

MINUTES

**Parent Subcommittee on District and School Budget Priorities
Family and Community Involvement Budget Advisory Subcommittee
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
1450 N.E. 2 Avenue, Room 916 & Zoom Meeting
Miami, FL 33132
Monday, June 14, 2021**

Members Present: Mr. Eddy Barea, Chair, Mr. Scot Evans, Ms. Beverly Heller, Ms. Mina Hosseini, Dr. Nancy Lawther, Mr. James Lopez, Ms. Maria Norton, Ms. Laura Philpot, Dr. Lisa Robertson, Mr. Elias Seife, Ms. Zoraida Serret.

Members Excused Absent: Ms. Meriel C. Seymore.

Others Present: Mr. Callum Albritton, Ms. Nancy Cermeño, Ms. Nicole Crooks, Ms. Martha M. Diaz, Ms. Milagros Hernandez, Ms. R. Lederl, Ms. Janielle Murphy, Mr. Ron Steiger, Ms. Sara Walkup, Mr. Antonio White.

I. Welcome and Introductions: The meeting was called to order. A quorum was established. Those present introduced themselves. Committee members and staff were welcomed.

II. Approval of Minutes for May 10, 2021: Mr. Barea, asked for the approval of the minutes for the May 10, 2021, Parent Advisory Subcommittee meeting and the minutes were approved.

III. Legislative Update: Mr. Barea gave Dr. Nancy Lawther the floor, and she gave the committee an update on the Legislative Session. Dr. Lawther added that since the Committee for Fiscal Year 2021 concluded, several federal aids have already been rejected in the emergency budget package that Governor DeSantis intends to adopt. We'll have to wait and see what happens at the next legislative meeting.

Furthermore, Dr. Lawther explained that the language in the affordability of Pre-K in early childhood may come through taxable rebates. The concern is that the pre-paid component may have underlying conditions to receive the funding. To date, the terms have not been defined. Dr. Lawther concluded that raising the graduation age restriction may be proposed for the next fiscal year.

IV. Planning for 2021-22 Budget: Mr. Barea opened the floor to Mr. Ron Steiger, Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Steiger stated that revenue was set as of the previous meeting and that there is a \$21 million variance gap. As mentioned at the previous meeting, the district did receive Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. This one-time funding will be utilized to compensate for the district's gap. With an expected \$80 million in non-recurring funds, decreases in revenue that Tallahassee would not be providing next year, balancing will be a struggle. In the absence of this one-time funding, what will be recommended for next year is being addressed. The only true wise solution, other than the legislature affording us additional revenue, would be for us to increase the number of students we serve. Our top priority is to serve our students and employees.

Mr. Steiger addressed the committee that this is where we are in the balancing of the budget, which we will submit to the Board in a few weeks. We are seeking endorsement from this committee for a proposal that uses one-time funding rather than recurring costs to solve our budget dilemma for FY 2021-22. One of the things that harmed us the most for FY 21-22 was the \$14 million decrease related to the Funding Compression where M-DCPS was the district most impacted.

The committee discussed, provided comments, expressed concerns, asked questions and questions were addressed by Mr. Steiger.

V. Update on Federal Funding: Mr. Steiger continued his conversation telling the committee that Ms. Diaz and I will be submitting the budget to the Board in a few weeks. Included in the ESSER II budget are items such as the implementation of a Learning Management System which is an online digital device for teachers, students, and parents to be able to effectively communicate; the development of the curriculum element of the Learning Management System is being done by our teachers; the funds will cover the cost of the COVID Safe Graduations that occurred for FY 2020-21; the cost for extra personnel needed to help improve attendance and enrollment to get students back into the buildings; the cost increase due to the expanded services provided to students attending summer school; cost to cover the increased expenses for technology, CYBER Security infrastructure, upgrades and for the increased costs to the charter schools.

The committee discussed, provided comments, expressed concerns, asked questions and questions were addressed by Mr. Steiger.

VI. New Business: Mr. Berea opened the floor for new business. The discussion was made on the district revisiting its plan for next November's proposal; the conversion of elementary and middle schools to K-8; the piloting for senior high school schedules, and the use of ESSER one-time funds. Mr. Steiger and Ms. Diaz responded to questions, comments, and raised concerns. Following the discussion, the committee motioned and approved for a future meeting to continue the discussion on the use of ESSER Funds.

Mr. Eddy Barea, then informed the committee that he will continue to chair the committee until the next meeting, after which he will no longer be part of this committee. It is time to allow new faces to join this group and bring new enthusiasm and ideas to the table. Serving on such a renowned committee has been an honor and a privilege over the years. I want to thank you all for allowing me to have chaired several times over the years including this year. Mr. Steiger and Ms. Diaz commended Mr. Barea for his outstanding leadership and commitment to this parent committee and the district throughout the years. Mr. Barea was also praised by the committee, who expressed their profound gratitude.

VII. Adjournment: The Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.