

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

May 5, 2016

Minutes

Members Present

Harve Brosten	Naima Khan-Ghany
Rebecca Dahl	Charlie King
Gaspar Garcia	Major Diljit Pannu
Andrea Gundersen	Ernestine Price
Lillie Harris	Guithele Ruiz-Nicolas

Members Absent

Susan Edwards
Reverend Luc Harrigan
Esther Mizell
Beverly Perkins
Michael Sirbola
Bryan Wilson

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

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

District Staff: Patrick Sipple, Demographer Specialist, Demographics & Student Assignment Department

Informal Meeting Began at 6:50 p.m. A quorum was not present

SCHOOL CHOICE: Demographics & Student Assignment

Mr. Sipple reviewed School Choice in the District in light of State approved House Bill 7029, which allows students to choose any school, with available space, throughout the State. He noted that our District already had School Choice in place before the House Bill was passed. **Mr. Sipple** reviewed information including, but not limited to the following: phase I and II application process for K-12; under and over enrollment in schools; wait pools; any student in another county can use this process to enroll in our District; off-site enrollment centers; assistance with computer registering; seats are filled on a weekly basis during the application window and various methods of getting Choice information out to schools.

- School Board Policy 5004.1 outlines School Choices
- For further information call 754-321-2480
- <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/dsa/school-choice.shtml>

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

SCHOOL CHOICE: Demographics & Student Assignment-continued

Mr. Sipple addressed questions regarding wait pools; weekly selection process; the effect on low-enrolled or low-performing schools; SSOS schools; established priorities are used for wait pool selection and process and determination of capacity of schools. **Ms. Dahl** said, "I would like to see a step-up of more information sent out to the community regarding Choice, keeping in mind that not all families have access to the internet." **Mr. Sipple** shared the various methods his Department is using to reach students and parents. Parents may submit a paper application or call and staff will assist in entering the data into the electronic application. **Ms. Price** said, "When we sit here and say what we can do with people; you don't know what people need until you go where they are. You have communities around here that don't even know what a computer looks like, they don't even know what a telephone looks like. We send our children to school and everything. We need to feel the need. There are a lot of things some parents never know how to do. Everything now is online, you go here, you walk over there, or you catch that bus. We need to be more parent and student friendly than we are computer friendly."

ADOPTON OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The April 7, 2016 Minutes were approved as distributed.

MOTION FROM THE APRIL 7, 2016 MEETING

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.”

Mr. Garcia shared his thoughts regarding the motion, suggesting the Committee should have input in which schools are focused on. **Ms. Dahl** shared further for the need of the motion and suggested an amendment to the motion to conduct revisits. **Mr. Garcia** requested that a second motion be put forth to handle revisits. **Mr. King** agreed with the motion, relaying that money is being poured into western schools when schools such as Stranahan High School are in very bad shape. Stranahan has a wooden door on their freezer in the cafeteria. **Ms. Pope** shared some history on the selection process; the Committee wanted to look at schools across the county to establish a comparison. The Committee had also reviewed the past five-year history and revisited select schools. Various methods of site visit selection were shared such as: zones were looked at, program changes in schools, past site visits, etc. **Ms. Gunderson** asked if the Committee could get a status update report after visits, instead of scheduling revisits. **Ms. Pope** shared that in previous years the Committee requested and received status reports, from Facilities, which outlined what the Committee found and what work orders had been completed. Discussion followed.

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.” Motion passed 9-0.

After discussion **Ms. Dahl** suggested that the Committee address the selection of schools for site visits at the August general meeting. Discussion followed regarding site visits and site visit reports.

Motion Ms. Dahl, second by Mr. Garcia: “I move that the Diversity Committee will set up a process to revisit previous findings to update the status.” Motion passed 9-0.

VICE-CHAIR’S REPORT

Ms. Dahl shared that Chair, **Bryan Wilson** is not at the meeting because he is graduating with a Bachelor’s of Science in Education, from Florida Atlantic University this evening. Congratulations from Committee members were conveyed. **Ms. Dahl** relayed that bids for SMART Program projects are out; it is important to keep up to date on the progress.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. Pope introduced the new Director of Diversity, Prevention & Intervention, **Thomas (Tom) Albano**. **Ms. Pope** shared that the District is celebrating May as Haitian Heritage Month and Haitian Flag Day on May 18th. This day is a significant day in regard to Haitian Independence, there will be a lot of celebration on this day. At the May 17th Board meeting there will be a resolution presented.

PARLIAMENTARIAN REVIEW

Ms. McDougle waved her report in the interest of time.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Price gave a review of her experience at the site visit to Martin Luther King Montessori Academy. In the area where she arrived there was not ADA compliance, she said she had to pick her scooter up and put it on the sidewalk. She heard the principal is doing excellent things for not only the students but also for the parents and community. **Ms. Price** said, “The school integrates the Character Traits into each classroom and everyone talks about them. This should be done at all schools. These are the kind of things that keep students at a school and keep the schools from being repurposed.” **Ms. Price** said, “The school needs a lot of work but the teachers and the principal are engaged.”

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ms. Khan-Ghany invited members to join her for Career Day at Perry Middle School on May 13th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

DRAFT

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the May 5, 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.