training being held in schools. She will take the recommendation of diversity training, being attached to the resolution, to District executive leaders (ELT).

Motion by Mr. Gazzano, seconded by Tammy Reed "That the Diversity Committee recommends to the School Board of Broward County that it issues and adopts a Resolution in Support of the Broward County Commission's Tenth Anniversary of Broward County Diversity & Inclusive Community Month January 2012 as it has since 2002. This done in recognition of Broward's diverse men, women and children." Motion passed 14-0.

Motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Delgado "That the Diversity Committee recommends to the School Board of Broward County that it adopts Resolution in Support of the Fiftieth (50th) Anniversary of the United States Peace Corps 2011 (*March 1, 2011 – March 1, 2012*) in recognition of current and former Broward Public Schools teachers, administrators, committee-serving political appointees, and school-based volunteers who are Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and who have served in countries across the world and who bring that experience and knowledge back into the District, its classrooms, policies and programs development consistent with Peace Corps' Third goal: To Educate Americans About The World. Motion passed 14-0.

Motion by Ms. Williamson, seconded by Ms. Yach "That the Diversity Committee recommends to the School Board of Broward County that it issues a Resolution in Support of the United Nations 2011 International Year for People of African Descent initiative. In recognition both of all Humans irrespective of color, nationality, ethnicity, gender, etc., including all citizens and residents of Broward County, who are "people of African descent" and those Humans who are identified and classified as "Black", according to Federal Directive 15, and in accord with the focus and intent of the United Nations' Resolution, and men, women and children who continue to be the target of anti-Black subtle and overt racism, stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination, exclusion, and hate." Motion passed 14-0.

Mr. Foulkes gave background and justification for the next motion which requests updating the *Diversity Awareness in Times of Conflict and War* video and a letter he sent regarding updating the video. The 2003 broadcast was the District's proactive pre-Anti-Bullying Policy initiative to prevent or minimize hostilities directed toward Broward's students, staff, parents and communities who self-identify and worship as Muslims following the United States' entry into the war against Iraq. This update was proposed by Diversity Committee Chair

Roland Foulkes on May 2, 2011, immediately following the assassination of Osama Bin Laden, to **Mrs. Pope**, Director, Diversity & Cultural Outreach Department, SBBC, **Dr. Phyllis Schiffer-Simon**, Director, BECON, then-Superintendent **James Notter**, School Board Chair **Ben Williams** and other senior District staff. Ten invited panelists --- including Muslim students, District staff, scholars, a cleric, a civil rights/social services leader, and community activist--- agreed to serve on this timely roundtable discussion. **Mr. Foulkes** said he received a response from Interim Superintendent **Mr. Carter** that he was not going to pursue updating the video at this time.

Ms. Owens said if diversity and inclusion means everyone, then training that is **all-inclusive** should be provided, whether, in the form of diversity sensitivity, cultural awareness, conflict resolution, etc.. Do we need separate training for each sup-group of people? Much discussion followed.

Ms. Pope said she received an update from administration that diversity issues need to be identified and addressed by the Diversity, Cultural Outreach & Prevention Department. The video cannot be produced and launched by September 11th, however, the Department will be looking to address any related issues. **Mr. Foulkes** said this motion should go forward and sends a message to the School Board that this issue is of concern to this Committee, it needs to be given a priority, whether they can act on it by September 11th or not.

Motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Delgado "That the Diversity Committee urgently recommends to the School Board of Broward County that it permits and urges Interim Superintendent Donnie Carter to approve and green-light the BECON Broadcast Update of the 2003 broadcast, *Diversity Awareness in Times of Conflict and War* to be taped between September 1st and September 9th and to be aired on September 9th or 12th or soon after as part of an education of the district about the positive contributions to Broward County, Florida, the United States and world of US citizens, taxpayers and voters who self-identify and worship as Muslims and who live in this community during the Tenth Anniversary Commemoration of "9/11". Motion passed 13-1.

Motion by Ms. Williamson, seconded by Ms. Price "Monitor all schools to ensure that all students have access to homework and other important notification other than on the internet." Motion passed 9-4.

Mr. Foulkes mentioned, as one resource, Comcast is providing low-cost access to the Internet for low-income, Title I families. **Ms. Yach** said all teachers should be aware of this concern and put homework assignments on the "blackboard".

Motion by Ms. Williamson "that the Diversity Committee requests that the District have all schools submit how homework is administered or given out at their schools." No second. Motion withdrawn.

Dialogue followed, including **Mr. Brosten** who said a large part of the discussion should be about funding schools and what can we do as a Committee to convey this concern to the Legislature and the Governor in Tallahassee. **Ms. Reed** agreed. She said the work of the Committee would be more meaningful if we find ways to support the School Board and direct some of our efforts toward Tallahassee. We need to stand in unity and solidarity in terms of what Tallahassee has kept from our School District and to support the School Board.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Site Visit Subcommittee:

Motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Ms. Price "To accept the Sunland Park Elementary's Summary Report. Motion passed 13-0.

Ms. Owens said there was great concern about security at Sunland Park in regards to equipment for staff to communicate with each other. She called the principal to follow-up and has not heard back. Ms. Owens asked that staff follow through and check with the principal.

Ms. Owens said there has been tremendous progress made at Hallandale High School since the Committee's site visit. She said Channel 10 TV taped part of a School Advisory Forum (SAF) meeting and school tour which included the Hallandale High School Task Force, Hallandale Beach Education Advisory Council, Mayor Cooper, and Ron Bell the SAF Chair of Hallandale High School.

Ms. Owens said the site visit dates have been finalized, October 5th through May 16, 2012. She asked members to sign-up to attend site visits and assist with writing the reports.

Motion by Ms. Owens, seconded by Ms. Rogan "To adopt the site visitation schedule as approved by the Site Visit Subcommittee. Motion passed 13-0.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the September 1, 2011 Diversity Committee meeting. If any Committee member, or other interested party, would like more detailed information as to the contents of this summary, contact the Diversity, Cultural Outreach & Prevention Department at 754-321-2090.

Approved 10-6-11