

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 7, 2013**

SUMMARY

Members Present:

Andy Ansola	Annette Gardiner	Kevin Love
Brendan Barry	Julian Gazzano	Esther Mizell
Harve Brosten	Rev. Luc Harrigan	Ernestine Price
Rebecca Dahl	Douglas Harrison	*Jowharah Sanders
Michael DeGruccio	Jeanne Jusevic	Francisco Vargas
Susan Edwards	*Thomas Lauder	Carlos Verney

Members Absent:

Jessica Abby Herthel	*Valerie Hunter	Bryan Wilson
Felipe Pinzon	Nancy Rogan	

School Board Member: Abby M. Freedman

Parliamentarian: Patricia McDougale

Student Support Initiatives Staff: Michaelle Pope, Task-Assigned Executive Director; Terri Jones; Latricia Lauture

Diversity, Cultural Outreach & Prevention Staff: Amalio Nieves; Carolyn Salters; Marion Williams

Guests: Danita Cullen; Catherine Eddins; Diane Kushner

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Jusevic called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. She welcomed all members and guests and acknowledged new member **Francisco Varas**.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Committee adopted the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY MINUTES

January 10, 2013 Summary Minutes were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Jusevic said on Tuesday, February 5, 2013, the School Board adopted a Resolution Determining the Boundaries of the seven-member School Board residence areas. This Resolution affects membership on the Diversity Committee, as Policy 1.7 states, "that an appointee must live in the District of their appointing School Board member." At this time, affected members are welcomed to participate in discussion but will not count for quorum and cannot vote. **Ms. Jusevic** said until affected members are reappointed or there is a policy change, which grandfather's in the members, they are no longer on the Committee.

* See Chair's Report regarding status of membership.

Ms. Pope said at Tuesday's Board meeting, Board members said they would work with the Chief of Staff, who oversees Policy 1.7, to follow-up as to the direction facilitating departments should take regarding District committee appointees. Appointing Board members are aware of the situation and we will await further direction for appointees, from the appointing Board members' office. **Ms. Pope** said she spoke to General Counsel and the Chief of Staff prior to tonight's meeting and in the interest of moving the agenda forward, members who are officially no longer members, would continue to sit and participate on the Committee, but could not be used for quorum or vote on any items. She said part of the discussion on Tuesday was: it is the Board's will that current members continue to serve; it is a matter of bringing Policy 1.7 forward with amendments.

Ms. Jusevic said she would like the Committee to consider a 9:00 p.m. stop-time for the general meetings; this topic will be discussed at the March meeting. The School Board is going to discuss Policy 6000.1 and eliminating the "zero" at their next workshop. She said the Discipline Matrix is under review by several committees and the Code of Conduct Committee is reviewing some proactive steps regarding external suspensions. **Ms. Jusevic** gave an update on the Military Academy and the rollout of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Questioning (LGBTQ) Critical Guide for Administrators developed by the Diversity, Cultural Outreach & Prevention Department. **Ms. Jusevic** said she hopes to have ongoing information and updates posted on the Diversity Committee section of the <http://www.browardprevention.org> Web site in the near future.

Mr. Lauder said the Diversity Committee had a great site visit at Sunrise Middle School recently. He encouraged members to attend site visits, read the reports and to volunteer to assist in writing the site visit reports. **Mr. Lauder** said there are a lot of good things going on at the schools and the Committee can make a difference where the schools need assistance.

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Ms. McDougle discussed the topic of seconding of a motion. She said seconding a motion means that more than one person agrees that the item should be discussed; that the name of the person who seconds the motion does not need to be recorded; if a motion is made and discussed but not seconded, it is still valid; point of order does not require a second and after a motion is made the chair can ask for a second or declare that the motion dies.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Pope welcomed new member **Francisco Vargas**. She said Condition 7, which addresses Discipline, aligns with the scope of the Schoolhouse to Jailhouse (SHJH) Committee. **Ms. Pope** reviewed various aspects of the SHJH Committee including the broad composition of the members; addressing minor incidents with intervention; school resource officers; school compliance; code of conduct revision; family involvement; wrap-around services; diversion programs and civil citation-systems of care. She said the goal of the Committee, and the District, is to reduce suspensions, expulsions and school-related arrests of youth, as well as to address the disproportional representation of minorities in these areas of discipline. **Ms. Pope** said, as a School District we are here to develop students and as research suggests, punitive measures alone do not change the development of a student in regards to discipline. This new system will come from the School Board, the Superintendent and Executive Leaders and will be the foundation, which we will teach from. We will look at each student with a sense of care and development as we guide them to adulthood. **Mr. Ansola** asked that the following concern be relayed to the SHJH Committee, "with the current managed-care system, one social service agency is providing services to students, keeping out other agencies that are willing to assist with services that relate to all the interventions previously mentioned."

