

Draft to be Approved

Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee Minutes

Call to Order

The Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee (FCIAC) meeting held in SBAB 559 and simultaneously via Zoom conference on Monday, April 19, 2021 was called to order by Chair Nancy Lawther at 9:41a.m.

Attendance/Members Present

Aundray Adams, Cleo Chumiso, Analisa Claps, Mariangela Cordero, Laura Crenshaw-Philpot, Sherian Demetrius, Enrique Escallon, Deborah Gonzalez, Beverly Heller, Lina Hodgson, Sheila Jackson, Shameka Jenkins, Ashley Jones, Brittany Lambert-Brown, Nancy Lawther, Rhoda Louissaint, Dannie McMillon, Renata Merjam, Bernadette Montgomery, Chris Moreno, Izegbe Onyango, Patricia Ortega, Reinaldo Palacios, Flavia Pedrosa, Carmen Portela, Diane Quick, Lisa Robertson, Angel Rodriguez, Meriel Seymore, Lenora Stafford, Nadeige Theresias-Joisil, Sharon Watson, Antonio White, Renee Williams

Also Present

Maria Diaz-Almendral, Lisa Thurber, Sara Walkup

March Minutes were approved as amended

Regional Reports

North Region

Reinaldo Palacios

- North Region Office continues to work with schools providing a safe learning environment through weekly school visits. NRO has three Parent Advocates that are available to aid our NRO parents/schools with any school related concerns.
 - Contact number: 305-572-2800/ Work Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (M-F)
- 2021-22 Student Transfers; MDCPS Federal & State Compliance Office (FASCO) webpage.
- Parent Choice Student Transfers FM-3281, starts Monday, March 15, 2021, must be submitted via in person or emailed (Completed FM-3281 must be attached to the email) to the principal (pr0000@dadeschools.net) of the school that services the parent's residence address.
 - Currently experiencing Mandated Exams and student transfer request(s) are processed depending on the student's grade level/exam requirements.
 - Out-of-County Student Transfers FM-7707 - starts Monday, March 15, 2021, must be submitted to the FASCO office via email to outofcountytransfers@dadeschools.net

Central Region

Deborah Gonzalez

- Summer School services will be extended for 2020-2021 school year, additional school sites will be open for a longer than usual summer session. Planning is still in progress; I have no specifics at this time.
- Parent Choice Transfers for school year 2021-2022 began on March 15, 2021.
- Parent Choice Transfers for the current school year 2020 to 2021 are ongoing.

South Region

Lina Hodgson

Parent Choice Student Transfer process for the 2021-2022 school year continues. Parent/legal guardian can apply to attend schools with student populations that are not at 100% capacity. Application and procedures are available on the M-DCPS website www.dadeschools.net.

- South Region Transfer Office processed over 500 Controlled Open Enrollment requests for 2021-22 school year.
- The South Region Office honored Assistant Principal of the Year with an Ice Cream Social on April 09, 2021
- Robert Morgan Senior High School held two (2) drive by events this month. A Junior Class Ring Ceremony took place on April 14, 2021 and an Awards Assembly took place on April 26, 2021.
- State Mandated Assessments are being held at all sites with waiver options available to students
- Virtual tours of facilities for registration and subject selection continues at school sites.

The Off-Cycle application period will remain open through the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Students must meet all eligibility criteria and will be accepted on first-come, first-come basis. After applying, the Magnet school will contact applicants. Assistance from the School Choice & Parental Option Office is available by calling 305-995-1922. Applications and procedures are available on the M-DCPS website www.dadeschools.net.

Title 1

Lenora Stafford

- Diabetes Workshop in English every Monday, Spanish on Wednesday, Haitian Creole on Friday.
- FDLRS South Workshop

Bernadette Montgomery

- The 3rd Title I DAC General Meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. this Thursday, April 22nd. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom, pre-registration is required.
- During the meeting, we will provide the results DAC Executive Board Officer Election which took place last week. The newly elected board will be installed during the DAC Executive Board Meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4th via Zoom.

- District CHESS Championship was held this past Saturday, April 17th.
 - Title I District CHESS Championship 1st – 3rd place team Winners
 - **K-1** First Place - Cutler Ridge Elementary, Second Place - Gateway Environmental K-8, Third Place - Olympia Heights Elementary
 - **2-3** First Place - John G. Dupuis Elementary, Second Place - Coral Terrace Elementary, Third Place - Oak Grove Elementary
 - **4-5** First Place - Spanish Lake Elementary, Second Place - Oak Grove Elementary, Third Place - Joe Hall Elementary
 - **6-8** First Place – Hialeah Gardens MS, Second Place – Rockway MS, Third Place – Howard McMillan MS
 - **9-12** First Place – Miami SHS, Second Place – South Miami SHS, Third Place – G. Holmes Braddock SHS

Superintendents Panel for Students with Exceptionalities

Enrique Escallon (not present)

Beverly Heller

No report at this time, the committee meets every other month.

Working on a one pager list of resources for parents.

PTA

Nancy Lawther

- Closely following legislation
- Carefully watching quite a few bills that may impact our children and our schools
- PTA has received a grant to sponsor an author from the community to read to our children. We are planning three different readings in June via Zoom. The book will be distributed to all registered. This initiative may continue in the future with a partnership between MDCCPTA/PTSA and Miami-Dade Public Library system.
- There is also a bill in both houses for the monthly distribution of books to students.
- Annual Awards Gala in May we will have an in-person event at Shula's with a Zoom option.

