

MINUTES

Parent Subcommittee on District and School Budget Priorities
Family and Community Involvement Advisory Subcommittee
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
1450 N.E. 2 Avenue, Room 916 & Zoom Meeting
Miami, FL 33132
Monday, January 25, 2021

Members Present: Mr. Eddy Barea, Chair, Mr. Scot Evans, Ms. Isabelle Exume, Ms. Beverly Heller, Dr. Nancy Lawther, Mr. James Lopez, Ms. Maria Norton, Ms. Laura Philpot, Ms. Karen Rivo, Dr. Lisa Robertson, Mr. Elias Seife, Ms. Meriel C. Seymore.

Members Excused Absent: Ms. Zoraida Serret.

Others Present: Ms. Cleo Chumiso, Ms. Martha M. Diaz, Ms. Denise Landman, Ms. Mina Hosseini, Ms. Corina Putt, Ms. Leigh Rauk, Mr. Ivan Silva, Mr. Ron Steiger, Ms. Sara Walkup, Mr. Antonio White.

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Ron Steiger, Chief Financial Officer, called the meeting to order. He welcomed committee members and staff.

II. Approval of Minutes for December 7, 2020: Mr. Barea, asked for the approval of the minutes for the December 7, 2020, Parent Advisory Subcommittee meeting and the minutes were approved.

III. Presentation of Marketing Strategies for the recruitment of students: Mr. Barea opened the floor to Ms. Denise Landman, Executive Director, External Communications. Ms. Landman addressed the committee with a presentation that showed their efforts not only to recruit but also to highlight the importance of being in school. Her presentation included the following: A campaign called Show Up. The goal is for students to show up to a Miami-Dade County Public School (MDCPS) whether in person or online. They also came up with a fillable pamphlet that they send to the schools to be filled out by the schools to showcase their school's most appealing features to attract parents and families to choose their school and it has the following slogan: Wish you were here! Wish you were back with us! She mentioned that they are in the final stage of putting together a digital campaign called Virtual Welcome Center. This is going to be a one stop shop for parents. Parents will be able to find anything that they need to enroll their kids in MDCPS. She continued explaining that they also decided that the best way to reach students is through a peer-to-peer campaign and they came up with a campaign called: Get my Selfie to School. They asked student leaders to showcase themselves at school, whether they go to school physically or are at home learning, to encourage others to do the same. This is ongoing right now.

The committee discussed, provided comments, expressed concerns and questions and concerns were addressed by Ms. Denise Landman.

The committee presented a motion to schedule another presentation in April 2021 which would focus on the Pre-K and Kindergarten programs and come back with a budget proposal, objectives, and metrics to make sure the program is successful. The motion was made by Ms. Beverly Heller and seconded by Dr. Lawther. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Presentation on Police & Security Monitor: Mr. Barea opened the floor to Mr. Ivan Silva, Police Major and Ms. Corina Putt, Director Police Support. Major Silva advised the committee that he and Ms. Putt will collectively present the information. He mentioned that one of Ms. Putt's main responsibilities is to make sure that their Department is in compliance with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety act. Which is composed of Bills 7036 and 7026 that the state passed with several mandates that all districts in the state of Florida must comply with to prevent a critical incident like that in any of our schools. The highlights from the bill are basically to have one officer in every school. To comply with the bill, they had to reach out to their neighboring law enforcement agencies to assist them. Since traditional police departments handle things differently, they had to sign an agreement with those agencies telling them what they expected from them. He explained that they specialize more in Juveniles and they have more resources available to them that allows them to exercise different options for those juveniles. They always try to prevent juveniles from entering the juvenile justice system by intervening, enforcement is the last resource.

Major Silva explained that they had to have a mass hiring campaign that tripled the size of their police department. Since then they have become the biggest school police department in the nation. As a result, they are down to using only 8 outside municipalities to comply with the mandate from the bill. They have 451 officers, 16 in the academy. Their goal is to have MDCPS police officers only, as opposed to needing the assistance of officers from outside municipalities.

Ms. Corina Putt presented an overview of the Security monitors. She explained that the Security Monitors allocation is based on a formula, created between the School Police and Assessment Research and Data Analysis (ARDA) departments. This formula-based allocation is using the following variables: Square footage of schools, police incident data, student suspensions, school lockdowns, student population, the school's actual grade and questions related to the school climate. Based on these variables a formula was derived to calculate the security monitors allocated to each school.

The committee discussed, provided comments, expressed concerns and questions and concerns were addressed by Major Silva and Ms. Corina Putt. It was determined that different scenarios for an alternate Security Monitor allocation would be brought to the March meeting. Ron and Martha will coordinate with School Police and ARDA and see if there is updated information related to the variables currently used in order to update the allocation of the budgeted amount for Security Monitors.

V. Legislative Update: Mr. Barea opened the floor to that Ms. Iraida Mendez-Cartaya has left the Miami Dade County School District and for the mean time he and Dr. Nancy Lawther will be giving the legislative updates. Mr. Steiger mentioned that the state is over \$2.5 billion short in revenue heading into next year. Due to the pandemic, tax collections are down, and this will have an impact on the budget. He believes there will be a lot of pet projects, like universal vouchers, and the expansion of schools of hope. The big issue is how much money will education get cut from the shortfall that the state will have to deal with. How and how much will schools be affected is still unknown because the governor's budget had not been released yet.

Dr. Lawther continued, explaining to the members that there are several financial problems with the Universal voucher bill; Senate Bill 48 which has several implications for this committee. One is the teacher's salary increase allocation. This bill mandates that it be shared with private schools participating in the voucher program. That funding was originally set up to give public schools teachers a raise so their minimum salary would be \$47,500. If that funding is shared that means less money coming in for the school districts and charter schools. The second big difference in terms of funding has to do with the merging of the current existing scholarship programs. Funds will now go to the Department of Revenue then to the Scholarship Funding Organization and then to the private schools to pay for the students who apply. The income ceiling will be raised making $\frac{3}{4}$'s of MDCPS eligible. Ron felt the question will now be how many new private schools will pop up and how many charters will be converting to private schools to take advantage of these funds? The hope is that the private schools are held to the same accountability that public schools are held to! However, there is no mention of accountability in the bill. If anything, it is decreasing accountability by delaying the number of years between audits for private schools. Dr. Lawther spoke about different scenarios and mentioned that all these issues will have an effect on our budget.

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

VI. Financial Outlook for 2020-21: Mr. Ron Steiger, Chief Budget Officer informed the committee that since the governor's budget had not come out, they will postpone the 2020-21 budget outlook discussion until the February meeting.

VI. New Business: No new business.

VII. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.