

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING  
January 9, 2014**

**SUMMARY**

**Members Present:**

Andy Ansola	Julian Gazzano	Thomas Lauder
Brendan Barry	Reverend Luc Harrigan	Esther Mizell
Rebecca Dahl	Douglas Harrison	Ernestine Price
Michael DeGruccio	Charlie King	Bryan Wilson
Piero Falci		

**Members Absent:**

Harve Brosten	Logan Silverman
Susan Edwards	Francisco Vargas

**District Staff:** Robert Runcie, Superintendent of Schools; Jose Dotres, Chief Academic Officer

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

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

**Parliamentarian:** Patricia McDougale

**Guests:** Roland Foulkes; Jack Gillies; MaryAnn Haywood; Danita Kilcullen; Fred Perry; Maureen Perry, Michael Rajner; Ruth Roman; Ronda Ward

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Ms. Pope** called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

**ADOPTON OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

**APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY MINUTES**

The December 5, 2013 Summary Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**PARLIAMENTARIAN REVIEW**

**Ms. McDougale** reviewed motions which control or apply to debate including: motion to commit; reading from a book or magazine; limits of debate in the agenda; limit or extend limits of a debate and close debate by stating; "*move previous question*".

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Ms. Pope** gave an update of work of the Student Support Initiatives Division including data regarding the PROMISE Program. To date 653 students have entered the PROMISE Program, 28 of which were repeat offenders. These students were kept in school as opposed to arrest and/or expulsion. The Program is about changing behavior which changes lives. **Ms. Pope** discussed various upcoming events and programs: Holocaust Awareness; Black History; and MLK Celebrations. Staff is working on policy change regarding: a tobacco-free District; Human Relations Committee; Family Life and Sexuality and Code of

Student Conduct. The first three items are being brought forward at the January 28, 2014 Board Workshop. **Ms. Pope** said members will receive an orientation packet and there will be an orientation at the next general meeting.

**Ms. Pope** discussed the consultant agreements the Diversity, Cultural Outreach & Prevention Department initiated in response to identified needs and work-plans generated by several focus groups and *the Safe To Be Me Coalition*, which is a Community Coalition. The work-plan called for the development of a critical support guide around issues of Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender (LGBT) students. This was, in part, a response a Dear Colleague letter from U.S. Secretary of Education Arnie Duncan encouraging every school district to provide information and resources to school to address safety around LGBT students and a proclamation from President Obama regarding LGBT Rights. **Ms. Pope** said the decision to enter into the consultant agreements involving two Diversity Committee members was around these issues; not related to any work of the Diversity Committee. **Ms. Pope** said in regard to the consultant agreements being a violation with the law; the legal Department noted that no further compensated services should be requested of advisory committee members. The Department and/or the members should have requested a waiver from School Board members. She noted the waiver was not obtained as it should have. This was an error and was in no way purposefully done against policy or procedure. **Ms. Pope** said the consultant agreements were not a secret from Diversity Committee members. The Department engages with all types of consultants and works with many organizations in the broad work of addressing the full spectrum of diversity.

**Ms. Pope** read the motion from the last meeting:

**Motion by Mr. Harrison that: “all information in regard to any member of the Diversity Committee, for the last five years, pertaining to any contract with/or payment of any kind or form from the Broward Schools, Broward School Board, or any foundation, 501.3.Cs, umbrella groups, included source of funds used to pay any contract. Motion passed 15-0.**

**Ms. Pope** said she contacted the Public Records Department regarding the motion. In response: the information request cannot be processed as it reads because: 1) it lacks specificity; it would need the name of every Diversity Committee member from the last five years and they would need to obtain records from every department and school throughout the District in relation to those names. 2) For a District Advisory committee to access records, through the Florida Statute 119, it must come through the group as a body, (which the motion did) and there must be justification provided showing a need that is within the scope of the work and range of operation of the advisory committee.

