**Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee Meeting (FCIAC)**

**School Board Administration Building, Conference Room 916**

**1450 NE Second Avenue**

**Miami, Florida 33132**

**November 16, 2015**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Mr. Jose Acosta,Mr. Aundray Adams, Ms. Lovern Alleyne-Babb, Ms. Tina Flowers, Ms. Gina Ha, Ms. Catherine Haga-Artounian, Ms. Beverly Heller, Dr. Nancy Lawther, Ms. Dannie McMillon, Ms. Cindy Odige, Ms. Jacqueline M. Perez – Chair, Ms. Janat Qureshi, Ms. Zoraida Serret, Ms. Gloria Simmons, Mr. Charles Viscito

**Member Excused*:*** Ms. Marlene Bastien, Ms. Winifred Browne, Ms. Jeanne Darc LaHoud, Ms. Linda Dwyer, Mr. Joseph Gebara, Ms. Rosa Maria Olsen-Barbara, Ms. Eileen Segal, Mr. David Williams Jr.

**Also Present**: Ms. Yolanda Busquet, Ms. Angela Lozano, Ms. Cecilia C. Monteagudo, Ms. Elizabeth Barrios, Mr. Reinaldo Palacios, Ms. Lisa Thurber

**Guest:** Mr. Gus A. Barreiro, Mr. Marcus Bright, Ms. Ava Goldman, Ms. Martha Z. Harris, Ms. Virna Kaufman, Ms. Sharon S. Krantz, Ms. Robin J. Morrison, Mr. Marcus Ortega, Mr. Thomas Spaulding, Dr. Robert D. Strickland

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m., by Jacqueline Perez, Chairperson, FCIAC. There was a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, France. Attendees were formally welcomed and introduced. A quorum was established prior to voting on the Minutes.

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the October 19, 2015, meeting were approved as printed.

**Report: FCIAC Budget Subcommittee**

Charles Viscito, Chairperson, Budget Subcommittee, reported on the November 9, 2015, meeting. The following issues are being reviewed: 1) School Security Monitors; 2) Instructional Technology;

3) Parental Involvement; and 4) Summer School. The Subcommittee is not optimist about the 2016-2017 Budget Year. The next meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2015. A copy of the *Citizen’s Guide* to the 2015-16 Miami-Dade County Public Schools Budget was distributed.

**Region Reports/Updates**

The *North Region* hosted Feeder Pattern Expos. The *Central Region* appointed a parent representative to the FCIAC Budget Subcommittee to represent District 2 (Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall). Improving student attendance is a priority for this region. In the *South Region*, Magnet Fairs were held and a pantry is being stocked in Campbell Middle School to support the needs of homeless students (Project Upstart).

**Superintendent’s Report**

The Associate Superintendent, Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration and Community Engagement, was present. However, she was unable to make her report due to laryngitis.

**School Counselors**

Martha Z. Harris, Administrative Director, and Sharon S. Krantz, Executive Director, Student Services,

gave an overview of the support services provided to students and parents through this District office.

Nonetheless, the school-site administrator makes the decision regarding which services/positions will be purchased that are not a part of the District Allocation Plan. Services include: College Assistance Programs, Trust Counselors, School Counselors, Crisis Counselors, Success Coaches, and Project Upstart to assist homeless students. This office is also implementing a Values Education Campaign: *Values Matter* in schools. Miami-Dade County Schools (M-DCPS) has adopted nine core values: Citizenship, responsibility, honesty, cooperation, integrity, kindness, fairness, respect, and pursuit of excellence. Monthly newsletters are available to schools regarding the value of the month.

Questions and concerns were addressed. By consensus, there was a request of Student Services from the FCIAC to provide the ratio of counselors to students and how Miami-Dade County Public Schools compares to the national average.

**School Social Workers**

Ava Goldman, Administrative Director, and Robin J. Morrison, Instructional Supervisor, Psychological

Services, gave an overview of the School Social Work Program in M-DCPS. Currently, there are 154 School Social Workers. There is a chairperson in each school region. They are deployed by the Office of Exceptional Student Education. School Social Worker’s responsibilities include: Assessments, Prevention and Intervention Services, Counseling Services, Attendance Intervention, Case Management, Consultation, Advocacy, Crisis Intervention, Professional Development, and accountability and confidentiality.

Questions and concerns were addressed by the presenters. The presenters were also requested to provide a written summary of the ratio of School Social Workers to students in M-DCPS. This information will be shared with the FCIAC when it is received from the Office of Exceptional Student Education.

**Overview and Update of Magnet Programs**

Dr. Robert Strickland, Administrative Director, and Virna Kaufman, Director, School Choice and Parental Options, gave a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation on the growth in Choice Enrollment, 2015 Choice Options and the different types of programs and themes that are available to students and parents. Dr. Strickland clarified the difference in magnets, charters, choice schools/programs and career academies. Fifty-five new programs were added for the 2015-16 school year. Currently, 200,388 students are in some type of Choice Program.

Mrs. Kaufman shared the improvements and enhancements that were made to the Magnet Application

process. The application period is October 1, 2015-January 15, 2016. She also explained the notification procedures and dates and how the waiting list is supposed to be handled.

The presenters addressed questions and concerns of the attendees. Choice brochures were shared in English, Spanish and Creole.

**Parent Ambassador Subcommittee**

Ms. Lisa Thurber, District Director, Office of Community Engagement, mentioned that the Parent Ambassador Subcommittee had its second meeting on November 5. The areas of discussion included professional development, recognition, and marketing materials. Ms. Thurber also mentioned that they are drafting a guidebook to be shared with the entire committee in the upcoming months for feedback.

**New Business**

The following issues were presented for consideration as future agenda items:

* Current policy on excused absences;
* The Superintendent’s new Student Attendance Initiative;
* Explanation of ETO Schools;
* Climate Survey;
* Role and responsibilities of the newly re-created Diversity office; and
* Ratios of Counselors and school social workers to students in M-DCPS.

**Announcements**

Handouts were provided sharing information for up-coming events.

**Adjournment**

By consensus, the meeting was extended to complete the entire agenda. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Due to the observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gloria P. Simmons, Recording Secretary

FCIAC