

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building  
April 2, 2009**

**SUMMARY**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order, at 7:05 p.m. by **Roland Foulkes**, Chair, with a quorum.

**Members Present:**

Dr. Veda Bailey	Patrick Jabouin	Leslie Sparks
Yvette Colbourne	Bapthol Joseph	Barbara Williamson
Stephanie Desir-Jean	Marguerite Luster	Alyce Zahniser
Randy Fleischer	George Pedlar	Student Representative
Roland Foulkes	Ernestine Price	Graham Rabinowitsch
Julian Gazzano	Nancy Rogan	

**Members Absent:**

Phoebee Francois	Regina Santiago
Andrew Lewis	Suzanne Yach
Michael Rajner	

**Diversity & Cultural Outreach Staff:**

Dr. Elizabeth Watts, Director; Jean D. Darius, Coordinator; Mercedes Hardisson; Terri Jones; Maryse Nelson; Nancy Weintraub

**District Staff:**

Dr. Joanne Harrison, Deputy Superintendent, Educational Programs/Student Support; Dr. Katherine Blasik, Associate Superintendent, Research Development & Assessment

**Guests:**

Andrew Kinlock; Clementees Foulkes

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The Committee adopted the Agenda.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The Committee approved the March 5, 2009 minutes without change.

**CHAIR'S REPORT, Roland Foulkes**

**Mr. Foulkes** announced that there was a major roadblock that prevented easy access into the Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.

**Mr. Foulkes** reported that the Department of Juvenile Justice held a workshop on Friday, March 27, 2009. They also held a community forum on Saturday, March 28, 2009, at the Mizzell Center on Sistrunk Boulevard, on why so many Black and Hispanic students are interfacing with the juvenile justice system. Although the data provided was familiar, the numbers were still disappointing. **Mr. Foulkes** stated that these students are being charged with misdemeanors and felonies at the age of 15. He said that Black males receive the highest number of school referrals and that there is a referral gap between Black and White students. **Mr. Foulkes** said that the focus groups discussed students already in the juvenile justice system. The four discussion areas covered at the workshops were:

1. What can individuals do to address issues
2. Education
3. Community Issues
4. Family domain

**Mr. Foulkes** referred to a report regarding the 2007-2008 Broward School-Related Delinquency Offenses. This report provided a breakdown of different offenses and the demographic information concerning those offenses. **Mr. Foulkes** informed the Committee that the Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Justice attended both events and made it clear that he is committed to helping Broward County and other counties around the state resolve the issue of excessive contact between minority students and the Department.

**Mr. Foulkes** said he would keep the Committee informed about future workshops. He extended an invitation from **Mr. Notter** to the Committee for a Call to Action: Dillard Innovation Zone Preferred Future Initiative event, to be held on April 23, 2009, from 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Dillard High School Black Box Theater. The objective is to bring together all organizations, community based institutions, and funders in the 33311 area. The vision is to have them work together where there are areas of overlap and collaboration. **Mr. Gazzano** said he would attend.

**Mr. Foulkes** asked **Graham Rabinowitsch**, the North Central Area student representative, to introduce himself.

(**Ms. Williamson** arrived at 7:15 p.m.)

(**Ms. Desir-Jean** arrived at 7:20 p.m.)

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT, Dr. Elizabeth Watts**

**Dr. Watts** distributed and discussed a revised calendar with subcommittee and district committee meeting dates and a matrix of current subcommittees and memberships.

**Dr. Harrison** informed the Committee that Senate Bill 1908 has new grading criterion for high schools. It presents a new process to evaluate and assess schools. **Dr. Harrison** said that a presentation on this bill and curriculum updates could be arranged. **Mr. Gazzano** asked if it would be a funded or unfunded mandate. **Dr. Harrison** responded that the Bill has passed as an unfunded mandate.

**Mr. Foulkes** reminded the Committee that the Sunshine State Standards were updated and asked that a presentation be made to the Committee. **Mr. Gazzano** asked if the new standards would “marry” with Broward County’s current standard 7-8-9 Lezotte and Marzano philosophies. **Dr. Harrison** stated that the changes will condense the number of standards and would force the County to look at how curriculum is being rewritten and added.

**Dr. Harrison** announced that the Broad Foundation has released the names of the top five out of 100 school districts in the country, and that Broward County, for the second year in a row, made the list. **Dr. Blasik** stated that Broward County will receive \$250,000 for student scholarships. She described the Broad Prize as the “Nobel prize for education.” The winner will receive an additional \$2 million dollars. The Broad Foundation will announce the winner in September.

(**Mr. Pedlar** arrived at 7:50 p.m.)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### 2007-2008 SITE VISITATION REPORT

**Mr. Joseph** thanked **Ms. Weintraub** for her support and the Committee members for helping to produce the 2007-2008 Site Visitation Report. He reminded the Committee that they received a copy of the Report in the mail and asked members if they had any questions. The Introduction to the 2007-2008 Site Visitation Report was distributed. After discussion, the Committee recommended the following changes:

Page 1- External Athletic Facilities: change basketball dugout to “baseball dugout”

Page 10 - Overall Comments: add ... “PSATs to sophomores and juniors”

The following items will be placed in the following order:

Table of Contents, Background, Nine Conditions, Methodology, Findings, Report.

Tables and Overall Comments will be excluded from the Introduction because they appear elsewhere in the Report.

