

## MINUTES

**District and School Budget Priorities Parent Subcommittee  
Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee  
Miami-Dade County Public Schools  
1450 N.E. 2 Avenue, Room 916  
Miami, FL 33132  
Monday, April 7, 2014**

**Members Present:** Mr. Orlando Arronte, Mr. Eddy Barea, Ms. Isabelle Exume, Mr. Joseph Gebara, Ms. Belkis Gutierrez, Ms. Sandy Baker Hoover, Ms. Stephanie Keime, Ms. Jennifer Moon, Ms. Rose Paison, Ms. Jacqueline Perez, Ms. Lorraine Real, Ms. Karen Rivo, Mr. Elias Seife, Mr. Charles Viscito, Mr. John Watson, Ms. Jennifer Wollmann.

**Members Excused Absent:** Ms. Beatriz Alonso, Ms. Melby Gonzalez, Ms. Michelle Johnson, Ms. Susan Marie Kairalla, Mr. Don Kearns, Ms. Minthra Moodley, Ms. Alice Mensch Raval, Mr. Thomas Spaulding.

**Alternate Excused Absent:** Ms. Maria Norton.

**Resigned Member:** Ms. Cheryl Murillo.

**Members Absent:** Ms. Nagib Aboud, Ms. Frances Effio, Mr. Enrique Escallon, Ms. Rosie Felipe, Ms. Christi Gonzalez, Mr. Jay Jefferson, Mr. Nelson Rodriguez, Ms. Naomi Pinera Simon.

**Others Present:** Superintendent of Schools Mr. Alberto Carvalho, Ms. Judith Marte, Ms. Iraida Mendez-Cartaya, Ms. Patricia Lee, Student Mr. Jovan Joseph, Mr. David Smiley, Ms. Angela Jones.

**I. Welcome:** Mr. Charles Viscito, vice-chair, called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. The Chair will be here shortly, he had a prior engagement. He gave a heartfelt welcome to the committee, staff and guests.

**II. Minutes:** The Vice-chair Mr. Viscito asked for a review and the approval of the March 10, 2014 minutes, they were voted on, seconded and accepted to be filed.

**III. Update on Legislation Session:** Ms. Mendez-Cartaya mentioned that the legislation has completed its fifth week; they are now at the halfway point. The House and the Senate have passed their perspective budget proposals and are now at the point of ironing out their difference between the two. The difference between the House and the Senate is about \$90 million for Education K-12. The House has an increase is \$740 million and the Senate is \$651 million for Education K-12, whereas the Governor's recommended budget is \$542 million. We are awaiting the final budget.

Ms. Mendez-Cartaya explained on major policies the House has recommended \$81 million for technology and they advise how the school districts can spend the monies. A portion of \$27 million is being allocated to the Department of Management Services for dual enrollment. Then we also have to allocate funding received from the state to other agencies, diminishing our receivable allotment even more. As for the Senate, they are allocating \$40 million and they have more flexibility to the school districts in certain usages. Another major policy is the additional hour to be added for instructions to low performing Elementary schools. There are currently 100 low performing Elementary schools in the state of Florida. The Senate wants to add more instructional hours. We are asking for the distribution to be modified, so that the funding will be based on the individual school districts and the number of schools that they have on the list. We currently have twenty-two schools on the list. Based on the number of FTE distribution, in which we represent 13%, with this being said we are not being funded equitable. We are addressing this matter.

The other critical priorities, Ms. Mendez-Cartaya emphasized that we are addressing in the legislation, for we want our students to receive their fair funding. Those priorities are as follows:

