

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 2, 2012

SUMMARY

Members Present:

Andy Ansola
Harve Brosten
Michael De Gruccio
Alfred Delgado
Roland Foulkes

Julian Gazzano
Shevrin Jones
Thomas Lauder
Esther Mizell
Laura Munoz

Daljit Pannu
Ernestine Price
Andrea Schenck-McKinnon
Suzanne Yach

Members Absent:

Barbara Beasley-Williamson
Bari Goldberg
Marguerite Luster

Tammy Reed
Franco Ripple

Nancy Rogan
Carlos Verney

District Staff: Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools; Joanne W. Harrison, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Programs & Student Support Services; Kathrine Francis, Executive Director, Student Support Services & ESE

Parliamentarian: Patricia McDougle

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

Guests: Latrinsha Greaves

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Foulkes called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Committee adopted the Agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

January 5, 2012 Summary Minutes were approved as distributed.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Foulkes asked members to read the *2010-2011 CCC Settlement Agreement Status Report*; to look for gaps in the gaps-analysis; look closely at the digital-divide items; and provide recommendations for improvement for the next report. As a primary task of the Committee, the goal is to reduce and close achievement and opportunity gaps for students. **Mr. Foulkes** said the District Technology Advisory Committee has created a Digital Divide Subcommittee, which will look at, among other things, the numerous issues regarding access to the Internet for students. **Ms. Yach** asked the Chair to look into the already-funded Family Literacy Program. It could be a powerful tool; when you help parents learn about technology you help students as well.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Pope welcomed new member **Mr. Lauder**, Board member **Katherine M. Leach's** representative. The Department is currently promoting a "No Name Calling" initiative in the schools. She said the 2010-2011 CCC Settlement Agreement Status Report was presented to the School Board on January 10, 2012. The CCC 2nd Quarter Status Update will be brought forward to the Executive Leadership Team and the Committee in the near future. **Ms. Pope** said the Committee has worked hard over the last several years to change perceptions in the District, away from the Diversity Committee site visits being a "got you" experience. The Committee conveys to school staff that they are at looking how the school is doing in regards to the Nine Conditions and what schools' needs are. She said Committee members are guests during site visits and as such, members should honor the hard-working, committed staff that work with students and the community each day and keep the focus of the visit on the nine conditions. **Ms. Pope** thanked members for their participation and noted that there has been record Committee attendance at recent site visits. **Ms. Pope** said KCW Security has asked the Diversity Committee to strive to end the evening meetings on time and members exit the building by 9:00 p.m.

In referring to the program mentioned below, **Mr. Brosten** asked if the Committee could look at the viability of using the local arts community to serve students who are out of school due to suspension.

Arts Reach is a partnership between the Museum of Art & Design (MAD) and the Manhattan Alternate Learning Center (MALC), a division of New York City public schools for middle and high school students who are serving long & short-term suspensions. Arts Reach students work with MAD's teaching artists to gain exposure to art & design through hands-on projects and museum visits, <http://www.madmuseum.org/learn/arts-reach>.

Mr. Foulkes said this could possibly be a part of the Diversity Committee Annual Report.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Superintendent Runcie presided over the installation of the Diversity Committee Chair **Mr. Foulkes** and Vice-Chair **Mr. Brosten**. **Mr. Runcie** congratulated **Mr. Foulkes** and **Mr. Brosten** and said he looks forward to working them in their leadership of the Diversity Committee. He thanked them for their commitment in leadership by example to our students, diversity and making this county a place where everyone is embraced and included.

Mr. Runcie addressed the Committee, answered questions and responded to concerns expressed by individual members of the Committee. **Mr. Runcie** said the District must stay focused on the core of teaching, learning and the best interest of all students. We also need to assist students and families in realizing their hopes and dreams. We can become a great District and a model for the entire country serving a diverse population by giving everyone equal access for success. **Mr. Runcie** said a Strategic Plan for the District, geared toward a budget focused around improving instruction, optimizing operations, and enhancing communications is in the development stages. **Mr. Runcie** indicated that he would review and/or follow-up on the following issues:

- Review the mission of Nova schools; the ultimate goal is for students to get an excellent education in all of our schools.
- History of the CCC Settlement Agreement presented at a future Board Workshop. It was suggested that Board members also be invited to the February Diversity Committee general meeting where the CCC attorneys will present.

- 2011 designed by the United Nations as the International Year for People of African Decent. The Chair asked that the Diversity Committee's resolution on this subject "be passed" in the month of February.

Motion by Mr. Gazzano, seconded by Mr. Pannu: motion "that the Board of Education consider not to split the current Diversity Committee up instead rename the Committee as the Diversity, Educational Equity & Inclusion Committee, while keeping this intact creating a new independent and distinct quote "Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Questioning (GLBT) Committee" with its own specific, unique policy, number, mission, membership goals and deliverables." Motion Tabled.

Discussion on the motion followed. **Mr. Foulkes** said the motion as well as the remaining items on the agenda would be placed on the agenda for March 1, 2012.

Mr. Foulkes asked members to read the poems and letters on non-violence provided by **Mr. Pannu** and email three or four recommendations to staff. The Committee will then recognize the students with the top entries.

Meeting adjourned 9:05 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the February 2, 2012 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.