**MOTION by Mr. Gazzano, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Pedlar: “To approve the Site Visitation Report for 2007-2008 with the provision that the Introduction piece be revised and added appropriately to the Report.”**

**Passed 12-2**

### “Drop Back In”

**Ms. Williamson** stated that she is concerned about the Drop Back In Program and would like more information about it. She said that the Committee should go back to visiting schools because she has heard some very disturbing rumors about the sites that house these students. **Mr. Kinlock**, Director, Drop Back In Academy, stated that at the School Board’s March 31, 2009, workshop, the Board approved unanimously for a new program called the Off Campus Learning Centers (OCLC), which will take over the Drop Back In centers. He said that it looks like a “great comprehensive plan.” He endorses the program, because it will address the needs of the students. **Dr. Watts** stated that under the new plan, students would be enrolled in alternative high schools or at satellite sites. **Mr. Foulkes** suggested that those sites be recommended to the Site Visitation Subcommittee for site visits.

## **SUBCOMMITTEES**

**Mr. Foulkes** reminded the Committee about the Subcommittee structure and asked that the point person for each subcommittee cooperate with staff by providing them with their meeting dates up until the month of November. He asked them to submit information and reports to staff in advance for distribution to the Diversity Committee.

### **AD HOC JOINT MEETING OF DIVERSITY COMMITTEE & BROWARD COUNTY DIVERSITY ADVISORY COUNCIL, Alyce Zahniser**

No Report.

### **AD HOC COMMITTEE ON SITE VISIT INSTRUMENT REVISIONS, Randy Fleischer**

**Mr. Fleischer** stated that the subcommittee completed the first four sections of the CCC Agreement conditions at their last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2009, from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., in the Pre-Function Room of the Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.

### **AP & HONORS, Dr. Veda Bailey**

**Dr. Bailey** met with **Joyce Greenburg**, Advanced Academics Department, on April 1, 2009. **Dr. Bailey** commented that in addition to focusing on how many AP students are enrolled, data should be collected on how the students are performing. She would like access to more demographic data and the success rates of the students that take the AP classes. The Committee can assess the reason for gaps once they have data about students' performance levels. **Ms. Greenburg** informed **Dr. Bailey** that a 5-day intensive program offered to all AP teachers is now free at the College Board Summer Institute. Although the School Board has encouraged principals to recognize the value of this training, the program is not mandatory, and teachers sign up on a voluntary basis.

By consensus, the Committee requested that Advanced Academics be invited to make a presentation at an upcoming meeting. **Dr. Bailey** stated that she is concerned about teacher training and would like to know if the School Board takes into consideration the number of years a teacher has taught an AP program, before assigning that individual to an AP class. She commented that the gaps in teacher training consistency should be a focus of the Committee. **Dr. Bailey** learned that the AP Student Recruitment and Placement Plan is a guideline tool for schools to know what areas they need to address throughout the year in order to meet their AP targets. AP Potential is a software package that maps which students effectively qualify for recruitment into an AP class. **Mr. Foulkes** stated that, to date, he has not seen data regarding how many students start an AP class and actually complete it or what their scores are.

(**Dr. Bailey** provided information to staff to be distributed at the Committee's request.)

(**Ms. Desir-Jean** left at 8:20 p.m.)

(Motion to extend the meeting for 15 minutes passed.)

**Ms. Price** thanked **Dr. Bailey** for her interest in AP. She stated that at last month's Advisory meeting they were informed that AP & Honors courses would be factored into the school grade for the FCAT. It is important to factor in the students' potential to get into the class, stay in the class, and pass the class because it's going to be integrated into the final grade. **Mr. Rabinowitsch** commented that PSAT

scores judge the AP potential. He stated that his school guidance counselors at McFatter Technical High School have not considered that to be accurate. **Mr. Rabinowitsch** informed the committee that it was required for all sophomores to take the PSAT this year. The State paid for it.

**ASSIGNMENT & REASSIGNMENT, Julian Gazzano**

**Mr. Gazzano** met with **Jill Young**, Director of School Boundaries. He informed the Committee that information concerning the different dispositions that took place on March 25, 2009, and the 2009-2010 timelines are located on the Broward County School Board website, under Boundaries. He said concurrency, capacity, and class size all have an impact on the boundary process. There is a new Legislative Bill, supported by the Senate, which proposes to ease class size restrictions through a school wide process, or overall grade levels, rather than one class at a time. The Educational State Plant Survey, used in the past two years, will be used until the year 2013. The Survey provides information regarding the acquisition of capital resources, and the impact it will have. This information can also be found on the website.

**Mr. Gazzano** announced that the Assignment & Reassignment subcommittee will not meet during the month of May.

**ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES, Andrew Lewis**

No Report.

**DIVERSITY, Michael Rajner**

No Report.

**FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN, George Pedlar**

No Report.

**HIRING PRACTICES, Randy Fleischer**

No Report.

**MEDIA CENTERS, Nancy Rogan**

No Report.

**SITE VISITATION, Bapthol Joseph**

**Mr. Joseph** announced that once the subcommittee completes its 2007-2008 Site Visitation Report, it will not meet again until further notice.

**STUDENT DISCIPLINE & SUSPENSION, Phoebee Francois**

No Report.

**TECHNOLOGY, Suzanne Yach**

No Report.

**Meeting ended 8:45 p.m.**

**The next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.,  
in the Board Room at the Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building**

**These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the April 2, 2009 Diversity Committee meeting. If any Committee member or other interested party would like more detailed information as to the contents of this summary, contact the Diversity & Cultural Outreach Department at 754-321-2090.**