Mr. Nieves said the District is in the process of distributing a LGBTQ Critical Support Guide for Administrators and a video that is aligned with the Guide. He said the video brings-to-light the voices and stories of our parents, teachers and students who identify as LGBTQ. Staff has received positive feedback regarding the video from those who were in attendance at the South Area Advisory meeting. **Ms. Pope** said she believes the District is a leader, across the Nation, regarding LGBTQ issues.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Dahl said the Site Visit Subcommittee is working hard to get up-to-date with the writing of the site visit reports. The Subcommittee plans to meet each Monday in March at 1:00 p.m. **Ms. Dahl** encouraged members to attend the site visits and especially to assist in writing the site visit reports.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE ORIENTATION

Ms. Williams gave an overview of the Diversity Committee Orientation packet, noting documents that govern the function of the Diversity Committee including but not limited to: Policy 1.5; Policy 1.7; the Citizens Concerned About Our Children (CCC) Settlement Agreement; the Nine Conditions and the Indicators. She spoke briefly about membership; attendance; representing a Board member; site visit protocol and the By-laws. **Ms. Pope** said the current Diversity Committee By-laws were Board approved on June 6, 2006. Revisions to the By-laws were made at the Subcommittee level but the full Committee did not approve them. **Ms. Pope** said the CCC Settlement Agreement lists the Nine Conditions agreed to by The School Board of Broward County and CCC. The Diversity Committee developed the Indicators, over time, to measure compliance with the Nine Conditions. The Nine Conditions is a standing document; the Indicators are a fluid document. **Ms. Williams** and **Ms. Pope** spoke about various aspects of and the importance of following the State of Florida Government Sunshine Law and the Public Records Law. Members are not to discuss Diversity Committee business outside of an advertised meeting whether in person, via email, social media or other means. All members are encouraged to meet with and/or speak with their appointing Board members. **Ms. Williams** asked all members to read the Orientation packet in its entirety. Security clearance forms are in the back of the Packet; Diversity Committee badges will be needed to attend the site visits.

Ms. Dahl suggested each member receive a copy of the form that the Site Visit Subcommittee uses which breaks down the Nine Conditions in detail. It is very useful in expanding knowledge of what is looked at during the site visits. **Ms. Edwards** suggested that each new member receive a copy of a site visit report.

SUBCOMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

Ms. Jusevic suggested combining some of the Condition items that naturally go together. After Committee discussion and suggestions, **Ms. Jusevic** said she will develop and send out a list of four or five subcommittees such as: textbooks, technology and media; student discipline and suspension; by-laws and an ad hoc indicator subcommittee.

Motion by Mr. Ansola: “That the meeting is extended by 15 minutes.” Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Ansola: “That the Committee review the subcommittees and send recommendations to staff to have items placed on the next agenda for discussion.” Motion passed.

Ms. Jusevic said **Ms. McDougle** has offered to prepare a draft of revised Diversity Committee By-laws. **Ms. McDougle** would review the work of the former By-laws Subcommittee, members would forward input to staff and a draft would be brought forward to the full Committee. **Ms. Pope** said staff would provide members with a copy of the By-laws as revised by the previous By-laws Subcommittee.

Motion by Mr. Ansola: “That the Parliamentarian review the By-laws and members make recommendations to the staff.” Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Subcommittee Formation: Documentary on the History of CCC

Ms. Jusevic said the Diversity Committee previously passed a motion to produce a documentary on the history of the CCC. She said she would add a subcommittee in this regard to the subcommittee list.

Ms. Jusevic said Muslim community members met with the head of the Calendar Committee. The calendar process was shared as to how to have input regarding days off on the school calendar.

Student Success Opportunity Schools (SSOS)

Ms. Jusevic said information was shared at the last general meeting regarding Student Success Opportunity Schools. For more information and future SSOS meetings visit the following Web site:

<http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/dsa/boundaryprocess/1314boundaryprocess/1314SSOS.shtml>

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ms. Mizell requested that a Nova Subcommittee be formed. **Ms. Jusevic** said she would take that under advisement.

Mr. Love expressed concerned that per District policy Reading is not a required core course for eighth grade at level one and two. This relates to Condition Three of the CCC Settlement Agreement.

Information Request by Mr. Love and Mr. Barry: “Request all information pertaining to the Board Policy to make Reading an elective for 8th [grade], at the level 1 and 2.”

Mr. Brosten thanked District staff, especially **Ms. Pope, Amalio Nieves** and **Dr. Teri Williams** for their assistance in moving forward the idea of developing a program which links-up courses in neighboring museums with disciplinary students to find creative outlets. Staff at Whiddon-Rogers is very enthusiastic in making this a pilot project at their school. **Mr. Brosten** said this project unifies with **Ms. Bartleman’s** Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Committee, as it will assist some of the students, who have had disciplinary problems, in finding a creative outlet.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

<p>These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the February 7, 2013 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 Student Support Initiatives Department at 754-321-2090.</p>

Approved 030713