

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 5, 2012

SUMMARY

Members Present:

Andy Ansola	Julian Gazzano	Tammy Reed
Barbara Beasley-Williamson	Bari Goldberg	Franco Ripple
Harve Brosten	Esther Mizell	Nancy Rogan
Jason Burns	Laura Munoz	Andrea Schenck-McKinnon
Michael De Gruccio	Daljit Pannu	Carlos Verney
Roland Foulkes	Ernestine Price	

Members Absent:

Alfred Delgado	Marguerite Luster
Shevrin Jones	Suzanne Yach

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

Parliamentarian: Patricia McDougale

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Pope 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

December 1, 2011 Summary Minutes were approved as amended.

PARLIAMENTARIAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. McDougale spoke about rules, regulations and requirements of The Florida Sunshine Law, noting that there are legal and monetary penalties for breaking The Sunshine Law. She said anytime two or more persons on the same board or committee communicate about any matter that may come before the committee, it is a meeting under The Sunshine Law. This includes face-to-face, written correspondence, telephone, email, hand signals, or through an intermediary person. Members should refrain from chatting quietly during any presentation, which discusses Committee business. **Ms. McDougale** said members are considered public officers and are required to retain records regarding official business of the Committee for three fiscal years. This includes email sent from your personal computer, notes on scrape pieces of paper (even at home), documents, letters, books, tapes, photographs and sound recordings.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Ms. Pope reviewed the election process. **Mr. Gazzano**, Chair of the Nominating Committee, said members on the Nominating Committee were as follows: **Ms. Price, Ms. Luster, Ms. Mizell, Mr. De Gruccio, Mr. Burns, Ms. Yach and Major Pannu.** **Ms. Yach** was absent and **Ms. Luster** participated at the Nominating Committee meeting by phone. Tellers were chosen as follows: **Mr. Burns, Ms. Mizell, and Mr. Gazzano.** By unanimous vote the Nominating Committee nominated **Roland Foulkes** for chair, and **Harve Brosten** for vice-

chair. **Mr. Gazzano** opened the floor for nominations for chair, hearing none; a vote was taken to elect **Mr. Foulkes** for chair, **Yes-15, Abstentions-2**. **Ms. Pope** declared **Mr. Foulkes** Diversity Committee Chair. **Mr. Foulkes** thanked Committee members for their support and the Nominating Committee for their work.

Harve Brosten accepted the nomination for vice-chair. **Mr. Foulkes** opened the floor for nominations for vice-chair, hearing none; a vote was taken to elect, **Yes-17, No-0**. **Mr. Brosten** was elected Vice-Chair by unanimous vote. **Mr. Brosten** thanked the Committee for their trust; he looks forward to doing the job and being supportive of the Chair.

ORIENTATION

Marion Williams provided a brief overview of the orientation packet provided to the Diversity Committee members. **Ms. Williams** said the packet contains several documents that govern the function of the Diversity Committee including but not limited to: Policy 1.5-Diversity Committee, Policy 1.7-Appointment of a School Board Representative(s) to a Committee(s), and the Diversity Committee By-laws. It was noted that revisions to the By-laws were passed at the Subcommittee level and they are awaiting approval from the full Committee. In addition, the District is in the process of revising Policy 1.7, which may include a by-laws template for all District committees. **Ms. Williams** reviewed the Citizens Concerned About Our Children Settlement Agreement, subcommittee participation, and Committee membership and attendance. She encouraged all members to read the packet in its entirety, sign-up for subcommittees, and for those members who do not have a badge, to complete the appropriate forms for processing. Staff will contact members with badges without a date and those with dates that have expired. A new badge will need to be processed, staff will research if fingerprints need to be retaken. **Ms. Pope** added that the School Board members wanted the Committee to know that there may be some restructuring of the Diversity Committee moving forward. The Board will decide these changes after Policy 1.7 is reviewed.

SUBCOMMITTEE FORMATION

Mr. Foulkes discussed the genealogy leading up to and including the Diversity Committee starting in 1985 with the Bi-Racial Committee on to the Desegregation Task Force, to the establishment of Policy 1.5-Diversity Committee, the Citizens Concerned About Our Children Settlement Agreement in 2000 and currently the possible creation of an additional committee to handle human relation issues. **Mr. Foulkes** reviewed a document he provided to the Committee regarding the diversity of the Committee, diversity initiatives from the State, Local, and Federal level, diversity comparison of the county and School Board, and the 2010-2011 CCC Response Report timeline and process. There was much discussion regarding the number of people needed for quorum for subcommittee meetings. **Mr. Foulkes** said this is a procedural issue and that the Chair, Vice-Chair and staff will resolve it. **Mr. Foulkes** discussed the various subcommittees and opened the floor for volunteers to serve; members did so. If Members want to sign up for a subcommittee after the meeting, contact Department staff. A subcommittee membership chart along with meeting dates is forthcoming.

Motion by Mr. Ansola, seconded by Ms. Price to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

There was discussion as to whether staff has to attend subcommittee meetings. **Mr. Ansola** said staff is an asset and he recommends that they continue to attend subcommittee meetings.

Ms. Reed asked that a copy of the Code of Student Conduct be provided to the Student Discipline/Suspension subcommittee members. **Ms. Mizell** requested the Discipline Matrix as well. **Mr. Foulkes** said additional information could be found on the School Board's Web site. http://www.browardschools.com/press/release.asp?press_id=1319

http://www.browardschools.com/schools/discipline_matrix.htm

Mr. Foulkes said *Next Steps for 2012* for the Committee are outlined on page seven of his handout. He asked members to complete and submit (within two weeks) the form at the bottom of that page which requests appointee(s) goals, issues, and proposed agenda items. Items will be compiled for the next meeting.

Mr. Ansola said the Committee had unanimously approved to go forward with the documentation of the CCC history project. He recommends that a subcommittee be formed to handle the project. **Mr. Ansola** would like to bring forward the following to be addressed/acknowledged by the Committee: There will be a walk in May honoring John Hardwick; he was a leader for Diversity and an outstanding community activist. He said there are concerns at Piper High School regarding the security guard and his lack of resources and there is an issue regarding the coach who does not have access to the Gym facilities.

Mr. Gazzano offered an item agenda consideration. He said the Committee is supposed to be dealing with issues of diversity and educational equity for all students. The Committee should also be an advisory group to the Board. **Mr. Gazzano** said the Committee is not doing a service to the Board if they do not tell the School Board how members feel about dividing the Committee into two different groups.

Ms. Munoz said the Broward County Association of Student Councils (BTUC) is working on a HIV awareness and prevention campaign. She will update the Committee as the campaign progresses. For more information: www.change.org/petitions/hivaids-getting-to-zero.

Ms. Beasley-Williamson asked how members should deal with observing casual communication among members in regards to breaking the Sunshine Law?

Ms. McDougle said the Chair should monitor side discussions during meetings. Members may also call the Chair's attention to such matters.

Ms. Pope asked members to volunteer for the upcoming site visit on Wednesday, January 11, 2012. The following members said they would attend: **Mr. Ansola, Mr. Brosten, Mr. Foulkes, Mr. Pannu, Ms. Price, Ms. Schenck-McKinnon, Ms. Williamson** and **Mr. Burns** who volunteered to be the scribe for the visit.

Mr. Burns asked if the HIV/AIDS Safety and Awareness presentation that **Ms. Francis** said she would bring forward is going to be presented next month. **Ms. Pope** said that it would be determined at the Chair/Vice-Chair meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:58 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the January 5, 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.