

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 1, 2011

SUMMARY

Members Present:

Andy Ansola	Julian Gazzano	Ernestine Price
Barbara Beasley-Williamson	Shevrin Jones	Tammy Reed
Jason Burns	Marguerite Luster	Franco Ripple
Michael De Gruccio	Esther Mizell	Nancy Rogan
Roland Foulkes	Laura Munoz	Suzanne Yach

Members Absent:

Harve Brosten	Bari Goldberg	Daljit Pannu
Elisa Calmer	Daphne Henry	Carlos Verney
Alfred Delgado		

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

Diversity, Cultural Outreach & Prevention Staff: Michaelle Pope, Director; Terri Jones; Carolyn Salters; Marion M. Williams

Parliamentarian: Patricia McDougle

Guests: William Gjebre; Latrinsha Greaves

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Pope called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Committee adopted the Agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

November 3, 2011 Summary Minutes were approved as presented.

PARLIAMENTARIAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. McDougle reviewed the following: members should raise their hand to seek recognition from the Chair to speak; wait until another member has finished speaking before waving your hand to be recognized; routine business can be accomplished by the procedure "unanimous consent". **Ms. McDougle** addressed processes: upcoming nominations and election of chair and vice-chair; duties of the nominating committee, and ballot voting. She said any member of the nominating committee may be nominated for office and elections will be by majority vote; more than half the votes cast.

WORLD AIDS DAY: GETTING TO ZERO

Ms. Pope discussed a powerpoint presentation and presented a "Reality Avenue" video regarding HIV/AIDS safety and awareness for high school students. She said programming for elementary and middle school students is available as well. She said schools have been engaged in a host of activities regarding World AIDS Day. Extensive information, activities, and lesson plans for every level and subject area are available on BEEP, BECON and the Prevention Web site:

<http://www.browardprevention.org/resources/health-wellness/hiv-aids-education/>

Mr. Burns said some of the information on the video might be outdated. **Ms. Williamson** asked if the Committee can make sure students are getting the information? **Ms. Yach** said Prevention Programs staff is doing excellent, effective work with our students via peer counseling and Norman Powell. **Ms. Rogan** said HIV/AIDS safety and awareness needs to be wrapped into the health and wellness message to the students throughout the year.

Motion by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Jones “that this film be updated and that during the school year, it be shown twice a year.” After discussion: **Motion Withdrawn.**

Ms. Francis said she would like to provide the Committee with a comprehensive list of what schools are currently engaged in providing HIV/AIDS safety and awareness: programs; initiatives; core curriculum requirements; sex-education information; health services information; and mandates from the State. There is also a HIV/AIDS prevention grant, with additional activities, through the Health Education Services Department. **Ms. Francis** said if time allows, on the January 2012 agenda, staff would address the Committee with detailed information.

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR REPORT

Mr. Foulkes recognized **Mr. Gazzano** for his outstanding support as Vice-Chair of the Committee. He read a letter he wrote regarding the work accomplished by the Diversity Committee during 2010-2011. **Mr. Foulkes** thanked members for their exemplary contributions to the bold, focused, dedicated work of the Committee. He reviewed four of six completed Committee requirements, the timeline of the Diversity Committee Annual Report, goals and agenda recommendations accomplished and his pledge to the Committee, as outlined in his letter. **Mr. Foulkes** said in 2011, 26 of 31 individual Diversity Committee member goals were addressed, as well as, 14 of 20 agenda recommendations from members were completed.

Mr. Gazzano thanked members and staff for their confidence and support of him as Vice-Chair. He said greatly respects **Ms. Pope’s** leadership. Her ability to elicit individual ideas and accept recommendations is refreshing. He said **Mr. Foulkes** is a professional, dedicated, passionate person who has great history and knowledge of the Committee, and has sincere focus for the needs of all Committee members and their constituents. **Mr. Gazzano** said due to family circumstances he would not seek re-election for office.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTION

Ms. Pope said a seven-member nominating committee would be selected, it should be diverse in nature and reflect the membership of the Committee. She reviewed the process for both the nominating committee and elections in January and noted that voting will be conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order and the Diversity Committee By-laws. The election will be by ballot and a majority vote shall elect. **Ms. Pope** opened the floor for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee, they are as follows: **Ms. Price, Ms. Luster, Ms. Mizell, Mr. De Gruccio, Mr. Burns, Ms. Yach and Major Pannu.**

SUBCOMMITTEES

Site Visitation

Ms. Price said the Parkway Middle School Site Visit Report was finalized in subcommittee. That report along with reports from Nova High School and Hallandale Adult Center will be brought to the full Committee in January. **Ms. Price** said there would be a site visitation on Thursday, December 8 2011. The following members have signed up for this visit: **Ms. Mizell, Mr. Foulkes, Ms. Goldberg, Mr. Ansola, Ms. Munoz, and Ms. Luster.** She encouraged members to attend at least one site visit.

Mr. Runcie briefly stepped into the Diversity Committee meeting and addressed the Committee. He said he fully supports the work, commitment, and dedication of the Committee; he looks forward to working with them in a collaborative fashion to improve what we do as a District. He said he looks forward to coming together as a community to address the barriers imposed by the State and move toward making public education the best avenue for all of our students. For some students, public education may be their only hope for opportunity and it may be a life-changing experience. **Mr. Runcie** thanked the Committee for the work they do.

Ms. Pope thanked the Superintendent and said the Committee looks forward to him addressing the Committee at their February 2012 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS/GOOD OF THE ORDER

By unanimous consent the Nominating Committee agreed to meet at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 5th, before the general Diversity Committee meeting.

Ms. Williamson asked “what could we do to speak to the School Board members who previously appointed **Ms. Owens** and **Mr. Sparks**, to get them back on the Committee?” **Ms. Price** said she wonders if some Board members really want this Committee to function, as it should. She said she feels the Committee is not being treated right; it is not respected and that the removal of **Ms. Owens** and **Mr. Sparks** is a slap in the face.

Ms. Pope said Policy 1.7 and Policy 1.5 govern appointments to the Committee and that both policies will come before the Board in 2012, at which time members can provide input on changes for appointing members to District committees. She said she spoke with both **Ms. Owens** and **Mr. Sparks** and she agrees that they both brought a high level of service to the Committee. **Ms. Pope** said **Mr. Sparks** said something important and poignant: he didn’t need to be a member of any committee to continue fighting for children in this District. He can work through the Diversity Committee and other committees; he will speak with Board members and the Superintendent when he needs to as a citizen in Broward County who fights for children. **Ms. Pope** suggested, as the Committee moves forward and members discuss who needs to be on the Committee, be positive and hopeful that current and new members will continue the work of **Mr. Sparks** and **Ms. Owens**, that they will be equally passionate and committed to equity in education for all District students.

Mr. Ansola said the Committee voted to document the CCC from inception to today and he would like that project to move forward. **Ms. Pope** suggested that the topic be added to “new business” on the next agenda.

Mr. Ripple said it seems **Ms. Owens** and **Mr. Sparks** were very affective and widely respected members of this Committee. He suggested members speak with their School Board members to encourage them to return **Ms. Owens** and **Mr. Sparks** to the Committee. **Mr. Ripple** wished everyone Happy Holidays and exited the meeting.

Quorum Lost.

Meeting adjourned 8:53 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for January 5 at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the December 1, 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.