

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

June 2, 2016

Minutes

Members Present

Rebecca Dahl	Beverly Perkins
Gaspar Garcia	Ernestine Price
Reverend Luc Harrigan	Guihele Ruiz-Nicolas
Esther Mizell	Bryan Wilson

Members Absent

Harve Brosten	Lillie Harris
Susan Edwards	Naima Khan-Ghany
Andrea Gundersen	Major Diljit Pannu
Charlie King	Michael Sirbola

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

Diversity, Prevention & Intervention Staff: Thomas Albano; Carolyn Salters, Marion Williams

CALL TO ORDER

An informal meeting began at 6:50 p.m. A quorum was not present.

ADOPTON OF THE AGENDA

No action taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No action taken.

CHAIR REPORT

Mr. Wilson thanked the Committee for their congratulations on his recent graduation. He said, “due to time, availability and an increase in traveling, he will not run for chair of the Committee but will run for the vice-chair position.”

VICE-CHAIR REPORT

Ms. Dahl shared with members that she is reaching out to School Board members regarding schools that do not have air-conditioning in the cafeteria. She asked that the Committee keep this in mind as the list of schools to visit or re-visit is formulated. **Ms. Dahl** relayed that bids for SMART Program projects are out; it is important for the Committee to keep up-to-date on the progress.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Pope relinquished her time to the new Director of Diversity, Prevention & Intervention, **Tom Albano**. **Mr. Albano** shared recent observations in the District as it relates to Diversity, the division of east and west sides of Broward and the division within the City of Miramar, in which he lives. **Mr. Albano** had visited the school where the PROMISE Program and two other programs are housed, noting it is well-run but that 95 to 98% of the students were African American males. He also shared that he had the opportunity to be a judge at an ESOL competition. Three of the students in his group were Muslim. One of the students relayed her experiences of war, family being killed, being a refugee and relocating to the United States. The student said, “Something must be done. Muslims; herself, other students and teachers are being bullied on a daily basis.” Other Muslim students relayed similar issues with bullying at their school. **Mr. Albano**, said, “The District, staff and the community have a lot of work to do.”

PARLIAMENTARIAN REVIEW

Ms. McDougle waived her report.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Wilson shared information regarding the incredible Montessori opportunity offered at Martin Luther King Elementary School and the lack of diversity at the school. He asked members to share the availability of this world-class educational opportunity with the community they interact with. **Ms. Pope** spoke of research, handed down from the Department of Education, regarding the benefits of diversity within schools and guidance on methods to increase diversity. **Mr. Wilson** requested that staff provide the research and guidance to the Committee.

The Committee discussed the available meeting dates and times for the Site Visit Subcommittee, noting that the focus will be on selecting schools to visit during the upcoming school year. Consensus was to meet Monday, June 13th, at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Garcia shared that the intent of the motion that was passed at the May 5, 2016 meeting. It is to encourage the Committee to identify the schools that have dire need of attention, whether physical plant, diversity, no A/C in the cafeteria, academics or other issues. **Ms. Dahl** added that the Committee may want to re-visit Collins Elementary School. The school has no extras, is in great need of physical plant repairs, close to 100% African American students and amazing third grade test scores. Wonderful educational learning is going on at the school. The Committee may want to look at best-practices at schools such as Collins, to share with schools that are struggling.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The Committee discussed school selection and having reports available. **Ms. Dahl** shared that she and **Ms. Williams** are working on a better layout for the reports, for the last two years, which incorporate trends that are being observed. **Mr. Wilson** said, "Reports from the previous seven years will be available at the June 13th meeting. He encouraged all members to attend this important meeting and allow a couple of hours in your schedule." Committee discussion followed regarding tracking previous site visits, getting follow-up information on findings. It was noted that there is not a process in place.

Ms. Price shared that she has experienced and felt most of the things that people from other nationalities are experiencing. She would like the Committee to encourage Board members to appoint members from other countries. Things are happening at Markham Elementary and many other schools like it. We and our students need to know how to live together, to love and protect each other. The Committee needs to be involved and do it right.

Ms. Ruiz-Nicolas inquired about an annual report and the need for data on the accomplishments of the Committee with which to measure future success. She indicated a quarterly report may be helpful. **Ms. Dahl** shared information regarding the Committee creating an annual report, indicating that progress is currently underway. **Mr. Wilson** conveyed that the stagnation of producing an annual report is the reason he ran for chair of the Committee. There is not a mechanism in place, in the District, to put the data in place. It is very important that the Committee works towards crafting an annual report. **Mr. Wilson** relayed that the Committee has grown and has dynamic members. With recommendations and suggested tasks comes the need for action and bringing forth solutions on the part of Committee members with what is feasible and how to accomplish the tasks-at-hand. At the June 13th meeting, there will be discussion

regarding a framework to put a process in place for the District to provide follow-up for the site visit findings.

Ms. Mizell, shared an experience of what she learned of behavioral abuse by a teacher. **Ms. Pope** said, “**Dr. Wanza** has been informed of the situation mentioned. All adults have a responsibility to report abuse to the 1-800 hotline. Staff are legally required to report child abuse if shared by a student or see it themselves.”

Ms. Pope shared that this is the last meeting for this school year, per Policy 1.7. Board members will appoint and/or re-appointment members in July, members should receive a letter from their Board members regarding reappointment. Discussion followed regarding a nominating committee which will be formed at the August 4th meeting. **Ms. Price** suggested having an orientation for the members. **Mr. Wilson** suggested members reach out to Board members if they know of a good candidate to serve on the Committee. **Ms. Pope** shared that the Committee members have been exceptional this year and congratulated the Chair and Vice-Chair for leading the work of the Committee. Part of the work is speaking with and meeting with your appointing School Board members. **Ms. Dahl** said, “Board member Freedman said she is open to recommendations of appointees who live in her area.” **Ms. Mizell** requested that an updated chart of members be given to the Committee members to indicate where the vacancies are.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the June 2, 2016, 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.