

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

**DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING
Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building
March 4, 2010**

SUMMARY

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by **Roland Foulkes**, Chair, with a quorum.

Members Present:

Barbara Beasley-Williamson	Rosita Kenigsberg	Graham Rabinowitsch
Mariah Brown	Marguerite K. Luster	Student Representative
Student Representative	Catherine Owens	Michael E. Rajner
Roland A. Foulkes	Ernestine Price	Suzanne Yach
Julian Gazzano	Coral D. Pusey	Alyce V. Zahniser
Jeanne Jusevic		

Members Absent:

Andy Ansola	Patrick Jabouin	Raphael Lopez
Randy Fleischer	Shevrin Jones	Nancy Rogan

Diversity & Cultural Outreach Staff:

Maryse Nelson; Nancy Weintraub; Marion M. Williams

District Staff:

Dr. Joanne W. Harrison, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Programs & Student Support; Angela Coluzzi, Director, Network Integration; Dr. Jeanine Gendron, Director, Instructional Technology; Jack Ciminera, Database Researcher III, Research Services

Guests: Allen B. Jackson, Senior Pastor, Living Word Community Church; Garrett Mayersohn, Freshman, Margory Stoneman Douglas High School; Jessica Mayersohn; Robert Mayersohn, Chair, ESE Advisory Council

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Committee adopted the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee approved the minutes of February 4, 2010, as amended.

- Page 7, 4th paragraph, beneath 15 minute meeting extension, amend last sentence to read: "She recently read in a world class research article that the availability of overall resources is the number one determining factor of any student's success."

The **Chair** welcomed **Rosita Kenigsberg**, the newest member of the Diversity Committee, appointed by School Board Chair Jennifer Gottlieb.

CHAIR'S REPORT, Roland Foulkes

Mr. Foulkes apologized to those members who showed up for the 4:30 p.m. Subcommittee meeting, which was cancelled. He noted that staff was unaware of the cancellation.

Mr. Foulkes welcomed the **Mayersohn** family to the meeting and congratulated **Garrett Mayersohn**, a fifteen-year old student living with *Spastic Cerebral Palsy*, for his hard work and dedication in advocating rights of students with disabilities. **Mr. Foulkes** presented him with a Certificate of Recognition, in honor of former member **Ms. Lina Gioello**, and on behalf of the Diversity Committee. **Ms. Gioello**, a promoter of disability awareness, was instrumental in helping the Broward County School Board address the needs of students with disabilities. **Garrett** thanked the Committee for inviting him to the meeting and expressed gratitude for the recognition. His activism was inspired by what he experienced during a Florida Youth Council (FYC) presentation at a Family Café convention. The FYC, part of the National Consortium on Leadership and Disability for Youth (NCLD/Y), is made up of a diverse group of young leaders with disabilities. The FYC established the Disability History and Awareness Week, in October, for students to learn about the history of the disability rights movement and gain an understanding of disability as a natural part of life. We should look at people with disabilities as people first. **Garrett**, already a recipient of numerous awards, was named the 2009 Student of the Year Disability Awareness Award winner from the Broward County Advisory Board for Individuals with Disabilities. The School Board is considering the possibility of including Disability History and Awareness in Policy 6000.1. **Garrett** encouraged the Committee to give its support and help move the item forward. **Mr. Foulkes** said this is why the Diversity Committee exists.

Mr. Foulkes distributed an information packet containing the following:

- Excerpt from the Broward County School Board January 12, 2010 Meeting
- February 19, 2010: First Annual Town Hall Meeting
- February 26, 2010: A Black African American History Month Luncheon
- February 26, 2010: Desmond Tutu – “Good vs. Evil: Human Rights or Humans Wronged”
- United States Census 2010 Flyer
- The Peace Corps: A History
- Thank you letter **Mr. Foulkes** received, from a Northeast High School Teacher, for serving as the Chair of its “Black History Luncheon” on February 26, 2010.

MOTION by Mr. Rajner, 2nd by Ms. Williamson: “ The Diversity Committee recommends to the Superintendent and Student Government to identify and recruit at least 1 high school student living with a physical disability to serve as 1 of 3 student representatives to the District’s Diversity Committee.”

Passed 11-3

Garrett thanked the Committee for passing the motion. **Ms. Price** thanked him for taking the initiative to take action. She said the Committee becomes aware of situations when students speak out. **Ms. Price** especially thanked his parents, **Jessica** and **Robert Mayersohn** for the continued support they have given their son. **Mr. Foulkes** stated that the role of parents is critical for all students. He commented that if all students in the District received the same support, graduation rates would be considerably greater than fifty percent.

DISTRICT UPDATES

Mr. Ciminera asked that Diversity Committee members who wish to participate in the pilot test of the Site Visitation Instrument forward their availability dates as soon as possible.

Mr. Ciminera asked members to turn in their completed Diversity Committee Training document. In *Section I*, members were to select their availability date and time for training. *Section II* asked that members list the four top skills they would like to gain from training, in order of priority.

