

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 4, 2011

SUMMARY

Members Present:

Andy Ansola	Shevrin Jones	Nancy Rogan
Barbara Beasley-Williamson	Esther Mizell	Michael Ryan
Harve Brosten	Catherine Owens	James Sparks
Alfred Delgado	Daljit Pannu	Carlos Verney, Jr.
Roland Foulkes	Ernestine Price	Suzanne Yach
Julian Gazzano		

Members Absent:

Somy Ali	Bari Goldberg	Rose Newell
Pierce Ginzberg	Marguerite Luster	Tammy Reed
	Laura Munoz	

Parliamentarian:

Patricia McDougale

District Staff: Kathrine Francis, Executive Director, Student Support Services

Diversity, Cultural Outreach & Prevention Staff: Michaelle Pope, Director; Terri Jones; Latricia Lauture

Guests: Dr. Edwina Coleman, Nezar Hamze, Yunus Ismail, Abdulrauf Khan, Mae Smith, Eunice Sutton

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Foulkes called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., with a quorum.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Committee adopted the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Ansola to defer the adoption of the June 2, 2011 Summary Minutes, seconded by Ms. Owens. Motion passed 14-1.

CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR REPORT/UPDATES/INSIGHTS

Mr. Foulkes acknowledged Nezar Hamze, Abdulrauf Khan, and Yunus Ismail. Nezar Hamze spoke about the effort, coordinated by various Islamic Organizations, to distribute approximately 500 backpacks filled with school supplies for Broward County School's students. He asked for collaboration in finding points of distribution to the students of greatest need. Committee members provided various suggestions and will contact Mr. Hamze if they would like to provide further assistance.

Motion by Mr. Gazzano, seconded by Ms. Price "that beginning with the August 4, 2011 monthly meeting, the Diversity Committee, in the month of June, 2012 and annually and beyond, adopt, support, and have both its committee and subcommittee work guided and driven by the full/complete – "Resolution in Support of Civility" issued, resolved, and passed by the School Board of Broward County annually since 2003. Motion passed 15-0.

Mr. Foulkes spoke about the textbook adoption process. He is a non-voting member of the Textbook Adoption Committee. He thanked **Mrs. Pope** for recommending that a Diversity Committee member serve on the Textbook Adoption Committee.

http://www.fldoe.org/bii/instruct_mat/imaover.asp

DEPARTMENT AND DISTRICT UPDATES/INSIGHTS

Mrs. Pope apologized for the Committee not receiving the meeting agenda and packet prior to the meeting. She said the Department has a new Community Liaison, **Carolyn Salters**. **Mrs. Pope** spoke of the merging of approximately 18 Prevention staff members into the Department, newly named Diversity, Cultural Outreach & Prevention. The primary goal of the Department is to support schools. We have an exciting, new comprehensive school support system titled *Behavioral and Academic Student Information System (BASIS)*, which targets students and schools for prevention, intervention, at-risk and specialized services around academics, emotional and behavioral health. It is being rolled-out for the 2011-12 school year. She would like to bring it before the Committee on a future agenda. The Citizens Concerned about our Children (CCC) 4th Quarter Status Update will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting. **Mrs. Pope** said **Michael Rajner** has resigned from the Diversity Committee after four years of diligent, committed service. I wish him well on the behalf of the Department and staff. It is time to put some things behind us and move forward with the work of the Committee.

A member inquired, "How does the Department merger affect the Committee?" **Mr. Foulkes** said the organizational structure of the Department has no bearing on what happens with the Committee as far as name change, etc. Over the last seven years, three different Diversity Committee ad hoc committees have been set up to change the name and focus of the Committee. On more than one occasion it was decided by the School Board to maintain the name and structure of the Committee. **Mrs. Pope** said the primary goal of the Department is schools and students, which I think, is a goal we share with the Committee.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Site Visit Subcommittee

Motion: that we postpone the approval of the summary report of the Sunland Park Elementary School until our September meeting made by Ms. Williamson, seconded by Mr. Delgado. Motion passed 15-0.

Mr. Ansola noted that there is a serious security and safety communication issue at Sunland Park Elementary. **Mr. Foulkes** asked that the Site Visit Subcommittee explore the current situation in that regard and report back to the full Committee in September.

Ms. Owens said the subcommittee finalized the list of ten schools that will have a Diversity Committee site visit this school year, as follows: Parkway Middle, Oakridge Elementary, Nova High, Hallandale Community Center, Sanders Park Elementary, Rickards Middle, Hollywood Hills High, North Fork Elementary, Deerfield Beach Middle, and Taravella High School. A list of site visit dates will be revised and brought forward to the next meeting.

