

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 3, 2015**

SUMMARY

Members Present

Andy Ansola	Lillie Harris
Da-Venya Armstrong	Reverend Luc Harrigan
Francesca Blanchard	Charlie King
Harve Brosten	Esther Mizell
Rebecca Dahl	Beverly Perkins
Susan Edwards	Ernestine Price
Gaspar Garcia	Michael Sirbola
Andrea Gundersen	Bryan Wilson

Members Absent

Douglas Harrison

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

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

Parliamentarian: Patricia McDougale

Guest: Mary Lampkin Bryant

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by **Ms. Pope**. A quorum was present.

ADOPTON OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY MINUTES

The minutes for August 6, 2015 were approved, as revised.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Pope shared information regarding the upcoming September 22, 2015, School Board workshop. At the Workshop there will be discussion regarding Policy 1.7 School Board Established Advisory Committees. **Mr. Moquin** asked advisory committees to give particular attention to the following in regard to Policy 1.7: “Chair will meet annually with the Superintendent to collaborate on goals and objectives for the school year”, Bylaws; “Members are public officers subject to state ethics and must sign a conflict of interest form and each member shall complete the annual training program.” There is a proposed revision to Policy 1.7 summarized as follows: Authorizing the Superintendent to temporarily suspend the activities of an advisory committee not in compliance with Policy 1.7. The suspension will be limited until such time as the committee is in full compliance with the Policy. **Mr. Moquin** encourages all advisory committee members to attend the Board workshop.

Ms. Dahl said, “I take offense that they want to temporarily suspend committees. Last year our former chair refused to meet with the Superintendent. I don’t think the whole committee should be sanctioned due to one person. We are un-compensated volunteers. I will share this at the workshop as an individual.”

Ms. Pope said, “Changes to the Policy would be effective after Board approval.” **Ms. Edwards** said, “The committees should be given a warning before being shut down.” **Mr. Sirbola** said, “We need to step up and do what is best for the students; we are failing the students.” **Mr. Wilson** said, “This falls back on the chair and vice-chair to ensure we are adhering to policy.” He said, “Is it possible for the vice-chair and/or a member to attend the meeting with the Superintendent as well?” **Ms. Pope** said, “It is her

experience that the Superintendent would be open to that.” **Ms. Price** said, “The Committee has worked hard to help the schools. We need to elect a chair and vice-chair that will follow policy.” **Mr. Garcia** said, “This does not sound like a big threat; the Committee needs to ensure the chair is following policy. If there is a suspension, is there a process in place to re-instate advisory committees?” **Ms. Pope** said, “It would be of value to bring all those questions to the Board workshop.”

PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT

Ms. McDougle said, “Policy 1.7 indicates that advisory committees follow Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 11th Addition.” Parliamentary procedure protects the rights of the members and allows everyone to be heard. The quorum protects the rights of the members who are absent from a meeting. It was noted that in smaller meetings rules can be less formal, such as: discussion does not need to be limited; motions don’t need to be seconded and the chair can speak in debate, vote and make motions.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Brosten said, “The Nominating Committee expects the following standards for the chair and vice-chair:

- **Respect for the Committee**
- **Respect and understanding of parliamentary rules**
- **Respect and understanding that the Committee works with the School Board members and staff to create a collaborative feeling.**

ELECTION

Mr. Brosten said, “there are two nominations for chair: **Ms. Dahl** and **Mr. Wilson**. Each nominee may take one minute to address the Committee.”

Ms. Dahl said, “I withdraw my name for position for chair. I would like to enter my name for vice-chair.” **Mr. Wilson** said, “I have been on the Committee for three years; I have enjoyed every minute and have learned a lot. I have not previously submitted my name to serve for chair or vice-chair, but I think I am ready now. I do not want to lead, necessarily, but to facilitate the growth of the Committee. I hope to facilitate, not dominate, our interaction with the School Board, among Committee members, staff and the community. I believe in the expertise of all members of the Committee and promise to give you respect.”

Mr. Brosten open the floor for further nominations for chair. Hearing none, **Ms. Pope** declared **Mr. Wilson** chair of the Diversity Committee by acclamation. **Mr. Wilson** thanked all the members.

The following names were submitted for vice-chair: **Ms. Dahl**, **Ms. Harris**, and **Mr. Sirbola**. Each nominee was giving one minute to speak on their behalf.

Mr. Sirbola said, “He has taught, run mostly high-tech companies, worked on artificial software, etc. The reason I want to run is for each member of the Committee to watch two short videos that show how diversity affects segregation, how integration is the other side. The videos are very critical to see.”

Ms. Harris said, “I am currently a police lieutenant for the City of Miami Police Department, I have a master’s degree in public administration, I sit on a civil service board for the City of Miami and was past chair. I would like to be instrumental as vice-chair to ensure diversity and bring experience as it relates to security in schools.”

Ms. Dahl said, “She has been chair of the Site Visit Subcommittee for the past three years; she attends many meetings throughout the District and shares pertinent information from those meetings with Committee members; has a working knowledge of the District, the Conditions and the CCC lawsuit and her expertise would assist **Mr. Wilson** as he goes forward as chair.”

Members voted by ballot: majority vote will elect.

