

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

**November 5, 2015**

**Summary Minutes**

**Members Present**

Harve Brosten	Esther Mizell
Susan Edwards	Beverly Perkins
Andrea Gundersen	Ernestine Price
Lillie Harris	Michael Sirbola
Reverend Luc Harrigan	Bryan Wilson
Charlie King	

**Members Absent**

Andy Ansola  
Da-Venya Armstrong  
Francesca Blanchard  
Rebecca Dahl  
Gaspar Garcia

**Student Support Initiatives Staff:** Terri Jones; Latricia Lauture; Toni Rogers

**Diversity, Prevention & Intervention Staff:** Marion Williams

**Parliamentarian:** Patricia McDougle

**Guest:** Roland Foulkes

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. A quorum was present.

**ADOPTON OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted as revised.

**APPROVAL OF SUMMARY MINUTES**

The summary minutes for October 1, 2015 were approved as presented.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

**Mr. Wilson** shared that he recently met with the Superintendent. **Mr. Runcie** was very supportive of the Committee and especially of the revision of the Indicators to assist in doing what is best for our students and schools. **Mr. Runcie** and **Mr. Moquin** offered to have staff assistance with the revision of the Indicators. **Mr. Wilson** shared the amount of vacancies on the Committee and suggested the Superintendent requests that Board Members fill the vacancies. **Mr. Wilson** suggested members submit possible candidates for the Committee to staff and/or School Board members.

**Mr. Sirbola** said, "We have specifically asked for data from the Research staff who were at a previous meeting; we have not been provided that data." **Mr. Wilson** shared that he will do all he can to obtain responses to motions the Committee puts forward.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Ms. Williams** provided a report on behalf of **Ms. Pope**. She shared with the Committee, **Amalio Nieves**, Director, Diversity, Prevention & Intervention has accepted a position at a Boston School District. Staff has contacted the **Fertigs**, regarding a presentation to the Committee and we are awaiting a reply. **Mr. Garcia** previously had a question about secret ballot voting at the last election in relation to the Sunshine Law, **Ms. Pope** will give an update on the item at the next meeting.

**PARLIAMENTARIAN'S REPORT**

**Ms. McDougle** reviewed process and procedures of agendas. She noted when topics have a time-certain it must be followed. If the time expires for a particular item, a motion is necessary to extend the time for a topic. When the Committee adopts the agenda they are agreeing to follow the times outlined within the agenda. **Mr. Wilson** requested members not to take it personally when he moves the meeting and the agenda along within the timeframe given.

## **SOCIAL WORK PRESENTATION ON MANDATORY REPORTING**

**Dr. Laurel Thompson, Director, Student Services** gave a presentation regarding means of child abuse including neglect, reporting procedures and Baker Act information and procedures. She shared that all District staff are mandated to report any suspicion of abuse using the hotline number 1-800-96abuse. Child abuse records are not kept at the schools. No information other than demographics are shared without a subpoena or court order. **Dr. Thompson** shared the staff contact persons regarding: Child Abuse **Yva Dieudonne**, Coordinator, Student Services at 754-321-1569 and **Faye Kravitz**, Coordinator, for Social Work services at 754-321-1618. **Mr. Sirbola** said, "We need to regularly, anonymously poll our kids." **Dr. Thompson** said, "We ensure our staff are adequately trained to identify risk factors and report risks observed." **Ms. Mizell** asked if all students with behavior issues need to be medicated. **Dr. Thompson** said, "It is not always a mental health situation. Often students do not have the social skills; they may have a conduct disorder; they may act-out for various reasons; they may need behavior intervention. When necessary, students are referred to the Behavior Intervention Committee. Medication is not a first resort." Students going back to their home school after being Baker Acted was discussed. Each case is different; often students do go back to their home school. **Ms. Gundersen** relayed that bullying takes a psychological toll on students; what training is conducted in the schools? The policy needs to address the psychological effects of bullying. After consent, **Mr. Wilson**, suggested a presentation, at the next meeting regarding: Anti-Bullying Policy, cyber-bullying, the *Jeffery Johnson Stand Up For All Students Act*, etc.

### **Motion, by consent, to extend topic for 10 minutes.**

**Mr. Sirbola** said, "We can finish this right here, we don't have to keep talking about it indefinitely. This is not complicated. I want us to poll ourselves, anonymously, in our Department as to how many of us have been abused as children or adults. We say we care but we are not even asking the kids if they need help."

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

No reports given.

## **COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Wilson** said "Members have relayed concerns that too many emails are being sent to members. It is requested that members are not to send email messages to the entire Committee; it could violate the Sunshine Law." The point of any email would be for an agenda item. Agenda item requests or other information to share should be emailed to the Chair, copying Marion Williams. Items to discuss can be brought up during Good of the Order, during the general meeting. Any text or email which can be construed as influence and/or opinion on a topic, which may be brought up at a future Diversity Committee meeting, could be considered out of Sunshine Law compliance.

## **REVIEW OF CONDITION THREE: STANDARDS OF SERVICE**

**Mr. Wilson** shared information on standards for testing and the Florida Standards Assessment. He noted that the Committee is having positive input in the dialog about testing in the District. As previously discussed: the indicators need to be revised; we don't want testing hurting our student success; minimum amount of impact on students; taking into account different learning styles and test scores, as well as grades. Test measurement information, the Success Matrix and recommendations from **Dr. Mandley** will be forthcoming. **Mr. Wilson** lead discussion on the four possible revised indicators; school grades not being a true indicator and incentives for principals from A schools to move to D and F schools. The proposed, revised indicators for Condition Three will be brought forward to the next subcommittee meeting. **Ms. Edwards** and **Mr. King** both asked if school grades can be clarified; what does each grade mean? Parents may judge a school only by the letter grade it was given. **Mr. Sirbola** said, "Our best

schools in the District are sub-par, the reason they are failing, students are at risk because we are failing them. We are a culture of denial because we don't face that fact. The reason kids are not safe and failing is the same; because they don't want to learn; it is not fun. Learning should be fun, not because they have to learn or will get punished. When we fix that then the schools will be safe and students will be passing. More than half of the students graduate without proficiency in 245 out of 250 schools all while they are getting raped and abused. That is unacceptable. We say we care but we are not even asking the kids if they need help. We are afraid of the numbers. I want to ask five percent of them." **Mr. Wilson** said, "All of the members here have concern about our students; what I am no longer willing to entertain are siliques on what is wrong with the District without solutions. If you have solutions put them in the form of a motion." **Mr. Sirbola** said, "I do give solutions, you don't listen to them. We have submitted motions; nothing is done. Solutions take money and leadership."

**Motion by Mr. Sirbola "That we poll ourselves, anonymously to find out how many of us have been abused as children or have dealt with abuse in our personal adult lives."** Motion dies for lack of a second.

**Mr. Brosten** said, "I find this conversation abusive, you are taking advantage of this meeting to grandstand." **Mr. Sirbola** said, "You are the reason we are where we are; I don't mind saying that to you."

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Mr. Wilson** reviewed the current Diversity Committee membership as it pertains to vacancies and asked for recommendations for new members. Members must live in Broward County. **Mr. Sirbola** suggested trying the local NAACP or community groups.

**Mr. King** recommended that possible health violations in kitchens at schools be added to the indicator list.

**Ms. Edwards** asked for a presentation, to the Committee, on advanced placement, gifted and talented programs and how students are selected for the programs. **Mr. Wilson** suggested this item be added to the January agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., in the Board Room, Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building.**

These minutes are summarized and were recorded at the November 5, 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.