

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 1, 2015**

Members Present

Da-Venya Armstrong	Reverend Luc Harrigan
Francesca Blanchard	Charlie King
Harve Brosten	Esther Mizell
Rebecca Dahl	Ernestine Price
Susan Edwards	Michael Sirbola
Gaspar Garcia	Bryan Wilson

Members Absent

Andy Ansola
Andrea Gundersen
Lillie Harris
Douglas Harrison
Beverly Perkins

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

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

Parliamentarian: Patricia McDougale

Guest: Debra Peterson

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. A quorum was present.

ADOPTON OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY MINUTES

The minutes for September 3, 2015 were approved as presented.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Wilson relayed that he is working on getting an expert to address the Committee regarding testing and Florida Standards. Professor Corinne Manley, University of Florida, will be providing a statement on how our testing indicators should be revised with some facts and figures as backup. The Standards of Service Subcommittee will continue work on the topic.

VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Dahl thanked members for the good attendance at the subcommittee meetings held before the general meeting and encouraged members to attend future subcommittee meetings. A chair and vice-chair were selected for the Five-Year Capital Plan Facilities Subcommittee. She noted that information on Policy 1.7, as it relates to the Board Workshop, will be discussed further in the agenda.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Pope discussed the well-received Division presentation to the School Board regarding outcomes and status of the PROMISE Program. As a result of the District's work around Eliminating the School to Prison Pipeline and reducing disproportional representation of minority students in suspensions and school-related arrests, our Superintendent has been honored at the White House and by our State of Florida Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. **Ms. Pope** said, "There will be a Hispanic Heritage month celebration at the upcoming Board meeting, on Tuesday, October 6th at 11:30 a.m. all members are

invited to attend.” **Ms. Pope** gave an update of the Board Workshop regarding Policy 1.7-School Board Established Advisory Committees, which included the following:

- Annual training is a requirement. If training was already taken, members are required to log-on and take a five question survey, which is the updated training for the year. **Mr. Moquin** would like all members on the same cycle, if you have not taken the training prior to July 1, 2015, though not required, please take the full training again.
- Conflict of Interest Statement is in the revision process. If conflict arises, a Conflict of Interest Form must be submitted.
- Revisions to the Bylaws Template will be forthcoming; all advisory committee will be required to use the new template as provided, with no deviation.

Ms. Pope said, “The Chair and Vice-Chair gave an exceptional report on the work and progress of the Committee at recent School Board meeting. It was very well-received by the Board members and the Superintendent.” The Diversity Committee Chair had mentioned the prospect of having the Vice-Chair and possibly another member at the meeting with **Mr. Runcie**. At that time a comment was made by another advisory committee chair that this might be a breach of the Sunshine Law. Legal Counsel advised that, in fact, only the Chair should meet with **Mr. Runcie** regarding goals and objectives of the Committee.

PARLIAMENTARIAN’S REPORT

Ms. McDougle said, “Typically a member is not allowed to speak unless acknowledged by the Chair.” **Ms. McDougle** reviewed the following instances when a member may interrupt if urgency requires it: parliamentary inquiry; point of order; question of privilege; permission to withdraw a motion or modify a motion and request for information. She noted that members may appeal of a ruling of the Chair or reconsider a motion, but these items must be seconded. **Mr. Wilson** said, “He wants to ensure members know what the Committee is speaking about at any given moment.” He encouraged members to “request information” whenever needed to ensure clarity on what is being discussed.

Ms. Mizell mentioned there was discussion and clarification at the Board workshop that motions should be brought forward to the Board in the Chair’s report.

COMMITTEE ORIENTATION-POLICY 1.7

Ms. Williams gave an overview (including videos) of the Diversity Committee Orientation Packet including: Policy 1.5; Policy 1.7; Diversity Committee Bylaws; Florida’s Sunshine Law and Code of Ethics.

Ms. Pope said, “If members need more information or access to technology to complete the orientation, please reach out to the office and set-up a date and time to review the material.”

Mr. Garcia inquired about the mention of “no secret ballots.” He said, “Secret ballots were used at the last election; How is the Committee affected by this?” **Ms. Pope** said, “Policy 1.7 states to follow Robert’s Rules of Order which allows secret ballots. I will follow-up to verify and I defer to **Ms. McDougle**.” **Ms. McDougle** said, “Her issues are not legal they are parliamentary.” She indicated, since the voting for chair and vice-chair is an internal item and does not affect the public, in her opinion, voting for officers can be by secret ballot. She recommended **Ms. Pope** follow-up on the topic with legal counsel.

Mr. King said, “Who went up to the mountaintop and brought the Sunshine Laws down and what year? “I think maybe the professional politicians should be using them, it just seems like a cumbersome, ridiculous thing that a non-binding advisory body needs to adhere to.” **Ms. McDougle** said, “Historically

many deals were made in back rooms with the public in the dark. It is easy to surmise the genesis of Sunshine Laws was to curtail back-room transactions.” **Mr. Wilson** said, “It can be frustrating, but as the Committee moves forward with recommendations to the Superintendent and the School Board, I think it will be less challenging.” **Ms. Mizell** said, “I have the original of everything; every year this packet gets smaller and smaller.” “The Diversity Committee is governed by Policy 1.5; we are not governed like the other groups.”