The final vote as follows: **Ms. Dahl** 9, **Ms. Harris** 6, **Mr. Sirbola** 1

Mr. Wilson announced **Ms. Dahl** as the new vice-chair of the Diversity Committee.

SUBCOMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

Ms. Dahl briefly reviewed the work of the Assignment and Reassignment, Site Visitation subcommittee.

Mr. Wilson said, “He encourages rich dialog in the subcommittee meetings. Various topics may fit into one or more of the subcommittees, exchange of ideas and bringing in new topics is of value. Members reviewed the subcommittee chart and more members volunteered. The Committee reviewed dates and times of meetings. **Mr. Wilson** said, “He will attend as many of the subcommittees as he can and the meetings are open to the public.”

The members selected to serve on subcommittees as follows:

- Five-Year Capital Plan & Facilities: Ms. Dahl, Mr. Garcia, Ms. Mizell, Ms. Price, Mr. Sirbola, Mr. Wilson
- Assignment and Reassignment, Site Visitation: Mr. Brosten, Ms. Dahl, Ms. Price
- Technology: Ms. Blanchard, Ms. Dahl, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Sirbola
- Student Discipline and Suspension: Mr. Ansola, Ms. Gundersen, Ms. Perkins, Ms. Price, Mr. Sirbola
- Advanced Placement and Honors: Mr. Brosten, Ms. Edwards, Ms. Mizell, Mr. Sirbola
- Standards of Service: Ms. Blanchard, Mr. Brosten, Mr. Garcia, Ms. Mizell, Mr. Sirbola, Mr. Wilson

Ms. Dahl spoke about District Facilities. She noted **Derek Messier**, Chief Facilities Officer, has resigned from the District. **Mr. Moquin**, will assist in running Facilities until the position is filled. There is a **District Educational Facilities Plan (DEFP)** meeting Tuesday, September 8th at 5:30 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend especially the members on the Five-Year Capital Plan & Facilities Subcommittee. **Ms. Dahl** recapped the last DEFP meeting and the difference in spending the bond money versus DEFP funds. **Mr. Wilson** requested prior subcommittee members share what might be expected, experiences and/or suggestions regarding subcommittee meetings. **Ms. Edwards** said, “The subcommittees should select a chair, draft goals and select a subcommittee secretary from its membership.” **Rev. Harrigan** suggested revising the criteria for selection of the schools that are slated for site visits.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE WEBSITE

Mr. Nieves guided members to the **Diversity Committee** website via Prevention Programs on the School Board website. He noted various aspects including: meeting schedule, approved minutes, forms, Policies 1.5 and 1.7, etc. <http://www.browardprevention.org/diversity/diversity-committee/>

Ms. Pope said, “Staff is open to one-on-one conversations about the Committee as well, if a member needs more information.” **Mr. Sirbola** said, “Posting the website is a major accomplishment; it will grow with time; kudos to staff for providing the information to the public.” **Mr. Garcia** asked if the previous annual reports are posted on the website. **Ms. Pope** shared that some annual reports were posted for school board meetings and workshops going back five years or more. One of the past chairs felt passionately that the reports should be maintained in his care; there was a fear that the reports would be changed by staff. Staff can post the last two years abbreviated reports. **Mr. Nieves** shared the Diversity, Prevention & Intervention Twitter address: @diversitybcps. **Ms. Mizell** said, “I am asking for all the motions that were put-forth be brought back for review to see what we need and what we don’t need.” She believes motions should be submitted when the chair gives their report to the Board. “Will you please bring the motions out of archive?” **Mr. Wilson** said, “Absolutely, I am a very action-orientated; I encourage all members to make motions.”

Mr. Wilson inquired how the agenda is formulated and finalized. **Ms. Pope** said, “Typically the agenda is generated at the Chair, Vice-Chair, Staff Subcommittee meeting. She noted that members wanted to bring forward agenda items during the general meeting, perhaps a section on the agenda or during Good of the Order.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Site Visitation: **Ms. Dahl** provided the Site Visit Report to Committee members. She briefly reviewed various aspects of the school visits. She noted the variety of schools visited, stating the schools were clean, students were well-behaved; they made good first impressions and there were a lot of best practices visible. **Ms. Dahl** shared that Meadowbrook Elementary stood out as one of the best schools implementing STEM without STEM funds; very impressive. Notable in middle schools, among others, was New Renaissance Middle where behavior intervention was top notch. **Ms. Dahl** briefly reviewed the recommendations section in the back of the report indicating what the Site Visit Subcommittee needs to look-out for in the future.

Ms. Harris noted a discrepancy between schools that are allotted bond money and look good versus schools that are in great need of upgraded security. How can the Committee voice those concerns? **Mr. Wilson** said, “The Site Visit Subcommittee can bring motions forward and/or members can make motions in the general meeting to voice those concerns to the Board. He encouraged all members to meet and/or speak with their appointing Board members on a regular basis at least quarterly.”

Ms. Anderson thanked the Committee for having her there. She indicated she did not know all the general meetings were held the 1st Thursday of the month. She has a standing conflict in her calendar; and is not sure it can be changed. She indicated she has a child attending Stranahan High School and that if she can continue with the Committee she will ensure that the Committees voices will be heard and that they will be taken seriously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the September 3, 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 100115