

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING
April 7, 2016
Minutes

Members Present

Harve Brosten	Esther Mizell
Andrea Gundersen	Major Diljit Pannu
Rebecca Dahl	Beverly Perkins
Gaspar Garcia	Ernestine Price
Reverend Luc Harrigan	Bryan Wilson
Naima Khan-Ghany	Michael Sirbola

Members Absent

Susan Edwards
Lillie Harris
Charlie King
Guithele Ruiz-Nicolas

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

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

District Staff: Leo Bobadilla, Chief Facilities Officer; Sam Bays, Director, Physical Plant Operations

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. A quorum was present.

ADOPTON OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as amended.

FACILITIES UPDATE: Collins Elementary

Mr. Bobadilla shared that his Department is currently engaged with design procurements for group one and two schools and they will be presenting to the Board regarding Facilities and SMART updates on April 12, 2016. He noted that costs in the current market place are higher than the dollars allotted in the SMART bond numbers. Staff will work very closely with schools to ensure the education process is minimally affected during planned construction. He asked for an opportunity to come back, along with program managers, at a later date to provide a more thorough presentation and update. **Mr. Bays** noted that the loggias at Collins Elementary are not a part of the SMART initiative, which is not uncommon. He said, "The loggias were inspected last month, they are in a safe condition. The wooden loggias will eventually need to be replaced with aluminum, which is very costly. He agreed that it is an unsatisfactory condition and the condition exists in other old schools in the east." He said, "I will schedule a revisit, replace any wood that cannot be repaired and absolutely make sure Collins Elementary is safe." He shared that aluminum, like wood, deteriorates and can become unsafe. Aluminum structures are much more difficult to repair than wooden ones. He noted, the District would not replace a wooden loggia with a wooden one; it would only be repaired or completely replaced with aluminum, which is very expensive.

Ms. Dahl shared her opinion that the loggias at Collins have pieces of wood coming off, they have holes and the custodian has been putting in work orders to repair them for ten years. Collins is a very old school; it is not getting the attention or the aluminum loggias that schools out west are getting.

There was a question and answer session with **Mr. Bobadilla** and **Mr. Bays**. Discussion on, but not limited to, the following: when repairs and replacements are in process what types of additional work are found; the system and flexibility for prioritizing projects; access to projects planned for each school; the suggestion of **Mr. Bobadilla** and **Mr. Bays** conducting site visits and looking at old work orders; and how emergencies are prioritized.

Ms. Price said, “Collins hasn’t had any work since it was built; don’t let me think because this is a Black school that rotting wooden shutters are alright. The Collins family gave the School Board that land; we should be honorable enough to do what is right for that school.”

Mr. Bobadilla assured that if there is an emergency situation, at any school, it will be brought forward and resolved. He is going to work with **Mr. Bays** to connect with the SMART Program project managers to discuss taking items out of order if there is an urgent situation. **Mr. Bobadilla** shared that his Department is developing one-page documents for each school with the scope of what is to be done along with a narrative and stage of progress for the items. In addition, the Needs Assessment will be re-posted on the updated Website. The District is working on procuring a replacement for the currently used, antiquated COMPASS, DOS-based work order system.

Mr. Brosten asked about what constitutes an emergency, before it leads to a tragedy. **Mr. Bays** shared that our schools are not necessarily hurricane proof and students and staff are not in the schools during a hurricane. Tornado drills are conducted for students and staff to take immediate action. **Mr. Sirbola** questioned about: a critical systems list, depreciated items that have not been funded and management systems. **Reverend Harrigan** said, “Chair, the meeting is out of control. It is a privilege to have staff members here. It is inappropriate to ask them to resign. They are not here for members to chew-them-out; it is not fair.” **Ms. Pope** suggested that the Committee submit questions on the topic during Good of the Order or contact staff. She will obtain answers to posed questions for the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March 3, 2016 Minutes were approved as distributed.

CHAIR’S REPORT

Mr. Wilson impressed upon the Committee to: have respect for the group; limit the time members speak to two minutes each; remain impassioned but concise and respect agenda timeframes. He suggested members write down questions and concerns, they will submitted to staff to get a response.

