

Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee Minutes

Call to Order

The Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee (FCIAC) meeting held in SBAB room 559 and simultaneously via Zoom conference on Tuesday, January 16, 2021 was called to order by Chair Nancy Lawther at 9:38 a.m.

Attendance/Members Present

Aundray Adams, Evonne Alvarez, Cleo Chumiso, Annalisa Claps, Sherian Demetrius, Laura Crenshaw-Philpot, Enrique Escallon, Beverly Heller, Lina Hodgson, Ashley Jones, Nancy Lawther, Donovan Lee-Sin, Rhoda Louissaint, Dannie McMillon, Renata Merjam, Chris Moreno, Carolyn Nelson-Goedert, Patricia Ortega, Reinaldo Palacios, Flavia Pedrosa, Maiky Perez de Corcho, Diane Quick, Carmen Portela, Lisa Robertson, Angel Rodriguez, Davindrel Sahatoo, Diana Santangelo, Eileen Segal, Meriel Seymore, Lenora Stafford, Nadeige Theresias-Joisil, Charmille Walters, Sharon Watson, Antonio White, Renee Williams

Also Present

Jerold Blumstein, Maria Diaz-Almendral, Lisa Thurber, Sara Walkup

Introduction

Nancy Lawther

- Welcome, attendance, and self-introductions
- Minutes from the November 16, 2020 were approved as amended

Regional Reports

South Region

Lina Hodgson

The region office continues to support all schools and prioritizes in keeping students and staff safe.

North Region

Reinaldo Palacios

The region continues to support its schools with weekly school visits. Questions and concerns are being addressed by office personnel and three parent advocates, Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at telephone number 305-572-2800.

Central Region

Deborah Gonzales

No report.

Title 1

Lenora Stafford

Facilitators and CIS training support for Title I school's webinar concerning childhood bereavement provided by Catholic Charities. Title I DAC General Meeting in February TBA. Meetings are virtual.

Superintendents Panel for Students with Exceptionalities

Enrique Escallon

Updated bylaws were approved at last meeting. Next meeting Thursday.

PTA

Nancy Lawther

No December meeting. IRS forms and tax preparation are being worked on by local units. General meeting is on January 28, including Q & A with Superintendent Carvalho. February 20 is the celebration of Founder's Day. PTA is approaching the 100th year anniversary. Currently preparing for the session in Tallahassee. PTA passed a resolution dealing with the environment.

Magnet

Not in attendance

Parent Budget Sub-Committee

Nancy Lawther

Depending on federal and state level funding, members made recommendations on ways to cut or enhance the MDCPS budget.

Citizens Coalition

Enrique Escallon

The meeting will be following today's FCIAC meeting. Will discuss Iraida's departure, hear legislative updates, and make legislative recommendations.

Department of Early Childhood Programs

Patricia Ortega District Supervisor spoke on behalf of Early Childhood.

- The pandemic has negatively impacted enrollment.
- The department oversees three programs: VPK, Head Start, and Pre-K ESE.
- Ready Rosie is being used to support at home learning and help students with school readiness.
- Early Childhood is important because the brain is 90% developed by age five.
- Why Choose MDCPS Pre-K?

1. All teachers are certified.
 2. Low teacher-student ratio.
 3. 91% of MDCPS VPK Providers have met the threshold versus 67% of the state VPK Providers.
 4. Technology, support staff, media center, usage of school facility, offered by MDCPS.
- Students that participate in VPK offered at elementary schools make a smooth transition into kindergarten.
 - VPK is state funded and the largest program.
 - Free for all 4-year-olds until noon. (Miami Beach offers free all day VPK)
 - Head Start has 34 locations. Family must be income eligible, or the child must have an IEP, or be homeless.
 - PreK-ESE works to meet the student's IEP and specific needs. Available opportunities for role-model students.
 - Class size restrictions due to COVID: Pre-K 12 in person and the rest virtual, Head Start 10 in person and 10 virtual.
 - Most schools have virtual seats available.
 - Community outreach to promote registration: social media, radio ads, committees like FCIAC, and recruitment events.
 - Department of Early Childhood Programs contact information:
 1. 305-995-7632
 2. Earlychildhood.dadeschools.net
 - Questions to be revisited:
 1. Percent of children in Dade-County that are enrolled in MDCPS VPK?
 2. Benchmark for kindergarten readiness?
 3. With increase funding for full-time programs how many more students can we enroll?
 4. Can individual schools fund VPK?
 5. How can we best meet the needs of our younger students?
 - A suggestion was made to request full funding for full-day VPK from our legislators.
 - Suggestion was made for summer/spring break recovery.

District Updates

Lisa Thurber

- Updated Educational Plan- December executive order extended MSO option for 20-21 school year.
- MDCPS is requesting funding to address academic regression, excessive absences, and low academic performance.
- Students not making adequate progress must return to brick-and-mortar model after January 21, 2021. If parents do not comply, they must sign a waiver that they are aware the student is not progressing.
- 500 students across the district are still MIA (used to be 1500).

Nancy asked for a motion to extend the meeting. Beverly Heller made motion to extend, and motion passed.

Office of Community Engagement

Sara Walkup

- The 2021 Legislative Priorities. Lists and resources were emailed to all members.
- Priorities:
 1. Funding
 2. Accountability and Assessment Reform
 3. Governance
 4. Capital Funding
 5. Teacher/Personnel Shortage

Subjects for next meeting will be:

Assessment

Communication

Recommendations Regarding Early Childhood Program

Meeting adjourned at 11:47

Next meeting on February 16, 2021