Internal Diversity Committee Policy, By-laws, Procedures, and Practices

Mr. Verney presented the By-laws, which were approved by the Subcommittee on April 7, 2011 and include recommendations by the Legal Department. Since that time the only change was to add term limits language in Article 4, Section 2. Committee members were asked to review the document and be prepared to vote on it at the September 1, 2011 Diversity Committee meeting.

Media Centers, Textbook, Technology

Ms. Yach said it was previously discussed that staff from the Technology Department as well as Learning Resources come to a Subcommittee meeting to give an overview of the changes taking place in relation to new technology law. The Subcommittee agreed, this topic should be brought forward to the full Committee on a future agenda. The Subcommittee requests that the following be sent to the full Committee prior to the staff overview: a copy of the “new State laws relative to changes in Broward County Schools, technology changes, challenges in general, what we need and what we have to look forward to.” These changes affect the CCC Indicators and compliance with the CCC Settlement Agreement.

Members voiced various concerns regarding the digital-divide getting wider; concern for students who do not have Internet access at home; concern regarding access to the Code of Student Conduct Handbook. Members inquired about computer training for parents in Title I schools so they can learn to access pertinent items online.

Mrs. Francis said the Code of Student Conduct Handbook is transitioning to the electronic version. There will be a number of hard copies at each school based on the enrollment with additional copies for Title I schools. Hard copies of the four pages parents have to sign will be provided to all students. Principals will have computers available for parents at open houses, health fairs, parent nights, etc. **Mrs. Francis** said computer classes or training sessions for parents are site-based decisions. She said principals might want to survey parents to determine need and that she would bring the suggestion up at the next principals meeting. **Mr. Sparks** said he thinks the School Board should make computer training for parents available at all schools. **Mrs. Francis** said she would bring that recommendation to the Executive Leadership Team. She said the Technology Department does complete a survey as to the needs, services, age of equipment, etc., at each school. **Mr. Sparks** said he would like the Diversity Committee to get a copy of the results of the surveys each year.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Foulkes spoke about segregation and re-segregation in schools and asked the Committee to think about this issue during observations at school site visits. **Mr. Verney** suggested the Committee gather and review data from the community and students as to whether school policies are facilitating segregation or whether it is by individual or group choice.

Mr. Delgado said that language could be a barrier to full integration for students that are not fluent English speakers. He asked that information be provided to the Committee regarding the effectiveness of the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Programs.

Members spoke of concerns about the School Board marketing to parents that students can flee failing schools noting that only some students may have the ability to flee the school due to the barrier of transportation issues. **Ms. Yach** said that she believes it is State law that students have the option to leave a failing school and as soon as a school is classified as a D or F school a process goes into place to set benchmarks for improvement. **Ms. Pope** said it is a Federal mandate to implement the Choice Program and Opportunities Scholarship Choice Program. The District may not be addressing completely what is being done for the D and F schools once they are identified. However, there is an entire Department, Strategic Achievement, devoted to these schools. Dollars are being directed toward bringing-in coaches, instructional review teams who walk the classrooms, review processes, make recommendations and leave behind a team to help the school implement the recommendations, provide the resources for

professional development, additional materials, etc. **Mr. Ryan** said the District cannot do this alone; it needs to be a community effort. He would like to see a more proactive School Board in getting the word out to the community as to what the plan is to bring-up D and F schools.

Ms. Rogan said School Board member **Laurie Rich Levinson** has created *Parent/ Community Involvement Task Force* that has several subcommittees, which are open to the public that deal with business, non-profit, parent, school, homeowner, and government outreach. <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/PCTF/index.htm>

Mr. Foulkes said he is hearing that there is a consensus that there is a problem with segregation, whether racial or economic, in our schools and suggests this discussing continues at the next meeting.

Motion to recognize Western High School Senior and Debate/Forensics Champion, Mr. Daniel Enrique Caballero, with the Diversity Committee's 2011 Diversity, Educational Equity, and Inclusive Leader-in-Action Award, by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Jones. Motion passed 14-0.

Mr. Ryan suggested that a more robust effort, regarding the promotion of the award, be made to principals.

Meeting adjourned 8:54 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the August 4, 2011 Diversity Committee meeting. If any Committee member, or other interested party, would like more detailed information as to the contents of this summary, contact the Diversity, Cultural Outreach & Prevention Department at 754-321-2090.