VICE-CHAIR’S REPORT

Ms. Dahl discussed site visits and the importance of members signing up to attend. Three more visits are scheduled: May 4th, 11th and 18th. **Ms. Gundersen** shared her perspective of the site visit at Lanier James, indicating that she was overall impressed about the facility and the structured behavior change program. She thinks the mentoring system should be mandatory; that students should meet with mentors regularly. All her questions were answered and the school has a nice weight room with no staff to monitor it, which is unfortunate. **Ms. Dahl** urged members to attend the next site visits; they are very important.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. Pope shared that there was a previous request for the Chief of Academics, **Mr. Gohl**, to attend a general meeting. **Mr. Gohl** had a prior meeting scheduled but he will attend the Chair, Vice-Chair meeting on Monday, April 11th. All members are invited to attend. **Ms. Pope** introduced a new staff member, **Nadia Clarke**, Assistant Director, of Parent & Community Engagement. **Ms. Pope** congratulated **Ms. Mizell**, her son will become **Dr. Mizell**; he is a candidate for his Doctorate of Pharmacy. It was also noted that John U. Lloyd State Park will be renamed the Von D. Mizell and Eula Johnson State Park. Dr. Mizell was **Ms. Mizell’s** father.

PARLIAMENTARIAN REVIEW

Ms. McDougle discussed the differences of the following motions: to “lay on the table” vs motion to “postpone the motion” to the next meeting. Both require a second. Lay on the table is not debatable but postpone a motion is. After a motion has been laid on the table, the Committee needs to adopt a motion to take the motion from the table.

INDICATOR REVIEW

Mr. Wilson discussed the various questions that surfaced when school grading methods were shared at the last general meeting— and how important the work on the Indicators is, the Committee is not getting a good snapshot of where the District is and how well students are doing. **Mr. Sirbola** asked, what/who is the Citizens Concerned about our Children (CCC) Steering Committee? **Ms. Pope** shared the history of the CCC Steering Committee which was created at the request of the Committee when developing the Indicators. It was made-up of staff member representatives from departments who hold a function of the Conditions. **Major Pannu** suggested that the Committee needs baseline data for the Indicator to be measured. **Ms. Pope** suggested baseline data could be provided. The Committee reviewed and gave input on possible revisions to Condition Three-Standards of Service, such as: suggested adding science and language arts or writing and revision from FCAT to FSA language. **Mr. Sirbola** shared that there are three huge government entities that have resources to guide the Committee in creating indicators: SAMSA, Trauma and Learning.org and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). **Mr. Wilson** requested that members conduct research and bring possible indicators and/or revisions forward. **Mr. Garcia** suggested that some schools didn't need to be visited in past site visits. He suggested the Committee create a list of schools that may be in emergency status and conduct blitz site visits at those schools.

Motion by Mr. Garcia, second by Ms. Mizell: "I move to have the Diversity Committee prioritize schools and to concentrate its focus for immediate, maximum improvement and remediation of structural and physical property of the schools." The motion was postponed to the first agenda item after the Parliamentarian Report on the next general meeting agenda.

Motion to extend the meeting for ten minutes was approved by unanimous consent.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

No reports given.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Reverend Harrigan shared that Committee members should not be antagonistic toward staff members, it is counter-productive. Staff members should be welcomed or they will not continue to join the meetings. We need to express our needs and what we want to achieve, with respect. **Ms. Mizell** said, "Staff are supposed to come to the Committee and members can also speak at Board meetings. **Ms. Perkins** said, "Most of us know there is a divide between the east and the west; there is a great level of frustration." **Ms. Dahl** said, "The Committee needs to be a little more knowledgeable about the SMART Program and how the District Educational Facilities Plan (DEFP) works." She highly recommended that members attend the Board Workshop on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 and bring questions.

Ms. Khan-Ghany said, "I am personally targeted by students, as are Muslim students, with very degrading, derogatory and hurtful remarks." "I assume one of the Diversity Committee tasks is to address diversity issues in schools. Is the District providing sensitivity training for the students and staff?" **Mr. Wilson** suggested a presenter for the topic at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the April 7, 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.