

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING  
October 2, 2014**

**SUMMARY**

**Members Present**

Francesca Blanchard	Charlie King
Harve Brosten	Thomas Lauder
Jamie Cutler	Esther Mizell
Rebecca Dahl	Beverly Perkins
Susan Edwards	Frederick Perry
Gaspar Garcia	Ernestine Price
Reverend Luc Harrigan	Bryan Wilson

**Members Absent**

Andy Ansola  
Julian Gazzano  
Douglas Harrison  
Aaliyah McCrary  
Francisco Vargas  
Mary Williams

**Student Support Initiatives Staff:** Michaelle Pope; Terri Jones; Latricia Lauture

**Diversity, Prevention & Intervention Staff:** Amalio Nieves; Marion Williams

**Parliamentarian:** Patricia McDougle

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

**ADOPTON OF THE AGENDA**

The Agenda was adopted as presented.

**APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY MINUTES**

The September 4, 2014 minutes approved as distributed.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Ms. Dahl** said she has attended meetings regarding the capital budget known as the *District Educational Facilities Plan* (DEFP), as well as Bond Issue meetings. She said she would like to share a chart later in the meeting, which reflects what the Indicators would look like in relation to the Bond Issue. In addition, she would like to share possible goals of the subcommittees.

**VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Mr. Lauder** said he has attended several pro-Bond meetings and has reservations about the bond issue. He said the money is desperately needed but there are enormous political games going on behind the scenes. **Mr. Lauder** said he fears that the kids are not the focus of the bond initiative. He said it is important for members to find out more information and get questions answered.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Ms. Pope** welcomed back **Ms. Mizell**, after a brief absence and new student member Jamie Cutler. **Ms. Pope** said the Division of Student Support Initiatives has developed and implemented school-wide positive behavior plans and interventions for students. Along with the PROMISE Program, the District has rolled-out the Best Blueprint initiative which involves best practices at each school including Response to Intervention (RtI). **Ms. Pope** said the District received a grant of \$3.75 million dollars specifically targeting multi-tier systems of support for students, which includes developing infrastructure districtwide for positive behavior intervention support. **Ms. Pope** said at the last meeting there was an inquiry in regard to the two consecutive year limit of serving as chair or vice-chair being retroactive or moving forward.

She said she has submitted the question along with other questions to the Chief of Staff, **Mr. Moquin**. Other advisory committees have had questions regarding Policy 1.7 as well. Staff is compiling a question and answer document for clarification.

### **PARLIAMENTARIAN REVIEW**

**Ms. McDougle** reviewed “a second” for a motion. She said, a second to a main motion is a guide for the chair to put the motion on the floor for consideration. She said if there is no second, the motion dies for lack of second and is not recorded in the minutes. The name of the maker of the motion is entered into the minutes, but not the seconder.

### **ELECTION PROCESS REVIEW**

**Ms. Pope** reviewed the election process for chair and vice-chair of the Committee.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTIONS**

The Nominating Committee Chair **Ms. Price** said **Mr. Wilson**, **Mr. Garcia**, **Ms. Edwards** and **Mr. Brosten** served on the Nominating Committee and they recommend both **Ms. Dahl** and **Mr. Lauder** for chair. **Ms. Price** opened the floor for additional nominations for Chair. Hearing none she opened the floor for nominees to speak.

**Ms. Dahl** spoke on her behalf as a nominee for chair of the Diversity Committee. She said the work of the Committee is very important. She spends a lot of time at various meetings to gain information to share with the Committee members. She attends school site visits, subcommittee meetings and assists in writing the site visit reports. **Ms. Dahl** said it is important for the chair to be able to attend meetings as they relate to the Committee and bring the information to the members.

**Mr. Lauder** spoke on his behalf as a nominee for chair of the Committee. He said the Committee needs more action, less talk, less information. The Committee needs to focus on what the Judge created the Committee for; to be the voice for the children, the parents and the teachers who attend our schools. **Mr. Lauder** said the District needs bond money to do what the Committee has been reporting about for years. This Committee needs to be heard and needs to follow-up on things. He said if there isn't a change, things will continue until there is another lawsuit leading to a waste of tax-payer dollars and students will continue to suffer. We need to be a Committee where people can feel safe to come to us and let us know about issues that are going on in the schools. **Mr. Lauder** said, we must follow up on these issues and try to make a difference regardless of what the District or the Board thinks should be done. I think that is what this Committee was created for and not to be a rubber stamp on District initiatives and be a clearing house for upcoming events.

