

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 4, 2015**

SUMMARY

Members Present

Andy Ansola	Douglas Harrison
Harve Brosten	Charlie King
Rebecca Dahl	Esther Mizell
Gaspar Garcia	Ernestine Price
Andrea Gundersen	Michael Sirbola
Reverend Luc Harrigan	

Members Absent

Jamie Cutler, Student Rep.	Beverly Perkins
Susan Edwards	Frederick Perry
Lillie Harris	Mary Williams, Student Rep.
Thomas Lauder	Bryan Wilson
Aaliyah McCrary, Student Rep.	

District Staff: Patrick Sipple; Mark DaSilva

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

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

Parliamentarian: Patricia McDougale

Guests: Delana Mizell

CALL TO ORDER

An informal meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. by **Ms. Pope**. A quorum was not present.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Pope thanked members for their service on the Committee and their service to the students of Broward County. Per Policy 1.7 the current membership concludes on June 30th. School Board members will soon submit their appointments and/or reappointments to the Committee.

POLICY 5004.1 SCHOOL CHOICE

Mr. Sipple, Director of Demographics & Student Assignment shared information with the Committee regarding changes to Policy 5004.1. He reviewed the process for students getting into Virginia Shuman Young Elementary. Discussion followed on priority of students selected and how the 150 seats for neighborhood students fit into the process. **Mr. Sirbola** asked, "How is segregation affected since School Choice has been implemented?" **Mr. Sipple** said, "Broward Schools is a 100% choice District in schools with available seats. He said, "The application is online and in public locations throughout the District. Staff looks at the racial breakdown of the applications coming in and even though the choices will not and cannot be separated based on race, the District then looks at marketing choice options. There is data on the applications in relation to race and ethnicity. The racial and ethnic change in schools is variable year to year depending on applicants and where student reside." **Mr. Sipple** reviewed transportation of students in relation to choice options. **Ms. Pope** said, "If the full Committee would like the data, an information request may be submitted later in the meeting." **Mr. Sirbola** said, "Maybe I didn't phrase it properly. How has segregation been affected since we've employed Choice?" "I think I made that reasonably clear." He said, "Can you track, if we ask **Mr. Runcie** to ask you to do it, can you track segregation numbers?" **Mr. Sipple** said, "We don't currently track that data...(interrupted)" **Mr. Sirbola** said, "But you could. I want to make this clear to everyone. When I am speaking to you, I am speaking to you on the basis that I am literally seeing two or three children's bodies writhing in front of me, as we speak. Two out of every five kids are assaulted, this isn't a joke. We are literally standing on the bones of children. This does have to do with diversity. If I talk about an issue and it sounds superfluous, connect in your mind how this affects children.

We are all on the same side of this, we need to deal with this.” **Ms. Pope** thanked District staff for attending the meeting.

Ms. Pope called the general meeting to order at 7:15 p.m., with quorum present.

ADOPTON OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY MINUTES

The minutes for May 7, 2015 were approved, as presented.

PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT

Ms. McDougle discussed making and handling a motion. Members should make motions to conduct business, to get things done; to add items to the next agenda; to postpone something; to request information, etc., by saying “I move to, I move that.” She said, “The chair should restate the motion. After debate, if debatable, the Chair “puts” [the question] to a vote.” **Ms. McDougle** said, “The chair announces the result of the vote declaring the motion adopted or lost. **Ms. Mizell** requested a copy of the new addition of Robert’s Rules. She said, “I need to see the motions that were made and see results.” **Ms. McDougle** said, “She noticed **Ms. Dahl** had a copy of Robert’s Rules of Order In Brief; it would be a good choice.”

Motion by Mr. Sirbola, second by Ms. Mizell: “I move [to] ask Mr. Runcie for a small budget and a working website.” Discussion followed on where the money would come from; taking money away from our students and why not just get **Ms. Mizell** a book. **Mr. Sirbola** said, “I find it incomprehensible that we think we are going to do a job for a quarter of a million students and the only thing we require, boy we are one competent bunch of people to be able to do our job with one little book that costs seven dollars, is that all we need to do our job.” “It is like when we brag that we have completely disseminated the head of our School District by spending less on administrative costs than anyone else. I don’t want to waste our time talking about if someone needs a book or a shoelace. This is ridiculous, this is why nothing has been done for a year.” “We have real things that need to be done. We need to start taking actions and get used to acting on things instead of deliberating. This is not a joke, this isn’t a game.”

Motion by Mr. Sirbola, second by Ms. Mizell: “I move [to] ask Mr. Runcie for a small budget and a working website.” Motion lost 9-1.

SUBCOMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of grouping the ten subcommittees, outlined in the Bylaws, verses setting up ten separate subcommittees. **Ms. Pope** said, “Is it the preference for the Committee to allow members to sign up for the ten subcommittees and the chair, with the input of the members, select which subcommittees to focus on?” **Ms. Dahl** said, “The Committee has certain things they are supposed to be working on.” “I have a concern that the sitting chair may decide that none of the subcommittees listed in the Bylaws need to be a priority.” **Mr. Garcia** said, “It is presumed that the Chair will act on behalf of the Committee, otherwise the Committee will call the Chair to question.” **Ms. Pope** said, “Based on discussion, staff will formalize some guidelines and provide backup information on the subcommittees for the August meeting. Subcommittee organization will be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.”

MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Mizell asked, “Who will submit our Bylaws once we finalized them?” **Ms. Pope** said, “The Department will submit the Bylaws to the Chief of Staff.”

Motion by Mr. Sirbola, second by Mr. Harrison: “I move to ask Demographics to provide the micro and macro-specific segregation indicator data for all Broward Schools under school choice and

compare to segregation data from prior to school choice.” Motion lost 9-1 (Ms. Mizell was out of the room).

Ms. Dahl said, “All the site visits have been completed, the reports will be finalized after two more follow-up meetings with principals.” She requested that members attend the upcoming School Site Visit Subcommittee meetings this month to discuss which schools will be visited during the 2015-16 school year. Consensus was reached for members to discuss selecting site visit schools on June 8, 2015.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Brosten said, “It is dis-ingenious, **Mr. Sirbola**, for you to keep making comments about the powerlessness of this Committee and how little it has accomplished.” “It is un-true.” He said, “You seem to come from conspiracy thinking mindset; that everyone is against us. I am amazed that you can denigrate what we have done and what we hope to in the future by saying we haven’t accomplished anything. Maybe you should look to yourself as to what you are not accomplishing in these meetings and look at what we have accomplished. I take it as a personal insult and an insult to my fellow members. I think you should be more conservative in the time you feel you allowed to take in the meetings; you are taking up a lot of our time.”

Mr. Ansola said, “two years ago the Committee voted to document and video-record the CCC historical accomplishment; I would like to see it back on the agenda.” He said, “It is a part of Black History.” **Ms. Dahl** said, “If she had remained chair, it was on a list to get it done. The historical information does need to be preserved.”

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE BYLAWS DRAFT

Mr. Garcia said, “the Committee had agreed to remove the Governance Committee so reference to it should be removed in the following location: Page 4, Article V, Letter D: ~~strike and the Governance Committee.~~”

Mr. Sirbola said, “**Mr. Runcie** recently stated that 90 students have been bullied compared to 1,050 previously and that our data on 3rd to 12th grade reading has not shown much improvement and blamed the parents.” “The fact that we don’t respond to these kinds of statements, I respect everyone here, but I do not respect what we have done.”

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the June 4, 2015 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 080615