

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, December 7, 2020

Members Present: Mr. Eddy Barea, Chair, Mr. Scot Evans, 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. Isabelle Exume, Ms. Zoraida Serret.

Others Present: Mr. Jerold Blumstein, Ms. Cleo Chumiso, Ms. Martha M. Diaz, Ms. Jackeline Fals-Chew, Ms. Mina Hosseini, Ms. Iraida Mendez-Cartaya, Mr. Ron Steiger, Mr. Ryan Pontier, Ms. Sara Walkup.

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

II. Presentation of the Sunshine Law: Mr. Barea opened the floor to Ms. Sara Walkup, Director of Community Outreach. Ms. Walkup addressed the committee members about the Sunshine Law and provided the Code of Ethics forms. She encouraged the members to sign the forms and explained that the State of Florida mandates that they meet in person. When COVID-19 started the committee was able to meet via Zoom, but the executive orders clearly state, that in order to pass any business in these committees they have to have a physical quorum present.

Ms. Walkup continued explaining to the members how the meetings are normally run. She stated that if there is not a quorum, they cannot vote on the minutes and that the subcommittee cannot exceed 20 members. In terms of missing meetings, in the by-laws and with the Sunshine Law if a member has two unexcused absences, technically the Chair can discuss whether to keep that member as a voting member. Ms. Walkup informed the committee that at end of the school year the committee would be making recommendations to the Superintendent and to the Board in term of the use of funds.

The committee discussed, provided comments, expressed concerns and questions and concerns were addressed by Ms. Sara Walkup.

III. Approval of Minutes for October 12, 2020: Mr. Barea, asked for the approval of the minutes for the October 12, 2020, Parent Advisory Subcommittee meeting and the minutes were approved. Ms. Beverly Heller abstained since she had not reviewed the minutes.

IV. Legislative Update: Mr. Barrera opened the floor to Ms. Iraida Mendez-Cartaya, Associate Superintendent, who provided the committee with current updates on the Legislative Session. Ms. Mendez-Cartaya, began with telling the committee that at the State level there are five committee meetings that are important, and they are scheduled as follows: January 11th thru 15th and January 25th thru 29th, then on February 1st thru 5th, February 8th thru 12 and February 15th thru 19th. The next major issue is the release of the governor's recommended budget. He is required to release his budget 30 days in advance of the Florida Legislation session that will begin on March 2, 2021 and will end on April 30, 2021.

Ms. Mendez-Cartaya mentioned that there is an estimated shortfall for the next couple of years of approximately \$5.4 billion. COVID-19 will be a major factor in this Legislative session from a revenue and expenditure perspective because of the rising cost of healthcare. She also added that the Legislature can make reductions to expenditures and they could also explore revenue increases in the Seminole gaming compact that has not been renewed and internet sales taxes. They don't expect the Florida Legislature to increase property taxes or increase any type of taxes.

Ms. Mendez-Cartaya informed the committee of the emergency order that had been released the previous week. This allows funding flexibility to school districts though the entire school year of 2021 this allows us to continue with my school online. The school district funding will be based on the highest of

the original FTE estimated for FY 20/21 which may be adjusted if the actual amount enrolled in a district is higher than the original estimate for FY 20/21. The impact to the state of Florida for the adjustment required to pay districts that ended up higher than originally anticipated is about a \$17 million increase and they estimate that our potential impact is about a \$2.5 million decrease. There are requirements that the school district must follow in order to obtain that funding flexibility and they are as follows: Districts must submit to the department of education a 2020-21 spring intervention plan for students identified for expanded learning, supplemental interventions and services in reading and mathematics by grade level; The schools must remain open for at least 5 days per week for all students, there is a caveat that is subject to advise and orders from the Florida Department of Health and subsequent Executive orders. We must provide learning and supplemental intervention services such as Saturday schools. Some intervention programs must provide services for ELL, ESE students. We must extend the same flexibility to charter schools, the charter schools submit their plan to us they don't have to submit the plan to the State of Florida.

Ms. Mendez-Cartaya stated that the board adopted as part of its priorities for this legislative process a request for the continuation of the compression adjustment DCD hold harmless that the Florida Legislation passed last Legislative Session; this provided Miami Dade County Schools \$13.8 million. This is something we will be asking the Dade delegation to take on as a priority. They will also be requesting that the Legislation continue the funding of the teacher salary increase allocation which increase the minimum teacher salary to \$47,500.

At the Federal level there is a bipartisan stimulus package proposal of \$908 billion that provides State and Local Relief. This package provides an additional \$82 billion for Education. We are closely monitoring the negotiations. As far as the budget goes, we don't anticipate any major increases, maybe a small increase in Title I and IDEA.

The committee discussed, provided comments, expressed concerns and questions and concerns were addressed by Ms. Mendez-Cartaya.

V. Financial Outlook for 2020-21: Mr. Barea opened the floor to Mr. Ron Steiger. Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Steiger expanded on Ms. Mendez-Cartaya presentation of the budget. He stated that the governor's executive order stabilizes the 2020-21 budget from student losses, as long as they follow their guidelines. Mr. Steiger stated that any losses this year will go to the ESSER fund. For 2021-22 the State Board of Education has said that we should do anything to maximize our revenue. They are not going to roll back the millage. The district is hoping to get some savings from the fact that schools are not running at full capacity. We are going to create a 2021-22 balancing reserve to place these savings because we are going to need it. Mr. Steiger discussed the decrease in students and mentioned different scenarios that we can take. He stated that it is difficult to estimate how many students the district will have next year. We are assuming a drop in the FTE and are estimating the same number of students which have actually enrolled for 2020-21 for 2021-22 which is 328,000 students. The decrease of 8,000 students will cost the district approximately \$64 million for 2021-22. Therefore, this will be the first line of the 2021-22 budget. The second one will be the number of students leaving to charter schools. If the state keeps us whole, we will start 2021-22 with a \$75 million loss. Therefore, anything we can restructure in order to save money must be considered. We also need to think about the needs of our students and how we can use the funds from the second ESSER relief funds which will be provided for education so we can meet these needs with these one-time funds.

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

VI. New Business: There was a request for a presentation in the next meeting to see if there was any way that the current allocation of police and security could be restructured and still be in line with the Marjory Stoneman Douglass directive. There was another request for the repurposing of under enrolled schools using community partnerships. Mr. Barea requested the committee to bring more items or ideas to present to create savings because of the economic situation the system is facing.

The committee approved Monday, January 25, 2021 and February 22, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. as the next meeting dates.

VII. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.