**Ms. Pope** said she has been committed to serving the students and families of the District for 25 years. She said she makes the best possible decisions on behalf of children; tries to bring the wisest and most compassionate responses to situations; when mistakes are made they are on behalf of children. She said she face challenges with dignity of heart and will continue to do her best in the role she plays in the District.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Mr. DeGruccio** said the Nominating Committee recommends Rebecca Dahl for chair of the Diversity Committee. The Nominating Committee has no recommendations for vice-chair, no resumes or applications were submitted. **Mr. DeGruccio**, on behalf of Nominating Committee shared a working list of recommendations for the new Chair to follow.

## **ELECTION**

**Ms. Pope** opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

**Motion by Mr. Gazzano: “To accept the Nominating Committee’s suggestion for Rebecca Dahl [as Chair] and that we approved that unanimously.” Motion passed 13-0.**

**Ms. Dahl** thanked the Committee for their support and spoke about the value and the mission of the Diversity Committee including how it relates to, but not limited to, the Citizens Concerned about our Children Settlement Agreement.

**Ms. Dahl** opened the floor for vice-chair nominations. **Mr. Gazzano** nominated **Mr. Ansola**. **Mr. Ansola** declined. **Ms. Mizell** nominated **Mr. Lauder**. **Mr. Lauder** accepted. **Ms. Dahl** called for a vote. **Mr. Lauder was elected Vice-Chair, by unanimous vote 13-0.**

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Site Visitation Subcommittee: Ms. Dahl** said the Committee members would receive a list of dates and schools of the ten upcoming site visits at the conclusion of the meeting. **Ms. Dahl** said site visits will be on a Wednesday, to be followed up with a meeting on the following Monday or Tuesday as the work-week allows.

**Indicators Subcommittee: Mr. DeGruccio** said the Indicator Subcommittee met with **Jack Ciminera** regarding data reports listed on the Broward County Schools Website and looked at other areas the Committee wants to look at in the future, including ESE and ESOL students. The subcommittee has reviewed the College Readiness Report and the High School Graduation Report. The Subcommittee is still waiting on a response as to who audits the money allotted for athletics per school.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Ms. Dahl** said there will be upcoming meetings regarding the repurposing of schools. She requests that Committee members remain aware of the meetings and attend as many as possible. **Ms. Mizell** gave a brief update on Boundary concerns; including North Lauderdale and Cooper City.

Discussion continued regarding issues as it relates to Diversity Committee members having consultant agreements with the District and District advisory committee membership. Members suggested adhering to the goals of the Committee and keep the focus on the students. Members voiced concern about the revision of the Diversity Committee By-Laws.

**Ms. Pope** said revisions to Policy 1.7 Appointment of a School Board Member Representative(s) to a Committee(s), is scheduled for a Board Workshop on Tuesday, February 25, 2014.

**Motion by Mr. Harrison: “to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.” Motion passed, unanimously.**

Discussion continued regarding a possible ad hoc committee to further discuss the issue of consultant agreements; allocation of public funds; the costs involved in submitting every name, of every past member for five years; this takes away from dollars going toward student education; consultants paying back funds and disciplinary action.

**Mr. Runcie** said the common sense rule and code of ethics indicate there is a conflict for a Diversity Committee member(s) having a contract with the School Board. The Legal Department is involved; practices have been put in place and guidance has been given to all Departments and will be given to all District Advisory committees so that this will not happen in the future. **Mr. Runcie** said we will do what we can, though laborious, to try to find if there were other contracts in the past; without it being a big bureaucratic process. What needs to be done in terms of this not happening again has been done; we need to move forward. He said when he came to the District he was excited to learn there was a Diversity Committee to serve as a moral compass for the District to oversee equity for students; student achievement gaps; discipline practices and allocation of funds. That is the work the Committee and the District needs to focus on.

**Ms. Dahl** said the Diversity Committee By-laws have gone for legal review. In addition, the outcome of revisions to Policy 1.7 will affect the By-laws. A By-laws Subcommittee will be set up at the next general meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.,  
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the January 9, 2014 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 020614