

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 2, 2017  
Minutes**

**Members Present**

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Harve Brosten         | Charlie King       |
| Rebecca Dahl          | Esther Mizell      |
| Henry Graham          | Major Diljit Pannu |
| Lillie Harris         | Ernestine Price    |
| Reverend Luc Harrigan | Bryan Wilson       |
| Naima Khan-Ghany      |                    |

**Members Absent**

Susan Edwards  
Kayla Francis  
Gaspar Garcia  
Ronnie Gordon-Brown  
Carolyn Hardy  
Doug Harrison  
Beverly Perkins

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

**Diversity, Prevention & Intervention Staff:** Tom Albano; Marion Williams

**Parliamentarian:** Patricia McDougle

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:51 p.m. A quorum was present.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted as distributed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 12, 2017 Minutes were approved as distributed.

**VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Ms. Dahl** briefly discussed the boundaries topic including changing Millennium Middle into a 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade school with a high-level academic program in which students can graduate with an associate's degree. Public hearings regarding boundaries will be March 1<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, both starting at 5:30 p.m., at Plantation High School.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Mr. Albano** shared information regarding events for Black History month. He invited members to the Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, where a southern breakfast will be served and a resolution celebrated with a performances from our students. **Mr. Albano** reviewed Courageous Conversations training. The program allows for conversations and personal experiences regarding race-relations, religion and discrimination in a non-judgmental, safe place. In addition, the Diversity, Prevention & Intervention Department is facilitating a Muslim Workgroup to produce on a Muslim Resource Guide for teachers and staff. The Workgroup noted that often the only perspective people have of Muslims is what they hear on the news of radical perspectives. The Workgroup is developing ways to integrate positive Muslim role models and sharing an understanding of Muslim beliefs into the curriculum. In May, the School Board will celebrate American Muslim Heritage Month, May 27<sup>th</sup> is Ramadan. The objective is to ensure our Muslim students and staff feel safe, comfortable and they feel they are part of the District. **Ms. Dahl**

thanked **Mr. Albano**, his team and **Ms. Khan-Ghany** for the hard work on all the items discussed, the work is greatly appreciated.

### **PARLIMENTARY REVIEW**

**Ms. McDougle** presented a video pop quiz regarding parliamentary procedure for member participation and discussion.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Ms. Pope** shared that she spoke with **Barbara Myrick**, General Counsel, regarding the memorandum on advisory committees. **Ms. Myrick** will be providing a follow-up memo for further clarification. **Ms. Pope** said, “**Ms. Myrick** is not holding to the position that committees cannot hold meetings without a quorum. It was not her intent to stop informational meetings to go forward without a quorum with discussion and presentation but not on any item that might come forward for a vote.” **Ms. Pope** said, “**Mr. Moquin** will be bringing the by-laws forward to the Board and written communication will be forthcoming.”

### **IMPACT OF NEW IMMIGRATION LAWS ON STUDENTS AND FAMILY**

**Mr. Albano** discussed Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students who came to the country when they were young but are allowed to come to school. There is concern about how the current administration will handle the 800,000 young people who are in protected status which will expire with a year. **Mr. Albano** relayed a story about a young boy who was not in school during a school day. The family are undocumented immigrants and the mother was living in fear that if she registered her child for school the family would be deported. In addition to fear of deportation, incidences of bullying are occurring and are heightened due to the current atmosphere of threat of deportation. Staff wants to reassure families that the District does not ask for citizenship status when students register for school. It is a priority for all students to feel safe at school. Sanctuary Cities description was shared, noting there is concern that federal funding could be halted if cities continue the practice. **Mr. Albano** shared a document titled *Talking Points and Resources for Responding to Student Immigration Concerns* which contains talking points, resources and links for parents, community and staff.

### **OVERVIEW OF SITE VISITATION PROCESS**

**Ms. Dahl** and **Ms. Williams** reviewed the site visitation process. School selection for site visits was discussed. Various factors are considered including, but not limited to: academic rigor, specialization, no prior site visits or trending issues. **Ms. Dahl** described aspects and procedures the day of a site visit. During the visit, District Facilities staff take photos of items/issues that stand out. It was noted that typically the Monday after a visit a teleconference is held with the principal, select school staff, Committee members and Diversity, Prevention & Intervention staff. **Ms. Dahl** relayed that site visits are not meant to be a “got you” or what schools are doing wrong, it is more about equal resources and equity. Often times site visits can help schools get resources and repairs that are much needed. District staff are notified of red-flag items and issues with Indicator items. The Indicators and the need to revise them was reviewed. **Ms. Mizell** shared concern that Condition Four is not on the walk-through form. There was discussion on the newer, streamlined walk-through form used for the day of the site visit, noting that all conditions are not on it. It was suggested that the Site Visit Subcommittee discuss the topic further and decided if they want to revise the walk-through form. Site visits can range from one and a half hours at an elementary school to four hours in a high school.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Mr. Graham** expressed concern about what is being done regarding truancy in relation to keeping students in school and what is being done for at-risk students who are not retaining information or understanding curriculum at their level. **Ms. Pope** shared various ways in which the District is addressing attendance and truancy. **Major Pannu** shared that the students need better role models and need more incentive to achieve at higher levels. The students know they are going to pass with C's and D's.

**Ms. Kahn-Ghany** suggested that the parents, teachers, staff, often give the students excuses, and they use them. We should all hold the students accountable for their work and achievement. **Mr. Wilson** suggested that presentation about these topics could be brought to the Committee. He asked Committee members to develop strategies and ideas as to how the District, staff and parents can encourage students to achieve and not use excuses.

**Mr. Wilson**, by consensus moved the following agenda item to next month's general meeting: "Preparation for Board Workshop". By consent, a motion to extend the meeting by two minutes was agreed upon. **Ms. Harris** shared concern about the equity in regard to the changes at Millennium Middle 6-12 grade boundary model. Are all students given the same opportunity to achieve a college degree during middle and high school? **Ms. Pope** shared various ways students can take college courses and that two schools, Lauderhill and Dillard are 6-12 models. **Mr. Wilson** shared that this topic is in-line with the Committee's work on equity and the Committee can encourage the District to develop more schools that enhance student achievement.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.,  
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the February 2, 2017 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.