Mr. Ciminera informed the Committee that the Instrument pilot dates would overlap with the proposed Diversity Committee group process training dates. He asked that members take this into consideration, in order to avoid attendance conflict.

TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION, by Angela Coluzzi, Director, Network Integration and Dr. Jeanne Gendron, Director, Instructional Technology

The presenters gave a Technology update using a PowerPoint presentation, which is available online (<http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/diversity/presentations/TechPPTPresDec809.pps>). At the close of the presentation, **Ms. Coluzzi** thanked the Diversity Committee for inviting the Education Technology Services (ETS) Department to the meeting.

Ms. Yach complimented the Education Technology Department on their work. She continuously hears positive feedback from teachers about ETS. Teachers have a help desk they can call, receive individualized training, and program instruction.

Mr. Foulkes thanked **Ms. Coluzzi** and **Dr. Gendron** for the presentation. He said the digital divide is major. He informed the Committee that the monies libraries are using to provide free computer classes and services are allocated from grant funding. This has alleviated some of the pressure off of the school system. **Mr. Foulkes** stated that everything should be done to close the technology gap at every level. He suggested ETS provide web access through corporate sponsors, in addition to providing digital divide programs.

AT THIS POINT, THE **CHAIR** OPENED THE FLOOR FOR QUESTIONS.

Ms. Williamson said, although the presentation looked and sounded good, technology has been absent from many schools she has visited with the Site Visitation Subcommittee. **Ms. Williamson** wanted to know who is held accountable if technology cannot be found in all schools. She also asked how the Education Technology Services Department is notified of technology needs.

Ms. Jusevic said, “There is a disconnect between what the students actually want and what the District is pushing for.” She said the majority of high school and college surveys show that students prefer to use technology in addition to the regular textbook. **Ms. Jusevic** is concerned that School Board Members are pushing for technology only. She pointed out that the District Strategic Technology Plan is not aligned with the Student Code of Conduct, which prohibits student use of wireless devices during school hours. **Ms. Jusevic** suggested that Technology Advisory Committee meet with the Student Code of Conduct Committee to collectively come up with a way to persuade the Broward Teacher’s Union that the use of technology, such as the iPod Touch and Smart Phone, is non-threatening.

Ms. Owens is concerned about inner-city youth who do not have access to home computers. She said these students no longer have the same access to libraries as they did in the past because of budget cutbacks. **Ms. Owens** said, although digital textbooks serve as a cost saving measure for the School Board, the ETS Department should still try to find ways to overcome these difficulties for the benefit of these students. **Ms. Price** agreed. The individuals are limited to the amount of time they can spend on a library computer. Most times students can only log on for half an hour. **Ms. Price** said, “This is extreme”, especially in the case of a parent that has more than one child needing computer access to complete an assignment.

Ms. Luster is happy that the ESE students were included in the new technology initiative. She hopes programs will also be geared towards the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) students. **Ms. Price** said ETS should consider computer access for these students as well, along with the technical issues that arise making it difficult for DHH to access programs.

(Motion to extend the meeting 15 minutes approved).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

At the request of the **Chair**, the Diversity Committee separated into groups for the subcommittee break-out session. This provided the opportunity for subcommittee chairs, co-chairs, point persons, and note takers to be identified. Additionally, subcommittee membership and meeting dates were confirmed.

ESTABLISHED SUBCOMMITTEES

SUBCOMMITTEE	MEMBERSHIP		
FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN, ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES, ASSIGNMENT & REASSIGNMENT	Mariah Brown (NT)		
	Raphael Lopez		
	Graham Rabinowitsch (C)		
MEDIA CENTERS, TEXTBOOKS, TECHNOLOGY	Randy Fleischer (C)	Marguerite Luster	Barbara Williamson
	Raphael Lopez (NT)	Ernestine Price	
ADVANCED PLACEMENT & HONORS, STANDARDS OF SERVICE, STUDENT DISCIPLINE & SUSPENSION	Jeanne Jusevic (C)	Coral D. Pusey	
	Catherine Owens	Graham Rabinowitsch (NT)	
	Ernestine Price	Nancy Rogan	
DIVERSITY ISSUES (DI), HIRING PRACTICES (HP), DISTRICT POLICIES (DP)	Julian Gazzano (PP-HP)	Michael Rajner (C)	
	Jeanne Jusevic (PP-DP)	Nancy Rogan	
	Graham Rabinowitsch (NT)	Suzanne Yach (PP-DI)	

SITE VISITATION	Randy A. Fleischer	Marguerite K. Luster	
	Patrick Jabouin	Catherine Owens (CC)	
	Shevrin Jones	Ernestine Price (CC)	
	Jeanne Jusevic	Barbara Williamson (NT)	
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE INTERNAL PROCEDURES, POLICIES, BY-LAWS	Roland A. Foulkes	Jeanne Jusevic	
	Shevrin Jones	Graham Rabinowitsch	

KEY: C = Chair, CC = Co-Chair, NT = Note Taker, and PP = Point-Person

Meeting adjourned 8:40 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the March 4, 2010 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 Department at 754-321-2090.