

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 7, 2013**

SUMMARY

Members Present:

Brendan Barry	Julian Gazzano	Kevin Love
Harve Brosten	Douglas Harrison	Esther Mizell
Rebecca Dahl	Jessica Abby Herthel	Francisco Vargas
Michael DeGruccio	Jeanne Jusevic	Carlos Verney
Susan Edwards	Thomas Lauder	Bryan Wilson
Annette Gardiner		

Members Absent:

Andy Ansola	Felipe Pinzon
Rev. Luc Harrigan	Ernestine Price

School Board Members: Patricia Good; Katherine Leach; Laurie Rich Levinson

Parliamentarian: Patricia McDougale

District Staff: Charles Webster

Student Support Initiatives Staff: Terri Jones; Latricia Lauture

Diversity, Cultural Outreach & Prevention Staff: Amalio Nieves; Carolyn Salters; Marion Williams

Guests: Catherine Eddies; Chris Fertig; Mary Fertig; Jack Gillies; Latrinsha Greaves; Danita Kilcullen; James Sparks

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Jusevic called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Committee adopted the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY MINUTES

February 7, 2013 Summary Minutes were approved as amended.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Jusevic brought forward Diversity Committee Meeting Norms, as follows.

Diversity Committee Meeting Norms

- Respect each other.
- It is okay to disagree.
- Listen as an ally.
- Everyone participates; no one person dominates.
- Honor time limits.

After discussion, **Motion by Ms. Edwards: “that the Committee adopt the Diversity Committee Meeting Norms, as presented.” Motion passed 10-3.**

Ms. Jusevic said she would do her best to adhere to the times stated on the agenda and requested that if further discussion on a topic of high interest is warranted that Committee members opt to: write questions down and send to the Chair, bring items forward under new business or as a future agenda item.

Ms. Jusevic said the following topics would be brought forward at upcoming meetings: the Discipline Policy, Graduation Rate and the Lottery System for Innovative Programs. She said Diversity, Cultural Outreach & Prevention, along with the Safe to be Me Coalition is sponsoring *Red Flags; From Danger to Dialogue* an Anti-Bullying, Health and Safety Parent Conference on Saturday, April 6, 2013 at Piper High School. **Ms. Jusevic** said it was discussed at the Chair, Vice-Chair meeting to extend the end-time of the general meetings to 9:00 p.m.

VICE-CHAIR’S REPORT

Mr. Lauder welcomed School Board members and members of the community to the meeting. He encouraged all Diversity Committee members to sign up for and attend subcommittee meetings.

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Ms. McDougale discussed the proposed revisions to the Diversity Committee Bylaws. **Mr. Gazzano** thanked **Ms. McDougale** for the great job on the revisions and he looks forward to an up or down vote at the next meeting. **Mr. Barry** agreed. A fine job was done on the revisions. In addition, he said he had compiled thirty-plus questions and/or suggested revisions to the Bylaws.

Motion by Ms. Dahl: “To establish an Ad Hoc Committee to review the Bylaws and on that Committee is Mr. Barry, Ms. McDougale and any other members of the Committee who wish to serve.” Motion passed 12-1.

Ms. Jusevic requested that members review the Bylaws and forward any recommendations to staff. She said this Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting needs to take place as soon as possible and that she would speak to General Counsel about the meeting taking place even though March meetings have already been advertised.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Nieves said with **Superintendent Runcie’s** direction, the District would hold an *Above the Influence March* on Saturday, May 18, 2013. It is a community-wide march aimed to increase awareness, build character, and help youth stand up to negative pressures or influences of drugs, alcohol and risky sexual behavior. Participants will march from the K.C. Wright Administration Building to Huizenga Plaza. At Huizenga Plaza, a rally will take place. Following the rally, School District departments, community agencies and organizations will provide resources and information. **Mr. Nieves** said the Department would provide flyers on this event and the Red Flag event to Committee members. **Mr. Nieves** said the Diversity, Cultural Outreach & Prevention Department, in collaboration with Title I and Florida Atlantic University, are scheduled to hold a Summer Teacher’s Academy focused on diversity in our schools.

NEW LEGISLATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

School Board Chair **Laurie Rich Levinson** and **Charles Webster** presented information regarding the new Legislative Updates website. **Ms. Levinson** spoke about the various aspects of the Florida Legislative Education and Action Online Resource initiative. She said the website is user-friendly and allows the community to track bills of interest that align with the School Board’s platform and respond with an email(s) to the appropriate State legislators, if they so choose. **Charles Webster** guided members through

use of the website. **Ms. Levinson** requested that Committee members get the word out about the new website. For more information see:

<https://webappe.browardschools.com/legislativeupdates/Default.aspx>

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT(S)

Ms. Dahl said the Site Visit Subcommittee has been meeting frequently and they have five Diversity Committee Site Visit Reports that are almost final. The reports are time-consuming to process and that more members are needed to assist in writing the reports. **Ms. Dahl** said site visits are a part of being a member of the Diversity Committee and requested that members sign up to attend. She said there would be site visits on March 13th and 20th (the final two for the school year are: May 8th and May 15th). There will be no site visits in April, due to testing.

CITIZENS CONCERNED ABOUT OUR CHILDREN (CCC) SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Chris Fertig, Esq., and **Mary Fertig** reviewed the history of the Citizens Concerned About Our Children lawsuit, the CCC Settlement Agreement, and the formation of the Diversity Committee. The presentation highlighted the disparities at Northeast High School including emphasis on the extent and degree of the roof leaks. The **Fertig's** spoke of the various inequity issues Miramar High School faces even with the incredible fortitude of the students, staff and community of the school.

Motion by Mr. Verney: "To extend meeting by 15 minutes." Motion passed.

Ms. Fertig said members could go to the Schools' Facilities website and see what the schools have received, in terms of facility work, in the last 10 years. **Ms. Fertig** said the CCC Settlement Agreement gave the Diversity Committee a great responsibility and the authority to monitor equal educational access for all students. The site visits are the "heart" of what the Diversity Committee is tasked to do.

Motion by Ms. Dahl: "To extend the meeting by 10 minutes." Motion passed.

SUBCOMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

Mr. Lauder reviewed the revised subcommittee list. **Ms. Dahl** said, at least one or more members serving on the Indicator Revision Subcommittee should be a person that is currently on the Site Visit Subcommittee. Members volunteered for various subcommittees and were encouraged to contact staff to add their name to the subcommittee list.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the March 7, 2013 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 Student Support Initiatives at 754-321-2090.

Approved 040413