

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING
April 6, 2017
Minutes

Members Present

Harve Brosten	Reverend Luc Harrigan
Rebecca Dahl	Esther Mizell
Kayla Francis	Major Diljit Pannu
Henry Graham	Ernestine Price
Carolyn Hardy	Bryan Wilson

Members Absent

Gaspar Garcia
Ronnie Gordon-Brown
Lillie Harris
Doug Harrison
Naima Khan-Ghany
Charlie King

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

Diversity, Prevention & Intervention Staff: Tom Albano; Marion Williams; Nordia Sappleton; Carolyn Salters

Parliamentarian: Patricia McDougle

Guest: Veronica Newmeyer

General Discussion began at 6:45 p.m. Quorum not present.

Mr. Wilson discussed recommendations, various aspects and data regarding the Diversity Committee Annual Report and its presentation to the School Board. General discussion on textbooks, technology, testing on computers and students using their own cell phone data.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted with the revision to move, *Preparation for Board Workshop*, to after approval of minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 2, 2017 Minutes were approved as distributed.

PREPARATION FOR BOARD WORKSHOP

Mr. Wilson continued discussion on the various topics that needed to be taken into account and possible recommendations in regard to the Nine Conditions and the Indicators such as: technology, using apps for curriculum, internet access, the “Next Exit” app, technology survey for students, *Bring Your Own Device* (BYOD), advanced academic classes, incentives for students to attend Martin Luther King, Jr. Montessori, sex-education training level options for parents to select and textbook review policies. Members are concerned about the level of access to technology devices and internet access for all students. **Mr. Wilson** also shared possible inclusion of such topics as: ensuring media centers are easily accessible to students, Discipline Matrix revisions, teachers being properly trained to teach advanced placement classes, possible student input in the textbook review and adoption process.

Ms. Dahl discussed advanced placement (AP) classes, participation, graduation rates and possible increased, mandatory training for AP teachers. Discussion followed on how students are selected for AP classes and dual-enrollment classes.

Mr. Graham shared that he is concerned students are not getting enough options for vocational and career training to use directly out of high school. What is the number of students that leave high school with a vocational certification ready to work in a job in the real world? What vocational programs are in each high school and how many students are taking the classes?

Ms. Dahl agreed to try and find the information on industrial certifications. Schools now get extra points for their school grade by the number of students that take industrial certification classes. There has been an increase in the number of students taking those classes and the number of courses offered. Members and staff discussed inviting Career, Technical, Adult and Community Education (CTACE) staff to present at a general Diversity Committee meeting. **Ms. Pope** shared some historical data, that in previous years some students were tracked toward vocational programs as opposed to college-bound. It is vital that we don't push students toward only a vocational track, options must be equitable for all students to choose their path. The District embraces and utilizes the term "college and career readiness." We are encouraging students to be ready for either option or both.

<http://academics.browardschools.com/ctace>

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Nordia Sappleton presented an overview of Policy 5.8 Code of Student Conduct which included the Code of Student Conduct Committee Composition. **Ms. Sappleton** reviewed current recommendations on topics such as: Pledge of Allegiance, directory information, and medication use/possession, class B weapons such as projectile devices such as toy guns and the Fire Starter Program. There was discussion on principal autonomy to look at the circumstances and take individual students into account. Members shared concerned regarding the students not standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. **Ms. Pope** shared that it is a constitutional right of each student. **Ms. Sappleton** shared the extensive and various ways in which the Code of Student Conduct is shared with students and parents. The creation of two more discipline matrices is in progress, increasing from two to four: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

Ms. Pope shared that the Diversity Committee played a vital role in urging the District to create an equitable method of applying discipline. This led to the creation of the Discipline Matrix which directly relates to Condition 7. The Discipline Matrix is continually being refined to be developmentally appropriate and to help students develop skills to behave better.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ms. Dahl briefly discussed SMART fund status, including planning stages and what status means as far as if the work is actually in progress. The hope is for the District to start selling the bonds and get moving on the spending the money appropriately.

By consensus the meeting extended by five minutes.

Ms. Pope shared that she spoke with **Dr. Valarie Wanza**, Chief School Performance & Accountability Officer, regarding the inquiry about Gulfstream Middle school's hours. Gulfstream and several other K-8 schools are on an elementary start and end time. The Board had asked for study of what it would cost to increase the time for those schools to a middle school start and end time. These K-8 schools are receiving 300 minutes of instruction but other middle schools are getting an additional half hour in their school day.

The study is complete and it will be coming to a Board meeting in the near future. She will keep the Committee posted as to when that will be scheduled.

Mr. Graham asked, “How does the District get communications out to the communities? **Ms. Pope**, said, “Recently, Tracy Clark, Chief Public Information Office, presented to the Committee on the topic. A copy of the presentation can be provided.”

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 4, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

DRAFT

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the April 6, 2017 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.