

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING
October 3, 2019 Minutes**

Members Present

Afeefa Abdool-Ghany	Douglas Harrison
Steve Barrow	Easton Harrison
Victoria Bastidas	Norman O. Hemming III
Vania Bredy	Michelle Jones
Harve Brosten	Naima Khan-Ghany
Rebecca Dahl	Charles King
Keisha Goldstein	Mikelange Olbel
Henry Graham	Diljit Pannu
Carolyn Hardy	Ernestine Price

Members Absent

Lorraine Angelakos	Ingrid Mattig
Natalie Beasley	Esther Mizell
Jane Bolin	George Rich
Luke Harrigan	Beau Simon
Nigel Lovell-Martin	

Student Support Initiatives & Recovery Division Staff: David Watkins; Terri Jones; Latricia Lauture; Marion Williams

Parliamentarian: Patricia McDougle

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 6:46 p.m. A quorum was present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent after being amended by moving the Diversity Committee Orientation to follow the Director's Report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of September 5, 2019 were approved by unanimous consent.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Watkins shared that there has been conversation within the Calendar Committee regarding having a Muslim holiday off and it will be addressed later in the agenda. **Mr. Watkins** shared information regarding the success of a recent parent meeting at Plantation High School.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE ORIENTATION

Marion Williams presented the Diversity Committee Orientation and encouraged all members to review the documents further, after the meeting. **Ms. Williams** gave an overview of Policy 1.5 Diversity Committee, Functions of the Committee, Policy 1.7 School Board-Established Advisory Committees and Appointment of a School Board Member Representatives(s) to Such Committee(s), Diversity Committee By-Laws, Sunshine Law, Public Records and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees.

PARLIAMENTARIAN REVIEW

Ms. McDougle reminded members that each member, the chair and the Committee as a whole are responsible for observing the rules of order. She continued with a presentation on *Ten '10' Points to Ponder*, a collection of quotations on meetings and decorum from famous people.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

The Chair ruled that **Mr. Barrow**, having received more than half of the nineteen votes cast on the third ballot in September, is elected as vice chair of the Diversity Committee. The Chair gave the following reasoning for this ruling:

A difference of opinion on the vote required was the subject of discussion at the September meeting. One opinion was that it was 50% plus 1; another was that only a majority or more than half of the votes was required.

Article IV, Officers, Section 2 of the Committee’s Bylaws states as follows:

The officers shall be elected annually . . . Voting shall be conducted following Robert’s Rules of Order (Newly Revised).

From page 400 of *Robert’s Rules*, Chapter Thirteen, *Voting*:

. . . the basic requirement for approval of an action or choice by a deliberative assembly, except where a rule provides otherwise, is a majority vote. The word majority means more than half . . .

The results of the third ballot for vice chair at the September meeting:

Number votes cast	19
Ms. Dahl received	9
Mr. Barrow received	10

On this ballot 50% + 1 = 11; a majority = 10

Therefore, in accordance with the requirements of the Committee Bylaws and Robert’s Rules presented above that the election of the chair and vice chair shall be determined by a majority vote, which is defined as more than half, the Chair concluded that **Mr. Barrow**, having received more than half of the nineteen votes cast on the third ballot, was elected as vice chair of the Diversity Committee.

SUBCOMMITTEE ORGANIZATION/REPORT(S)

Mr. E. Harrison reviewed the functions of the various subcommittees. Members volunteered for subcommittees and reviewed October meeting dates which would be held October 14th and 21st. **Ms. Dahl**, shared that the Site Visit Subcommittee has been meeting, has a solid base group of members and is growing. She shared a draft list of schools that will potentially be visited by the Committee and opened the floor for other potential schools to visit. **Ms. Dahl**, said the dates for the site visits will be available soon and hopes all members make an extra effort to attend site visits. Typical site visit timeframes for visits was shared: revisit 2-3 hours, site visit possibly 3-4 hours, depending on the size of the school.

New Business

Mr. E. Harrison said he shared the motion by the Committee for the District to recognize Muslim holidays. **Ms. Khan-Ghany** shared that she would like a fourth calendar option brought to the Board, from the Calendar Committee, to include Muslim holidays off for the District. Conflict with testing was mentioned. **Ms. Khan-Ghany** said she called The College Board and a waiver is available to change the date if the School Board is closed on the day testing is scheduled. There will be a Board Workshop regarding the 2020-2021 *Proposed School Calendar Options* on Tuesday, October 22, 2019.

Motion by Naima Khan-Ghany, Seconded by Afeefa Abdool-Ghany: “We, the Diversity Committee make a motion to the Calendar Committee to create and present a 4th calendar option for the 2020-2021 school year which would close schools and administration offices on May 13, 2021, furthermore we

request a testing waiver from College Board, Cambridge, ACE, IB (any other testing body) for an alternate testing date.” Motion carried: 15-0.

Mr. E. Harrison said, with input from the Committee, that he would bring up the following when he gives the next Diversity Committee update to the Board members: resolution regarding technical/vocational education; subcommittee organization; Site Visit Subcommittee crafting a list of schools will be included in school site visits for 2019/2020 and that the Diversity Committee orientation was completed for the 2019/2020 school year.

Major Pannu inquired about a request to upgrade monitors in the Board room. **Ms. Jones** shared concern about lack of technology in regards to reading, translating, etc. for students and staff with learning disabilities. There is issue of accessibility and equity. **Mr. E. Harrison** said he looks forward to the Committee and/or subcommittee drafting a resolution. This may be a task for the School Site Visitation, Textbooks, Technology, and Media Centers Subcommittee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Motions:

Motion by Naima Khan-Ghany, Seconded by Afeefa Abdool-Ghany: “We, the Diversity Committee make a motion to the Calendar Committee to create and present a 4th calendar option for the 2020-2021 school year which would close schools and administration offices on May 13, 2021, furthermore we request a testing waiver from College Board, Cambridge, ACE, IB (any other testing body) for an alternate testing date.”
Motion carried: 15-0

**The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

Approved November 7, 2019