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

**SBAB Administration Building Conference Room 559**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 22, 2018**

**Members Present:** Ms. Winifred Browne, Dr. Sherian E. Demetrius, Ms. Beverly Heller, Ms. Tracy Jackson, Ms. Cindy Odige, Ms. Izegbe Onyango, Ms. Jacqueline M. Perez, Chair, Ms. Alina Plasencia, Ms. Gloria Simmons, Ms. Lenora Stafford, Ms. Vivienne Vicera, Ms. Sharon Watson

**Alternates:** Ms. Mindy Grimes-Festge, Ms. Rhoda Louissaint, Dr. Lisa Robertson, Ms. Zoraida Serret, Ms. Meriel Seymore

**Members Excused:** Ms. Farah Johnson, Ms. Rosa M. Olsen- Barbara

**Also Present:** Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho, Ms. Deborah Gonzalez, Mr. Reinaldo Palacios, Ms. Lisa Thurber

**Guests:** Ms. Vivian Nuñez

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Ms. Jacqueline Perez, Chairperson. Self-introductions were made by attendees. A quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes**: The minutes of the November 13 meeting were approve as corrected.

**Board Policy 2111:** Ms. Lisa Thurber, District Director, reminded the committee of its previous work with NEOLA (North End Ohio Learning Associates) in which the District examined and revised all of its board rules several years ago. As federal and state laws change, NEOLA provides the District with recommended updates. Based on the new federal law, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Board Policy 2111 had recommended changes regarding the definition of parent which pertained to the legal guardianship of a student, and that language was added to the current definition already in the policy which is actually broader and includes all family and community members who support a child educationally. Another change from ESSA was pertaining to Title I, requiring schools and the District to more actively engage parents and provide outreach to the entire family. The former Parental Involvement Plan (PIP) is now referred to as the Parent and Family Engagement Plan (PFEP). Other changes were made to update language pertaining to the name of offices (i.e., Office of Community Engagement and Department of Title I). The rule will be taken to the School Board at the February 21, 2018, meeting for initial reading, and to the March 21, 2018, meeting for final approval.

**Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA):**  Presented by Mr. Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools, Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Mr. Carvalho gave a comprehensive overview of the services that are provided to the parents and students who are classified under the DACA designation. Mr. Carvalho spoke passionately regarding the District’s commitment to address the needs of these students with compassion and dignity. He reassured the attendees by stating that Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) would remain a “safe haven” for the affected students. Information regarding the legal status of students will only be shared if an official subpoena is presented to school administrators.

The Superintendent informed the FCIAC that he has personally written letters to President Donald Trump and the Department of Homeland Security in support of continuing Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for Haitian immigrants. Furthermore, he remains hopeful that Senator Bill Nelson, Representative Carlos Curbelo, Senator Marco Rubio and Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz, will support efforts to create a safe passage for “Dreamers”. Mr. Carvalho shared his personal story as one who came to this country unaccompanied at seventeen years of age. He pointed out that we have a moral responsibility to save others. Mr. Carvalho thanked the Committee for its work and the opportunity to address its concern. The Superintendent responded to various questions posed by the members.

**Region Reports/Updates**:

**North Region:** Presented by Mr. Reinaldo Palacios, School Social Worker, North Region.

Hialeah Gardens Senior High: Ms. Natalie Lamas was interviewed by NBC6 Ari Odzer for his “SWAG on 6” series December 15, 2017. Natalie is a hearing-impaired student who has raised more than $5,000 for a charity that provides hearing aids to children in third world countries. Natalie is also a Silver Knight nominee for Hialeah Gardens Senior High, and she has not allowed her disability to keep her from reaching her goals.

Barbara Goleman Senior: “Giving Gators” is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization founded in 2016, by very involved parent volunteers who are committed to assisting students within Barbara Goleman Senior High School and others in the community. The students and their families are discreetly referred to the organization by the school’s administration (in collaboration with counseling and school social work staff members) after recognizing their needs. With the consent of the parents or legal guardians, Giving Gators commit to providing and delivering assistance to those students in need in a timely matter.

Carol City Elementary: Recently hosted over 40 parents, family and friends to celebrate academic achievement at the Honor Roll Breakfast. Students were celebrated for their hard work and effort and received a certificate highlighting their accomplishments.

Carol City Elementary: Has established a “Club 100” as an attendance incentive to encourage and reward students who have perfect attendance starting January 8 – March 22, 2018. Students will attend a special field trip and pep-rally to celebrate their attendance. The magnet application process ended January 15, 2018.

**Central Region:** Presented by Ms. Deborah Gonzalez, School Social Worker, Central Region.

Several school parents, students and staff worked together in celebration of Martin Luther King Day on beautification projects i.e., Brownsville Middle.

Miami Northwestern Senior:Varsity Football Team won the National Championship this year.

Southside Elementary: Restoration and renovation project is underway that includes classrooms, restrooms, ceilings and flooring. It will not include a K-8 Center.

**South Region:** No representative because of a crisis at one of the K-8 Centers.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Citizens Coalition:**  Presented by Dr. Lisa Robertson.

Dr. Robertson shared that State Representative Robert Asencio and Senator Annette Taddeo filed SB 1704 and HB 1269 to establish a Panel Task Force on teacher recruitment, certification and retention in order to provide recommendations for improvement. The Bill also:

* Requests changes that would allow certain scores on graduate management admissions tests to be used as concordant scores to meet particular certification needs.
* Waives fees for first time applicants and licensed educators seeking renewal.
* Changes the public records exemption on testing materials so previously administered certification exams could be posted for public use.

The Constitution Revision Committee (CRC) meets February 6, 2018, in Ft Lauderdale, Florida, for public comment. There are a myriad of public education proposals submitted by the CRC Education subcommittee that are not public school-friendly. Visit gafla.dadeschools.net to review dates, location, time and proposals. This is a great opportunity to voice your concerns and support public schools and school boards.

**Superintendent’s Report**: Ms. Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya was in Tallahassee.

**New Business:** The topic for the February 26, 2018, meeting will be “Bullying.” Mr. Frank Zenere, Crisis Counselor, Student Services, will do a presentation. Ms. Lisa Thurber asked the members to forward their questions to her at: lthurber@dadeschools.net prior to the meeting.

**Announcements/Concerns**: Ms. Lenora Stafford, Title I Representative, announced the upcoming activities that are planned in celebration of Black History Month. Dr. Marvin Dunn will be a featured speaker. Further information is available on the Title I website.

Ms. Izegbe Onyango, Catalyst Miami, Inc, questioned how to get access to school sponsored activities to share information about the organization and promote the activities held at the neighborhood schools.

Ms. Thurber and Ms. Stafford responded and shared ways to fulfill her request.

Ms. Angela Lozano is retiring January 24, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

**Next meeting is Monday, February 26, 2018, in room 559.**