

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING  
October 3, 2013**

**SUMMARY**

**Members Present:**

Andy Ansola	Julian Gazzano	Thomas Lauder
Harve Brosten	Reverend Luc Harrigan	Esther Mizell
Rebecca Dahl	Jessica Abby Herthel	Ernestine Price
Michael DeGruccio	Jeanne Jusevic	Francisco Vargas
Susan Edwards	Charlie King	Bryan Wilson

**Members Absent:**

Brendan Barry	Sarah Park
Douglas Harrison	Logan Silverman
Kevin Love	

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

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

**Guest:** Latrinsha Greaves

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Ms. Jusevic** called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

**APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY MINUTES**

The September 12, 2013 Summary Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Ms. Jusevic** reviewed her Chair's Report, as distributed. She said the presentation of the Diversity Committee Annual Report on September 24, 2013 went very well. The School Board would like to change the Report timeline so that the Site Visit information aligns and is incorporated with the Annual District Educational Facilities Plan. **Ms. Jusevic** said the Board voiced appreciation and were very engaged while reviewing the information provided by the Committee regarding curriculum, testing, maintenance and facilities. **Ms. Jusevic** said **Mr. Runcie** is going to meet with the Diversity Committee, in the near future with an update as to how the District has responded to the recommendations presented in the Report. **Ms. Jusevic** thanked **Ms. Dahl** for co-presenting the Report at the Workshop. **Ms. Jusevic** encouraged members to engage and get involved on subcommittees. To enable more participation for those members who have other obligations during the day; subcommittee meetings will be staggered as day and also evening meetings. **Ms. Jusevic** said Indicator Revision Subcommittee members would meet with the CCC Steering Committee members, in the near future, to review the Indicators.

**VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT**

In the interest of time, **Mr. Lauder** waived his report.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Ms. Pope** congratulated members who worked on and presented the Diversity Committee Annual Report. The Report was well received. She said the Superintendent followed-up immediately, with Cadre Directors and **Dr. Blackburn** to assure: that every Cadre Director reads the report; discuss outcomes with principals; and provide the Superintendent with an update on the follow-up work. **Ms. Pope** said some Cadre Directors have been assigned to the CCC Steering Committee in response to the Diversity Committee Presentation. **Ms. Pope** said, a Board member requested Legal Counsel review whether the Diversity Committee Site Visits are bound by Sunshine Laws. Legal Counsel's determination is that: Site Visits are bound by Sunshine Law, must be noticed, and minutes taken. She said **Mr. Runcie** and District staff are going to meet next week to discuss the Site Visit process moving forward. Members discussed various aspects of Legal Counsel's findings, such as: the Committee is not at a school for a meeting but to survey as per the CCC Agreement; they do not discuss items at the site visit that will later be voted on; members are level-two screened, the public would not be properly screened; advanced notice of site visits would significantly undermine the process of getting a snapshot of a school; potentially 100 people could show up, would they be allowed questions; disruption of class-time; and concern about the Committee's progress being undermined.

**Motion by Mr. DeGruccio "that staff be notified of Diversity Committee consensus that current site visit protocol complies with survey requirements of the CCC Settlement. They should not be confused as a meeting. We ask the Legal Department to look further into the matter. Also, contact the Florida Attorney General's office for an advisory opinion for all School Board committees and subcommittees for compliance." Motion passed 15-0.**

**Ms. Pope** invited members to the *Broward County Public Schools 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ed Talk* event on Saturday, October 12, 2013 and to the *Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month* event on Tuesday, October 15, 2013.

## **DISCIPLINE/PROMISE PROGRAM**

**Ms. Pope** gave an overview of discipline statistics and practices in the District. She indicated statistics show Zero Tolerance methods, used throughout the Nation, has led to increased school related arrests and increased dropout rates. **Ms. Pope** said "disruption" offenses often lead to suspensions and many non-violent misdemeanors lead to arrest and a record. These arrests follow students and can lead to difficulties when applying to college and acquiring a stable career. She reviewed the efforts and measures that are being put in place to address the issue, including the District discipline vision and mission. There have been revisions of policies and a proposed Cooperative Agreement will be brought forward for all members of the Eliminating the Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Committee to sign. **Mr. Nieves** gave an overview of the Promise Program, which is designed to address the unique needs of students who have committed behavioral infractions that would normally lead to a juvenile delinquency, arrest, and therefore entry into the juvenile justice system. **Mr. Nieves** said the Program addresses eleven non-violent misdemeanors, bullying and harassment with behavior-focused, intervention. School administrators are to: deliver the Promise Program as opportunity for students; view discipline as educative rather than a punitive opportunity; and to be champions for children. **Ms. Pope** said that one of the next steps would be to involve more community members, including faith-based communities, non-profit organizations, and city governments. **Mr. Ansola** suggested that staff reach out to cities to utilize their Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funds. In addition, he volunteered to assist in communicating with city governments. It was suggested that the Discipline/Promise Presentation be recorded and put in DVD format to reach more staff and community members.

**Motion by Mr. Brosten to “extend the meeting to 9:00 p.m.” Motion passed 13-1.**

**Motion by Mr. Wilson to “encourage the leadership of the Promise Program to fortify the board of community leaders to include representatives from more non-profits, government social programs and non-government organizations. The Diversity Committee voices concern regarding the Program’s reach over policy interventions, culturally relevant counseling and family services to name a few.” Motion passed 11-2.**

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

No subcommittee reports given.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Reverend Harrigan** said students have said to him that they could not take a test without their Social Security number. **Ms. Pope** said students do not need a social security number to attend public schools in Florida. Students are requested, in such circumstances, to enter their Florida student identification number.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.,  
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the October 3, 2013 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.

Approved 110713