Mr. Garcia said, “In light of **Ms. Mizell’s** comments, there may be an issue that should be addressed. What applies and doesn’t apply in the court order versus Policy 1.7 as they direct the Diversity Committee to determine what authority and directive the Committee needs to follow. He would like to put this forth in a motion to discuss this topic.” **Mr. Wilson** said, “The review of the indicators and goals are on the agenda, can the topic be discussed at that time?” **Mr. Garcia** indicated it could. **Ms. Pope** said, “A presentation from staff can be brought forward on a future agenda to discuss how the CCC Settlement Agreement interacts with Policy 1.7 and affects the Committee.”

Ms. Edwards asked if the Committee needs to have a Parliamentary Review at every meeting. **Mr. Wilson** said, “It is always for five minutes at each meeting; further discussion?” **Mr. King** said, “It probably cuts down on bloodshed.” No further discussion.

STANDARDS OF SERVICE-NEW STUDENT ASSESSMENT

REVIEW OF INDICATORS/GOALS

Mr. Wilson discussed Condition 3, Standards of Service, 3.1 and 3.2; both Indicators need to be brought up-to-par. Indicator 3.1 mentions the FCAT which is no longer administered. Revisions are needed to align with current tests such as the FSA, DRA, DRA2, etc. Members were encouraged to reach-out if they know experts on the topic to give feedback as to how the Indicators could be improved. **Ms. Dahl** relayed the importance and urgency of revising the indicators. **Mr. Sirbola** suggested the standards for our students should be compared to National standards as opposed to State standards. **Mr. Garcia** asked if the DRA Test is given over and over or does it have different levels. **Ms. Pope** said, “It is clustered with development growth as it is taken throughout the year. The content and the expected level of performances changes with each administration of the test.” “These same conversations have been going on for six or seven years; to adopt National standards. Florida, along with other states, have not opted-in to Common Core Standards. This makes it more difficult to compare.” **Mr. Wilson** requested the Committee receive a copy of the “No Child Left Behind” requirements. Web location: <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/edu-laws-legislation/no-child-left-behind>, click public law button, click the pdf document, the 670 page document will open.

Ms. Edwards acknowledged that a lot of work went into the Indicators document. It is very important work to ensure all students have what they need to succeed and have the same opportunities. The date of the next Standards of Service Subcommittee meeting, as well as all the subcommittee meetings was moved from October 19th to Monday, October 26th; the times remain the same. **Ms. Price** said, “Policy 1.5 is our heart and soul; we need to work for all students; we can’t let anyone come in and tell us what we need to do; the Policy dictates that.” “I am so proud that you are the Chair, Bryan.” “If you want an expert to come and tell us why the Diversity Committee is here; let **Fertig & Gramling** come.” **Mr. Wilson** said, “Thank you **Ms. Price**, it sounds like you agree to have more information brought to the Committee in regards to the CCC Settlement Agreement.” “It sounds like it is the spirit of the Committee that we want the School Board to honor diversity of student learning and test-taking styles.”

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Members briefly discussed the possibility of holding Diversity Committee meetings at alternative locations. **Ms. Mizell** said, “I want **Mary Fertig & Gramling** come and do a training for the School Board members on the CCC Settlement and all updated information.” **Ms. Dahl** said, “Generally when

the Diversity Committee Report goes to the Board at a workshop is when presentations have been made from **Fertig & Gramling**.” “I don’t feel comfortable sending our Chair to recommend the Board get training from the **Fertigs**.”

Motion approved by consent, to extend the meeting for five minutes.

**Motion by Ms. Mizell, “I move that Mary Fertig & Gramling come and do a training to the School Board members on the Policy of 1.5 Diversity CCC Settlement and all updated information.”
Motion passed 7-4.**

Mr. Garcia said, “I thought there was three things on the floor: the first was handled by the last motion; holding meetings at alternative locations and clarifying how Policy 1.7 aligns with the CCC Settlement Agreement. He said, “I don’t mind extending the meeting, however I think the meetings need to start on time out of respect for the other members.”

Motion approved by consent, to extend the meeting for five more minutes.

**Motion by Ms. Price, “I move that Mary Fertig & Gramling come and give a presentation on the CCC Settlement Agreement for Committee members.”
Motion passed 10-1.**

Mr. Garcia said, “My request includes clarifying what the CCC Settlement Agreement means today and does Policy 1.7, in its entirety and even part of it, affect the Agreement.” **Ms. Pope** said, “We will relay the request to present, at the point of presentation staff has no control of what is brought forward. It will be up to members to ask the questions they want clarified.”

Discussion followed on holding meetings at alternative locations such as schools. Barriers might be: burden on the school such as areas available/staff available to lock up if after hours; open meetings/The Jessica Lunsford Act/access to students; security.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.,
in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the October 1, 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 110515