

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING
November 6, 2014**

SUMMARY

Members Present

Andy Ansola	Thomas Lauder
Francesca Blanchard	Esther Mizell
Harve Brosten	Beverly Perkins
Rebecca Dahl	Frederick Perry
Susan Edwards	Ernestine Price
Julian Gazzano	Bryan Wilson
Charlie King	

Members Absent

Jamie Cutler
Gaspar Garcia
Reverend Luc Harrigan
Douglas Harrison
Aaliyah McCrary
Francisco Vargas
Mary Williams

District Staff: Dr. Russell Clement; Dean Vaughan

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

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

Parliamentarian: Patricia McDougale

Guests: Mary Collis; MaryAnn Haywood; Danita Kilcullen

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

ADOPTON OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda was adopted with the revision to forgo the Executive Director and Parliamentarian Reports to allow time for District Staff to address the Committee.

APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY MINUTES

The October 2, 2014 Minutes were approved as revised.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Lauder said the site visit at Plantation Elementary School went well; it is a very nice school. He said the Bond issue passed and this Committee needs to be on the forefront to ensure issues the Committee has seen and uncovered in the past, are addressed.

VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Perry said his observation is, the rigid structure of the Committee using Robert's Rules may not be necessary. Possibly the Committee could discuss later, under good of order, moving to lighter version of Robert's Rules of Order.

Customer Survey

Dr. Russell Clement, Research Specialist, and **Dean Vaughan**, Evaluation Administrator, both from Student Assessment & Research addressed the Committee. **Dr. Clement** discussed aspects of the Annual Customer survey. He asked the Committee for recommendations to increase parent participation on the

Survey. **Mr. Ansola** said considering the Digital Divide, a paper survey may get more results and there should be an incentive. **Mr. Wilson** suggested setting up computer stations at local libraries and/or churches and to look at demographics in areas where surveys are not being responded to. He suggested asking the parents “why do you fill-out the survey?”; look for their motivation. **Ms. Edwards** suggested reaching out to community leaders and posting on school websites. **Mr. Lauder** suggested possible extra credit or other incentive for students who return the survey. **Mr. Gazzano** suggested reaching out to SAC, SAF and PTA’s groups. **Mr. King** suggested adding school data-points to the front of the survey to interest parents and also suggested an incentive for students. **Mr. Brosten** inquired if the survey was bi-lingual. **Dr. Russell** said the survey is available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole. **Ms. Pope** said the data captured by the survey is a tool used by: schools for their School Improvement Plan; Office of Service Quality; School Performance & Accountability for evaluating principals, and various Departments for providing support to schools.

IMPACT OF BUDGET:

Ms. Dahl reviewed aspects of the District Educational Facilities Plan (DEFP), which will be revised at some point in the near future. She reviewed estimated revenue and financing sources; estimated appropriations; non-facility funding recommendations for 2014-15 and a summary of facilities projects. **Ms. Dahl** shared proposed spending on bond money and spending and repairs on the DEFP. She spoke about references in SMART as it relates to music, art and athletics and the DEFP. **Mr. Brosten** said it is appalling that the bond money will not cover art and music when the District is paying large salaries to incompetent staff members. **Mr. Lauder** said it sounds like the District is going to replace some of the money allocated in the DEFP with bond money. The District promised oversight of the bond money, but not the DEFP funds. **Ms. Dahl** said the Board members are getting quarterly reports on the how DEFP funds are spent. **Ms. Mizell** said the Committee needs to ensure that they have representation on the Oversight Committee. **Ms. Dahl** said there will be a Board Workshop on November 18th regarding the Oversight Committee. **Mr. Lauder** said Committee members can speak with their Board members and he encouraged members to attend the Workshop. **Mr. Gazzano** requested a presentation, at the next general Diversity Committee meeting, regarding the DEFP and the bond money.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Site Visitation: **Ms. Dahl** discussed the recent site visit at Plantation Elementary. She said it was overall a good visit; it is a low performing school; student numbers are up; it is clean; it is a STEM Museum Magnet School. They will hold an open house and show on December 18th at 6:30 p.m. **Mr. Perry** asked what the numbers were for surveys for the school. **Ms. Dahl** said fewer than ten parents responded. **Mr. Lauder** said the Plantation Elementary visit started at 9:00 a.m. and ended at approximately Noon. He encouraged members to add the site visit dates to their calendars. **Ms. Dahl** said if members attend the site visit, it is requested that you also attend the follow-up meeting for that school. **Ms. Price** said a lot of parents don’t know what to do; it is part of our job to train parents. **Mr. Ansola** asked what the accountability is regarding parents not getting follow-up phone calls. **Ms. Pope** said ultimately it is the cadre directors who oversee the principals. If a parent is not getting a response from a principal the next step is to call the Office of Service Quality. **Ms. Mizell** inquired if it is policy that the school should contact a parent, with a return phone call, within a timeframe 48-72 hours? **Ms. Pope** said yes, it is a best practice for schools, as well as District offices.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ms. Edwards said she has served as a substitute at many schools. The napkin/spork kit includes a napkin that is very small and thin. It is not adequate for our students. **Mr. Brosten** said there are plenty of paper towels at schools, the teachers need to ask and put extra paper towels on the tables.

Ms. Blanchard said, in relation to a Committee member serving on the Oversight Committee; are we ready for a member to serve; it seems the indicators and Committee documents are not in order at this time. Are we going to need a subcommittee devoted to the Oversight Committee? **Mr. Lauder** said there are previous Diversity Committee reports that have been submitted to the Superintendent, which will need to be revisited so that the issues we have seen in years prior are not forgotten. We may need a subcommittee for that purpose.

Mr. Wilson said, do we need a subcommittee to facilitate Board and/or District relations; to communicate, format and create documents to relay items. In addition, should the Committee adopt a resolution to have a designee on the Oversight Committee?

Motion by Mr. Wilson: “I move that we as the Diversity Committee encourage the School Board of Broward County to consider including one appointed Diversity Committee member as a representative member of the Bond Oversight Committee.” Motion passed 12-0.

Mr. Perry said the main reason to propose a lighter version of Robert’s Rules is to move things along. The Committee spends a lot of time discussing procedure and process. It is up to the chair to make sure members are heard. We need to be getting things done for the kids; voting on matters and putting our recommendations forward. **Mr. Wilson** said the chair sets the tone and he is comfortable moving forward with a less restrictive manner.

Ms. McDougle said the Committee already operates under a light version of Robert’s Rules. Using formal Robert’s Rules, there is no discussion without a motion first. In the past, this Committee has had differences of opinion; passion; not always cordial; and sometimes nasty behavior. Robert’s Rules is designed to help curtail that by speaking through the chair and being called on to speak. She said the Committee often gets off-track. The chair can declare an informal discussion during any meeting.

Discussion followed. **Ms. Dahl** encouraged members to sign up for site visits, more participants are needed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the November 6, 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.