### **ELECTION PROCESS**

Voting for Chair, **Ms. Dahl** and **Mr. Lauder**, was conducted. **Ms. Perkins**, **Mr. Wilson**, **Mr. Edwards** volunteered to count the votes. **Ms. Pope** said two years prior there was discussion about student members voting in elections. The Diversity Committee By-laws state student membership does not affect quorum, but does not address student voting. Discussion followed.

**Motion by Mr. Wilson: “I move to allow the student member to vote.” Motion passed 12-2.**

**Ms. Pope** announced the outcome of the election as a **7 to 7 tie**. **Ms. Dahl** said she is not interested in voting over and over, as happened two years ago. **Ms. Dahl** withdrew her nomination as chair. **Ms. Pope** announced **Mr. Lauder** elected chair by acclamation. **Ms. Pope** said there was previous discussion regarding a District staff member serving as chair or vice-chair. Policy 1.7 is silent on the topic; but the current Diversity Committee By-laws states “the chair or vice-chair shall not be an employee of the School District of Broward County.” **Mr. Lauder** opened the floor for nominations for vice-chair. **Mr. Perry** nominated **Ms. Dahl**. **Ms. Dahl** declined the nomination. **Mr. Lauder** gave a brief summary

of the duties of the vice-chair. **Mr. Perry** submitted his name for vice-chair of the Committee. No other nominations were forthcoming. **Mr. Perry** spoke on his behalf as a nominee for vice-chair of the Committee. **Mr. Perry** said he recently retired from a big corporation and is now an entrepreneur. He was twice Chairman of Board of the Boys and Girls Clubs and he is currently winding up a 2-year term as Chairman of the Board of the Urban League of Broward County. **Mr. Lauder** asked for further nominations for vice-chair; hearing none he announced **Mr. Perry** vice-chair of the Diversity Committee, by acclamation.

### **DISCUSSION ON INDICATORS**

**Ms. Dahl** briefly reviewed a Diversity Committee Standards chart which delineates how the Bond issue will affect the standards set up by the CCC Settlement. She said she hopes the Diversity Committee and the Facilities Committee could have a joint meeting to discuss items such as what schools will get worked on first and is the District hiring more contractors.

Dialogue followed including some of the following questions: **Reverend Harrigan**, how long will it take to raise the \$800,000,000; **Mr. Brosten**, how is interest paid on the bond money; **Fred Perry**, how will the District fill the gap when bond dollars are spent on items that will need refurbishing, replacement and/or renewing possibly more than once during the 30-year payoff. Discussion followed. **Ms. Dahl** said it will take five years to raise the money and 30 years to pay it off. **Mr. Garcia** shared how bonds generally work. **Ms. Pope** said if the Committee would like to submit questions, she would try to get the answers and reply to the members via email.

**Reverend Harrigan** inquired about the schools and dates for the school site visits. **Marion Williams** said first site visit will be November 5<sup>th</sup>; the list will be distributed soon.

**Ms. Mizell** said she would like the Indicator subcommittee put back in place.

**Mr. Brosten** said he recently read the following quote “diversity without engagement is worthless.” He said the school site visits are a vital part of what the Committee does and if you made a commitment to serve on the Committee, you made a commitment to attend at least two to three site visits. **Mr. Brosten** requested that all members sign up and attend the upcoming site visits. **Ms. Edwards** said she is now a substitute teacher and would like to share what she sees in the schools. **Mr. Lauder** said the Committee wants to hear from members and the community regarding schools. He encouraged members to reach out to their board members to complete their slate of members on the Committee. **Ms. Mizell** requested the Chair to send Board members a letter reminding them of appointments and provide the Committee with the chart of members. **Ms. Dahl** said she addressed the Board at meetings, sent a letter to Board members and met with each one and spoke about membership on the Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.,  
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the October 2, 2014 Diversity Committee meeting. For more information a Public Records Request may be submitted by contacting Public Relations & Government Affairs Department, SBBC, at 754-321-2300.