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

**School Board Administration Building, Conference Room #559**

**April 18, 2016**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Ms. Winifred Browne, Dr. Sherian E. Demetrius, Ms. Linda Dwyer, Ms. Gina Ha, Ms. Beverly Heller, Dr. Nancy Lawther, Ms. Teresa Martin-Major, Ms. Dannie McMillon, Ms. Rosa M. Olsen-Barbara, Ms. Jacqueline M. Perez – Chair, Ms. Eileen Segal, Ms. Zoraida Serret, Ms. Lenora Stafford, Mr. Dennis Tejeda, Ms. Gloria Simmons, Mr. Charles Viscito

**Member Excused*:*** Ms. Lovern Alleyene-Babb, Mr. Gustavo Barreiro, Ms. Jeanne Darc LaHoud, Ms. Beverly Nixon, Ms. Cindy Odige,

**Also Present**: Ms. Yolanda Busquet, Ms. Angela Lozano, Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Ms. Patricia Mills, Mr. Reinaldo Palacios, Ms. Alina F. Plasencia, Ms. Lisa Thurber

**Guest:** Ms. Maria Celis, Ms. Ava Goldman, Ms. Kelli Hunter-Sheppard, Dr. Lisette Rodriguez**,** Ms. Meriel C. Seymore

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m., by Jacqueline Perez, Chairperson. Mrs. Perez acknowledged Volunteer Appreciation Week and expressed her thanks to all in attendance.

Self-introductions were made. A quorum was present; the agenda was accepted as printed.

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the February 29, 2016, and March 14, 2016, meetings were approved with corrections.

**Superintendent’s Report**

Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Associate Superintendent, Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration and Community Engagement, shared a comprehensive summary of the results of the 2016 Legislative Session. A copy of the Superintendent’s memorandum to The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, dated March 17, 2016 (2016 Legislative Final Report) was made available to the members.

**Report: FCIAC Parent Budget Committee**

Mr. Charles Viscito, Chairperson, Budget Subcommittee, gave a report. The Subcommittee met on April 4, 2016. He reported that the budget office has indicated that although the District will receive a revenue increase of over $40 million dollars for the next school year, the true increase is less $15 million dollars after accounting for property tax reserves and charter school funding increases due to higher charter school student enrollment projections. Additionally, unavoidable budget cost increases, health insurance cost increases and the cost of raises already agreed to in the last labor contracts will cause a budget deficit for the next school year that will need to be adjusted by the budget office in the proposed budget to the Superintendent and School Board. The budget office will present their proposed budget adjustments to the Subcommittee in the next meetings. In the context of the projected budget difficulties, the Subcommittee discussed their Innovation and Academic Excellence Wish List, which includes items relating to counselor allocations, ESE paraprofessional allocations, school security, summer school programs and other items to consider recommending an item to the Superintendent his consideration. There was no consensus within the Subcommittee to prioritize any one item for consideration by the Superintendent for the next school year budget. The budget office indicated that the District is proceeding with limited expansion of the 8 period day model at some secondary schools through Title 1 funding, and that there is general concern with competition for teachers from Broward and Palm Beach counties. The Subcommittee voted to support the prioritization to fund reserves for employee raises in preparation of the next school year budget, if possible. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 25, 2016 @ 5:30 p.m. in Conference Room 916.

**Region Reports/Updates**

*North Region*: Mr. Reinaldo Palacios, Social Worker, informed the members that this Region Office is addressing master schedules and subject selection.

*Central Region*: Ms. Yolanda D. Busquet, Social Worker, reported that the 5000 Role Models shadowed professionals on March 17, 2016. A Family Fun Day that included many activities for students and parents was held at Brownsville Middle School.

**Old Business: Presentations**

*ESE Organizational Alignment, Inclusion, Response to Intervention Process and Assessments.*

Ms. Ava Goldman, Administrative Director and Dr. Kelli Hunter-Sheppard, District Director, Office of Exceptional Student Education, shared very informative PowerPoint presentations. Handouts of the organizational alignment and Florida’s Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports were provided to each attendee. The presenters responded to questions from the members. Additional questions/concerns were presented in writing. These questions/concerns will be addressed by the Office of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) at the May 2016, FCIAC meeting.

*M-DCPS: A Model for Gifted Education*

Dr. Lisette T. Rodriguez, Executive Director, Department of Advanced Academic Programs, with the assistance of PowerPoint, gave a comprehensive overview of the gifted program. Handouts of the PowerPoint presentation were given to everyone.

**New Business**

*Follow-up: Ratio of students to Social Workers*

*A response to the additional concerns/questions re*garding *ESE*

1. Teachers are frustrated when they take all of the steps to have a student qualify for services, only to have the student placed back in the General Education classroom with little or no support.
2. Why is there such a push for inclusion when there is so little staff to implement it correctly?
3. The push to make all schools bilingual through the EFL program makes scheduling and teaching a nightmare for some ESE students.
4. Where does the money go if students are placed back into the general education classrooms?
5. Is there recognition that General Education teachers are not trained the same way ESE teachers are?
6. The Beacon online ESE course required for recertification is very inadequate for General Education teachers; it gives no strategies. As a point of contrast, the Beacon ESOL online course offers strategies.
7. When General Education teachers are required to implement inclusion without consistent and effective ESE support, are they compensated for it?
8. When students are making inadequate academic progress in inclusion classes, parents become frustrated and disillusioned. In an attempt to draw attention to the needs of the student, the teacher is usually the target of that frustration. Are there Board Policies that protect the teachers when parents or students make unfounded allegations against instructional staff?

*Annual Meeting with the Superintendent*

**Office of Community Engagement**

Ms. Lisa Thurber, District Director, Office of Community Engagement, announced the Steps Transition Conference, April 30, 2016, at Miami Jackson Senior High and Fathers in Education Day, May 12, 2016. Handouts were provided. Ms. Thurber also mentioned that

an update on the Parent Ambassador Program by Community Engagement will be provided on May 16th.

*Annual Meeting with the Superintendent*

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

**Next Meeting**: May 16, 2016

Submitted by Gloria P. Simmons, Recording Secretary