

Draft to be Approved

Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee Minutes

Call to Order

The Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee (FCIAC) meeting held via Zoom conference on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 was called to order by Chair Nancy Lawther at 9:32 a.m.

Attendance/Members Present

Aundray Adams, Evonne Alvarez, Cleo Chumiso, Annalisa Claps, Enrique Escallon, Vanessa Grice, Ashley Jones, Nancy Lawther, Rhoda Louissaint, Dannie McMillon, Renata Merjam, Bernadette Montgomery, Bridget Moore, Carolyn Nelson-Goedert, Patricia Ortega, Reinaldo Palacios, Angel Rodriguez, Davindrel Sahatoo, Diana Santangelo, Eileen Segal, Lenora Stafford, Nadeige Theresias-Joisil, Sharon Watson, Antonio White, Renee Williams

Also Present

Tarek Chebbi, Maria Diaz-Almendral, Denise Landman, Lisa Thurber, Sara Walkup

Introduction

Nancy Lawther

- Welcome, attendance, and self-introductions
- Minutes from the January 19, 2021 and February 16, 2021 will be reviewed and voted on during the March meeting.

Regional Reports

North Region

Reinaldo Palacios

- Parent advocates continue to work with parents and schools.
- 21-22 Transfer process has begun and will be available until March 15.
- Parent choice transfers are available. Controlled open enrollment school must be at 90% or below.
- Federal/State Compliance office has all the information on their web site <http://attendanceservices.dadeschools.net/#!/fullWidth/706>

Central Region

Deborah Gonzales

- ABC updates - Two new schools in the Doral area. JC Bermudez High School will be adding 10th grade and Andrea Castillo Prep Elementary will be adding 2nd grade.

- Transfer process has begun in North Region.

South Region

Vanessa Grice

- Transfer process has begun.
- Finalist chosen for Principal, Assistant Principal, Teacher, Rookie Teacher of the Year and Office Personnel of the Year.

Title 1

Lenora Stafford

- Three CIS and CLS trainings utilizing Community Partners to share resources.
 - Dates: February 8, 10, 12, 2021
- Training for schools that do not have a CIS or CLS.
 - Dates: March 8,10,12, 2021
- Eviction Assistance and Guide for Residents
 - Dates: February 17, 19, 23, 2021
- The virtual training had over 300 participants in attendance.
- Nancy: At what point are schools designated as Title I? Bernadette Montgomery answered: Title I designation happens at the beginning of the school year.
- Expectation that the number of Title I schools will increase over the summer due to the current economic situation. Increase in free or reduced lunch applications.
- Nadeige Theresias-Joisil (Sant La)
 - Resources available: North Miami Mental Health, Amigos for Kids, Greater Legal Services.

Superintendents Panel for Students with Exceptionalities

Enrique Escallon

- No meeting until next month.
- Reviewed C-100 from February's Board Meeting – Board Policy 2460 Exceptional Student Education.

PTA

Nancy Lawther

- Following legislation
- This evening: Awards for Reflections Awards.
- Saturday: Founder's Day 98th Year Celebration.

Magnet

Not in attendance

Parent Budget Sub-Committee

Nancy Lawther

- Next meeting will be February 22, 2021.
- Governor has submitted a generous budget.
- The Base Student Allocation has increased.
- Federal contributions beginning to come in – damages for the upcoming year may not be as bad as previously expected.
- Looking for ways to mediate future budget cuts and reduction in monies.

Citizens Coalition

Enrique Escallon

- Next meeting will be February 16, 2021
- Discussion of SB48 on expanding vouchers and how it will impact M-DCPS.
- HB359/SB886 on COVID19 and accountability this will impact the budget.

School Climate Survey

Dr. Tarek Chebbi, Director on behalf of Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis

- Surveying the parents has been a cornerstone process for over 25 years.
- All school participate – had a 9% participation increase this year.
- Survey is offered in English, Spanish, and Creole.
- Moving survey online this year.
- Survey has 36 questions and covers four main areas.
 - Safety and Order (7 questions)
 - Leadership and Support (6 questions)
 - Resources and Support (6 questions)
 - Teachers, Learning and Assessment (16 questions)
 - Questions have been added to address COVID
- We get about 5000 responses, last year that number was lower due to COVID.
- Results are reported by schools. Some charter schools participate.
- CISs at schools will be used to assist parents in completing the survey.
- Principals will send out the link for the survey.
- The responses are completely confidential.
- Information is used for grants and other means.
- We contact region offices for schools with low response rates.
- Last year had low response due to school closure.
- Surveys will be deployed in March and open for 4 weeks.
- Paper surveys will be available for parents that request them.

Office of Communications and Community Engagement

Denise Landman, District Director, Office of Communications and Community Engagement

- Use of all social media platforms to reach the community.
- Customer service is also done through social media, using two way communication.
- We have daily and weekly radio programming, WMBM MDCPS Voices, WLRN for Haitian Creole, and other local stations.
- Newsletters: Connection-Monthly, inews-Quarterly
- Newspapers: El Diario de Las Americas-weekly column in Spanish, and other local community newspapers.
<https://communitynewspapers.com/>
- Nancy mentioned the importance of two-way communication.
- Teachers indicated that they were getting messages 24/7 – We need to set reasonable limits.
- Sara shared that schools normally have Open Houses at the beginning of the year. The district does not have a mandate on a specific communication application teachers should use. They use Edmodo, Remind, and Classdojo.
- Nadiege recommended that we produce a one-pager with survey information for Community-Based Organizations to share.
- How are we facilitating two-way communication?
 - Multi-faceted approach
- Nancy – Two-way communication: What happens at the school level when the information is not welcomed?
 - Sara – We recommend that families follow the chain of command at the school level.
 - The next step would be to contact the Region Office. Each region has a parent advocate.
 - Then the District Offices.
 - We want families to be heard and offer training around effective communications.
- Beverly-Multi pronged Communication
 - People who don't live in Florida
 - People who live in Miami-Dade but don't have children in M-DCPS
 - People who have children in M-DCPS
- Learning Management System (LMS) Sara shared slide
- Renata - Answering tons of questions as a PTA Officer and parents feel more comfortable approaching other parents.

District Updates

Sara

- April meeting - Committee will come up with recommendations related to subjects discussed this year to be shared with the superintendent.
- Strategic Planning Focus Groups
 - Beginning in March
 - Stakeholder's input
- (Maria) Professional Development for CIS on How to Conduct Virtual Visits.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37

Next meeting on March 15, 2021