FCIAC Parent Budget Sub-Committee

Beverly Heller

- Discussed priorities in terms of where ESSER funds will be utilized
- Extended school day and summer school are priorities
- Priorities are being revised as legislature makes decisions on funding levels.
- Limitations – nonrecurring and no salaries
- Meeting tonight, April 19, 2021, 5:30 room 916

Citizens Coalition

Enrique Escallon/ Nancy Lawther

- Schedule to meet after this meeting, April 19, 2021
- Discuss budget

Office of Communications and Community Engagement

Lisa Thurber

- **Legislative Session:** Late Friday, Senate President and Speaker of the House announced they reached an agreement on joint allocations for each of the budget subcommittee
- Saturday 4/17 @ 10 a.m. Budget Conference began
- Still negotiating:
 - House and Senate education budget chiefs on Sunday said they are “pretty close” to aligning their spending plans for the prekindergarten through 12th-grade system, but several issues need to be worked out.
 - The House presented an initial offer that would include matching DeSantis’ recommendation of increasing funding for teacher pay raises by \$50 million, to \$550 million. The Senate has proposed keeping funding for teacher pay raises at \$500 million, which would continue a plan approved during the 2020 Session.
 - At least at this point, a proposal by DeSantis to give teachers and principals \$1,000 bonuses by using federal stimulus dollars isn’t being considered by House and Senate budget negotiations—but it could resurface in the next few days.
 - House PreK-12 Appropriations Chairman **Randy Fine** said the House is targeting roughly \$464 million to fund proposals ([HB 7045](#) and [SB 48](#)) that would expand school-voucher programs. Initially, the House was looking to keep that money in case districts saw a surge in enrollment because of children returning to school after staying away this year because of the pandemic.
 - Session concludes on April 30/Budget decisions must be finalized by April 27
- **Executive Order - FAQs on dadeschools.net:** Drafted a Waiver and accepted Public Comment
 - This emergency order provides the following: Allows districts and schools flexibility to determine on a case-by-case basis if a senior’s high school record demonstrates comparable level of achievement to state assessments, thereby allowing for graduation even in the absence of qualifying test results.
 - Allows local discretion to determine promotion and course grade decisions, including courses that require end-of-course (EOC) exams.
 - Provides high school seniors who are on track but have yet to earn a Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholars, Florida Medallion Scholars, Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars or Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award additional time to earn a qualifying test score by extending deadlines to December 1, 2021 for ACT and/or SAT and the PERT for Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars.
 - For purposes of Bright Futures, it forgives volunteer hour requirements for students who intended to complete the service hours prior to graduation, but through no fault of their own had a lack of access to volunteer opportunities.

- Districts and schools, that test 90% or more of eligible students, can opt-in, at their discretion, on a case-by-case basis, to school grades or improvement ratings for each individual school.
 - Calculation of learning gains for school grades will be based on growth from the 2018-2019 school year to the 2020-2021 school year, due to the cancellation of tests in Spring 2020.
 - For districts and schools not opting in, school grades and school improvement ratings would not be automatically calculated and released for the 2020-2021 school year.
 - Assessments encouraged
 - Graduations June 1 – 9 Miami-Dade Fair & Expo/Ocean Bank Convention Ctr. @ FIU
- **Strategic Plan:** Wrapping up Envisioning Phase
 - Nearly 30,000 survey responses
 - 54 Focus Groups/1,000 participants
 - 9 Listening Tours
 - Synthesizing the feedback for themes
 - Share during Superintendent Town Halls in May
 - **Community Partners Awards:** Exemplary Dade Partners and Outstanding School Volunteers
 - Nomination deadline was Friday
 - Honored via social media in May

Sara:

- **Fathers in Education week**
 - Workshops are scheduled for next week with various community partners
 - Common Threads cooking class next Wednesday
 - Next Thursday is Fathers in Education Day – we will have a social media challenge

2020-21 Priorities & Recommendations

Nancy Lawther

COVID-19

1. Provide more counselors and/or better coordination with outside agencies to ensure student access to mental health resources.
2. Address the disparity between students and access to devices/condition of devices and provide training for students on usage of devices.
3. Continue to follow CDC guidelines and consultations with medical experts.
4. Continue to provide access to COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.
5. Establish protocols to ensure accountability in terms of adherence to COVID-19 protocols at the school site; with a districtwide mask mandate.
6. Prioritize school site maintenance by using ESSER funds to address ventilation issues and other physical conditions that may create barriers to good health.
7. Re-think and re-purpose outdoor areas to create spaces for learning.

8. Invest in additional nurses; specifically traveling nurses.

Early Childhood

1. Encourage the exploration of funding mechanisms for:
 - Expansion of VPK instructional hours in fee-supported schools to match Title I VPK schedule.
 - Align program/operational hours of VPK and Head Start so both provide the same amount of instructional time.
2. Expand programs to ensure access for all populations.

Communications and Engagement

1. Provide more opportunities for the public to freely express issues of concern.
2. Provide better accountability in terms of access to information and response times from schools to the public.
3. Develop mechanism to account for incoming calls/requests/responses.
4. Conduct an annual assessment of communication strategies to find what worked, what didn't and where to focus attention moving forward.
5. Provide a mechanism (i.e., electronic chat) to communicate in real-time on dadeschools.net.
6. Review available technologies and invest in those that would improve communication; specifically two-way communication.

Testing and Assessment

1. Explore alternate testing modalities (i.e., testing center(s)).
2. Maintain flexibility with assessments utilized to determine student promotion.
3. Focus more on assessment of individual needs versus state/federal accountability.
4. Re-examine Florida's accountability system.

Vote to pass recommendations: Beverly made the motion to pass recommendations and Enrique seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting May 17, 2021

Meeting is adjourned 11:50