

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

March 3, 2016

Minutes

Members Present

Andrea Gundersen	Esther Mizell
Harve Brosten	Major Diljit Pannu
Rebecca Dahl	Ernestine Price
Susan Edwards	Beverly Perkins
Lillie Harris	Guithele Ruiz-Nicolas
Charlie King	Bryan Wilson

Members Absent

Gaspar Garcia
Reverend Luc Harrigan
Naima Khan-Ghany
Michael Sirbola

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

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

District Staff: Dr. Richard Baum, Director, Student Assessment & Research

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. A quorum was present.

ADOPTON OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February 4, 2016 Minutes were approved as distributed.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Wilson congratulated **Ms. Mizell** for winning the Centennial Years of Service Award. He encouraged members to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming Primary Election. **Mr. Wilson** and **Ms. Pope** shared information regarding Brevard County Schools: After protests from the community, Brevard's School Board recently decided to suspend discussion on changes to their anti-discrimination policy in relation to inclusion of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) language, as brought forth by their Superintendent. The Brevard Board has reconsidered and will be bringing new policy language forward. **Mr. Wilson** said "He is very pleased and proud that the Broward County School Board is very supportive of diversity and of the LGBTQ population in particular."

VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Dahl encouraged members to attend the upcoming *411 Parent Engagement Conference* to be held at Piper High School. She said, "A lot of good topics and speakers are planned for the event including **Ms. Mizell** who is going to speak on parent engagement at schools." **Ms. Dahl** thanked members who have attended site visits and requested that more members please make every effort to attend. At one site visit she was the only Diversity Committee member in attendance. She said, "We have almost got it down to a science." "At the last visit, an elementary school, scheduled for 8:00 a.m., the visit started at 8:15 a.m. and we were finished by 10:15 a.m." "It does take longer at a middle or high school due to the size of the school." The list of remaining dates will be sent to the members.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

On behalf of herself and staff **Ms. Pope** congratulated **Ms. Mizell** for her Centennial award. She said she had the privilege of presenting it to her. **Ms. Pope** invited and encouraged all members to attend the *2nd Annual 411 Parent Engagement Conference*. **Ms. Pope** spoke with General Counsel regarding the Committee revising the Indicators and the right to amend. The answer is “Yes”, the Indicators were created by the Committee, with assistance of staff. The expectation is that the Indicators are reviewed and revised, as needed, to reflect policy and statutory changes, law changes, etc. The Conditions cannot be changed because they are outlined in the CCC Settlement Agreement. **Ms. Pope** shared that updates to the Anti-bullying policy is in the looping process. The Code of Student Conduct will be updated to reflect Board and committee recommendations and with the Collaborative Agreement with regard to the PROMISE Program. The Committee discussed having input on the Anti-Bullying Policy as it is being revised. The Rule Making looping process that policies go through was Board approved last year. It was requested that dates when the Anti-bullying policy goes to the public meetings and the Board be sent to the Committee. **Mr. Wilson** asked that Committee members to strive to attend the meetings and communicate, via staff, who is going to attend so that the Committee’s concerns can be represented. **Ms. Pope** said, “March is Women’s History Month, there will be various events in the District to honor the contributions of women to world history.”

PARLIAMENTARIAN REVIEW

Ms. McDougle shared information regarding debate on motions and motions that limit debate. Robert’s Rules states each member may speak two times for ten minutes on a motion. That amount of time is not realistic on many large committees such as this one. A motion to limit debate, such as, two speeches of two minutes or one per person for two minutes may be made. **Ms. McDougle** said, “To stop debate it is popular to “call the question, which is not really equitable for one person to stop debate.” The chair may then use unanimous consent or take a two thirds vote. A member may move to consider the motion informally which would allow members to speak as many times as they obtain the floor. She noted that it is not permitted to read from a newspaper or magazine in regard to a motion; a member should ask permission to do so. She noted that not all information she brings forward will be used in this setting but many members are on other committees where the information may be useful.

SCHOOL GRADES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. Wilson prefaced the presentation sharing that he attended the site visit at Hollywood Central Elementary and was overall very pleased with what he saw and the programming at the school. He was then shocked when learned what the school grade was. He thought that he, as well as the other Committee members, would like to know how the schools are graded by the State.

Dr. Richard Baum gave a presentation and reviewed the new school grade rules, new Florida Standards and the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). **Dr. Baum** discussed the various aspects of the new school grades model and the changes that have been put in place. He shared school grading components such as: schools must assess 95% of students; schools will only be graded on the components for which they have enough data; achievement; learning gains; learning gains of the lowest 25%; middle school acceleration; graduation rates and college and career acceleration. **Dr. Baum** reviewed the learning gains method for the new model which included level one through level five. **Ms. Mizell** shared concern that the teachers don’t know the level of their students so they don’t know how to work with them to achieve gains. **Mr. Wilson** wanted to know what programming and support is given to the lowest 25%. **Ms. Pope** shared that **Dr. Baum’s** Department is not assigned the charge of programming or interventions to increase achievement levels. The State requires additional support for low-level learners and some of the various means of additional support and interventions for lower level students and schools were shared. **Dr. Baum** relayed that the Florida State Assessments are taken toward the end of the year and the results will be given in June. **Ms. Harris** asked if the school grade model is learning-based or a budget-based? **Dr. Baum** shared that there is funding given to “A” schools and a lot of additional support is given to low-scoring schools,

as well as consequences. **Ms. Price** requested that in the future paper copies of presentations are provided in advance. **Ms. Pope** said, "Staff will send the presentation to the members." Discussion followed on students not feeling well during testing; students may not test well on computers; computers not working well during tests; possible video samples prior to testing, among other items. Many members expressed concern about what is being done to assist level I students and low-level schools. **Mr. Wilson** shared that from what they have heard, the state-of-affairs in regard to testing and scoring of schools is lacking. It is regulated by the State. He encouraged all members to direct their concerns where they can get change made: to vote, to speak to their State Representatives, Senators and School Board members. **Dr. Baum** shared that the District has thirty days to appeal a school grade and if the District determines that a different grade should be assigned because of the omission of data or miscalculation, the school's grade may be appealed.

Copy of scores on Florida Department of Education website: <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/>

It was discussed to bring in staff to discuss what the District is doing to assist low-level learners and low-grade schools. **Ms. Pope** suggested that **Mr. Gohl**, Chief Academic Officer, meet with the Committee. **Mr. Wilson** asked **Ms. Pope** to relay concerns that the State's system of grading schools has serious flaws. How is the District counter-balancing that and how do we make sure students do not get lost in the testing?

Ms. Pope said, "Our School Board, the National School Board Association, our Superintendent and the National Superintendent's Association have all taken positions against multiple standardized tests being administered. Also, the District has reduced the number of assessments required. She agreed with the Chair to reach out to our legislators about the issues."

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Dahl shared that the next three site visits are: March 16th, March 30th and April 6th. **Mr. Wilson** asked members to respond, yes or no, to the invitation for site visits to encourage more participation. **Mr. Wilson** shared the subcommittee meeting dates and encourage members to attend.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ms. Price requested that presenters please provide handouts, even more helpful to have it before the meeting to read. **Ms. Price** asked to have **Mr. Hunter** come back to address the Committee. **Ms. Dahl** shared information regarding the computer issues; ADA deficiencies; serious overhang issues and SMART funds at Collins Elementary.

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

Ms. Dahl relayed information about the rotted, eroded wooden overhangs at Collins Elementary. She is concerned that the overhangs are going to be painted over instead of replaced. Funds were not allocated in the bond money to replace them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the March 3, 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.