- **Value Adjustment Board (VAB)** – A few years ago the law was changed with the property appraiser estimate. The tax roll was affected causing it to be insufficient which resulted in less funding to our school district. Our local appraiser's office is two years in arrears; we are closely working with them to enable completion by June 15<sup>th</sup>. We are recommending two remedies: 1) short term funding, to allow us to collect the revenues currently and 2) to make changes to the process of the value adjustment and for the tax payers' appeal process. The part of the appeal process is to limit the amount of rescheduling of the appeal hearings.
- **Class Size Reduction** – To modify the penalty dealing with the non-compliance with class size reduction. House Bill 319 passed in one of the committees in the House and now that bill is part of the Conforming Bill in the House. In the Senate it has not been heard, this is a huge issue. The modification is an important piece and it needs to pass, or the district could lose in excess of \$5,000 per student. We have historically been at 99% plus in compliance, we are slightly below that percentage.
- **Renovations of Buildings** – To provide some type of flexibility on how we renovate our buildings, just like the charter schools they have flexibility that has been allocated to them. Right now we have three amendments in the legislation; two gives us flexibility and one will create a task force that will keep this conversion going with the Florida legislators.
- **Charter Schools** – The legislature and the House remain pretty much with the ordinarily filed bill. They have added some amendments to entice school districts to support the amended pieces. The legislative piece allows school districts to charge rent for the use of the facility instead of just giving the facility to the charter schools. They have actually taken some of the amendments that we have proffered in the past and placed it in the bill. The Senate has taken a different position and they have gutted the bill. The Senate has created a mediation process, in which the charters and the traditional schools have not been able to agree upon. Last year the legislature passed a requirement for the school districts to use the Standard Contract. The Standard Contract, assuming that it does not pass in the House, then the Department of Education has to promulgate the rules in the Standard Contract.
- **PECO Funding for Construction** – Both the House and Senate are distributing monies for PECO to the traditional public schools; in the House \$50 million and in the Senate \$40 million, taking into consideration that this allotment is for the whole state. The distribution to the charter schools is \$50 million from the Senate and \$100 million from the House. The Governor is recommending PECO dollars to the traditional schools. All the traditional schools want is their fair share for our children.
- **Expansion of Vouchers** – On the continuance of the vouchers program; this legislation wants to expand corporate scholarships up to a billion dollars. The current plan in the legislature is to have more middle class families qualify. The bill will also eliminate the requirement for a student to be enrolled in a public school in the prior year for eligibility.
- **Personal Learning Account** – Senate Bill 1512 creates the personal learning account which allows parents with ESE students to use FEFP dollars to go elsewhere and to pay expenses beyond education, i.e. for medical expenditures. In the House what they did is combine the expansion of the Corporate Scholarship along with the Personnel Learning Account.

After discussion was made and questions answered, Mr. Barea and Ms. Marte thanked Ms. Mendez-Cartaya for the latest updates from the legislation session. Mr. Barea added with this information on the latest legislation updates, especially with the VAB, we as parents will be advocating with the school district on this matter, for we want the best for our children.

**IV. Superintendent Visit:** The Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools Alberto Carvalho entered the meeting giving salutation. He thanked the committee for all of their support and work in advocating on behalf of our children. He then asked for introduction since new members now are on the committee. He stated that staff is quite aware that any budgetary data or recommendation presented to him, will be asked for the parents' committee input. The Superintendent stated that he is active on Facebook and Twitter. The conditions at this time with the property taxes not being properly collected has become a travesty for our students' funding. We are giving this our full attention, at this point there has been a short term solution in Tallahassee and as a result there will be a long term solution to fix this value tax loophole. Again thank you and I know that you all will keep being a voice in our communities. The Chair, Ms. Marte and committee thanked the Superintendent for coming and addressing the committee.

**V. 2014-15 Revenue Update:** Ms. Marte explained to committee that this is the first draft of the numbers coming in from the state that they are fluid. As we review the presentation entitled "2014-15 Revenue Update", keep in mind that these are not the state's final revenue numbers. The school districts are hoping that the numbers will become more favorable and with fewer constraints. There is news coming from Tallahassee that the budget will increase. For the House their budget increase is \$81 million and for the Senate their increase is \$75 million. There are restrictions within the categorical items. One of the categorical for Technology will increase about \$10 million. An important categorical factor is the 96% Tax Collection and Redemption Shortfall, if the monies do not come in, there will be a shortfall for next year, as mentioned, we are working on getting this resolved. A positive note is a categorical for the Clearwire bonus allocation to WLRN. WLRN for next year will receive a bonus of additional funds of \$3 million. Ms. Marte continued the explaining as follows:

#### 2014-15 Revenue Update (\$ in Millions)

<u>Totals for 2013-14 FEFP</u>	<u>Totals for 2014-15 House Estimate</u>
State Funding \$ 1,165.9	State Funding \$ 1,176.9
Local Funding <u>1,220.8</u>	Local Funding <u>1,291.5</u>
Total <u>\$ 2,386.7</u>	Total <u>\$ 2,468.4</u>

#### Totals for 2013-14 FEFP and 2014-15 House Estimate

State Funding	\$ 11.0
Local Funding	<u>70.7</u>
Change Total	<u>\$ 81.7</u>

#### Change Total – factoring in Categories:

Change Total	\$ 81.7
Categorical/FRS Increases	(18.6)
96% Tax Collection & Redemption shortfall	(40.0)
Clearwire bonus	<u>3.0</u>
<b>True Increase/(Decrease) of the Change</b>	<u>\$ 26.1</u>

#### Totals for 2014-15 Senate Budget

State Funding	\$ 1,170.4
Local Funding	<u>1,291.5</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,461.9</u>

#### Change Total – factoring in Categories:

Change Total	\$ 75.2
Categorical/FRS Increases	(35.1)
96% Tax Collection & Redemption shortfall	(40.0)
Clearwire bonus	<u>3.0</u>
<b>True Increase/(Decrease) of the Change</b>	<u>\$ 3.1</u>

Ms. Marte reminded the committee, that this is a draft that these numbers are subject to change. Mr. Barea thanked Ms. Marte for the presentation.

**VI. Update on Work of Principal/Cabinet:** Ms. Marte stated the Principals have asked for specific data points. After much deliberation at their meeting these are their drafted data points. The Cabinet list is forthcoming. The Principals' data points are as follows:

- 1) What is spent on Maintenance sorted by job code
- 2) The cost of Security Monitors working on a teacher planning day
- 3) Transportation that we are maximizing the number of students on buses and minimizing routes
- 4) The Adult Education Centers revenue in regards to the reimbursed shared for bills and costs with the schools, when utilizing the school' supplies, etc.
- 5) Trend Analysis of the Rentals
- 6) The School Support Pool cost and also cost by job code
- 7) New Hire Salaries vs. Average Salaries vs. the Retirees
- 8) What is the expenses for Extra Period Supplement, excluding after school care and athletics
- 9) For Early Child VPK how much of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  gap do we pay that is not funded by the state

Ms. Marte then asked the Chair and the committee if they wanted the same information as the principals, to please advise? Mr. Barea asked the committee and the committee responded unanimously accepting the Principals' data points list. Ms. Marte told committee after the Principals have reviewed the analyses on their requested list; she would bring back their findings. Mr. Barea then thanked Ms. Marte; we will wait for the Principals' outcome.

**VII. Strategies to Balance Budget:** Ms. Marte asked the committee for their strategized starting points. Mr. Barea, chair asked Mr. Viscito to read the outstanding items list that was compiled by the committee. The list is as follows:

1. Reduce Central Administration
2. Review Virtual/Blended Education
3. Consolidate Schools
4. Consolidate alternative education centers
5. Hourly vs. full time
6. Outsourcing
7. Market Schools
8. Delivery of Art and Music
9. Class Size course list AP/IB
10. Review Counselor Allocations
11. Review ESE Paraprofessional Allocations
12. Dual Enrollment
13. Calendar

Items for Collective Bargaining

14. Develop attendance incentive for staff where substitutes are required
15. Reconfigure teacher planning days
16. Reduce vacation accruals
17. Health Cost Containment
18. Sick Leave Buyback

After discussion was made on the listed items, another item was added as follows:

19. Review the K-8 Allocation

Ms. Marte mentioned now that we have compiled our list and have heard the Principals requested data points, we will start collaborating. Mr. Barea thanked Ms. Marte, Ms. Mendez-Cartaya for presenting the latest updates tonight and thanked all for coming. He reminded all that our **next meeting will April 21<sup>st</sup>, same place and starting at the same time 5:30 p.m. The following meeting dates are May 5<sup>th</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup> and June 9**, please revise your calendars. The Chair then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, a motion was made and accepted by committee.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.