

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 conference room 916 and simultaneously via Zoom meeting on Monday, November 15, 2021, was called to order by Nancy Lawther, at 9:35 a.m.

Introductions

Skipping over any action that needs to be voted on because there is no physical quorum until we reach our number

Attendance/Members Present

In-Person

Laura Crenshaw-Philpot, Sherian Demetrius, Beverly Heller, Lina Hodgson, Adele Ijeoma, Sheila Jackson, Nancy Lawther, Tyler O'dneal, Dislamy Pelayo, Lisa Robertson, Meriel Seymore, Antonio White, Renee Williams

Zoom

Deborah Gonzalez, Laura Hernandez, Ksenia Koryakina, Renata Merjam, Chris Moreno, Carolyn Nelson-Goedert, Reinaldo Palacios, Flavia Maria Pedrosa, Carmen Portela, Angel Rogriguez, Alessandra Saligo , Lenora Stafford, Sharon Watson, Hermine Wilson-Lang

Sally Alayon (presentors)

Lianie Cuba (presentors)

Also Present

Maria Diaz-Almendral, Lisa Thurber, Shaquellia Holmes

Regional Reports

North Region

Reinaldo Palacios

The Anti-Defamation League has endorsed all the Miami Beach Feeder Pattern Schools as “No Place for Hate” participants. Students begin by signing the No Place for Hate Pledge, which sets the tone for the school year. Students and staff members commit to treating others fairly, being kind and not tolerating bullying of any kind. It promotes a commitment to activities of respect for differences (e.g., kindness club, multicultural club, LGBTQ club). Traditionally there is a celebration at the end of the year where all schools from the feeder pattern perform at the North beach Bandshell to demonstrate their bias free environment through song, dance or vignettes acted out by students.

NRO Parent Advocates are available to aid our NRO parents with school related matters. Contact number: 305-572-2800 Schedule: M-F from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Central Region

Deborah Gonzalez

Liberty City -- Mr. George Caesar, "Helping students focus". A math teacher at Miami Northwestern Senior High founded Smoothies 4 students, a nonprofit that provides nutritious smoothies to students who lack access to fresh foods in their neighborhoods.

Coconut Grove-- G.W. Carver Middle's Girls Junior Cross Country Varsity Team were 1st place recipients of Trophies and Team Medals in the Junior Orange Bowls 22nd Annual Cross-Country Invitational.

Overtown—Frederick Douglas Elementary School was built in 1958 with 3 buildings, two of which will be demolished making room for a new addition, a one story, eight classroom additions will be designed to support a second floor. Playground will be relocated, and basketball court will be stripped and recoated.

South Region

Lina Hodgson

Parent Choice Student Transfer process for the 2021-2022 school year continues. Parent or legal guardian can apply to attend schools with student populations that are less than 100% capacity. Application and procedures are available on the MDCPS website www.dadeschools.net.

South Region Parent's Advocacy continues to mediate on the behalf of parents and school administrators. Advocates are available Monday and Friday 11:00am-04:30p and Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday-Contact number is 305-251-4870. Lia Sanjuana is an eighth grader at Arvida Middle School, she is 1 of 10 Miami Dade County Schools students that received "Do The Right Thing" Award. She recently witnessed a case of cyberbullying and quickly made the correct choice to inform a trusted adult. Lia saw a cyberbullying post on social media that was posted by a student in the school. She stepped in and immediately followed the bullying prevention reporting protocols. She located a school counsellor to report the incident and gave the photos of the post to administration.

Shiloh West-Pallais is an Eighth Grade, Frank C. Martin K-8 he is 1 of 10 Miami Dade County School student that received 'Do The Right Thing' for the past two years, Shiloh has volunteered with Honor Flight South Florida preparing goodie bags for veterans and delivering them. Currently, he is working on his 8th grade community service project "Veterans Amongst Us" where he plans on honoring local veterans by telling their stories. He plans to interview local veterans and share their stories through a student created website and social media channels.

Title 1

Lenora Stafford

The first Title I District Advisory Council General Meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, December 9th at 6:30 p.m.

The Title I Neighborhood Resource Center continues to recognize Parents, Families, Title I Support Staff and Community Parents during November's Family Engagement Month. In-person events are being held throughout the month to celebrate their outstanding support. See attached calendar of events.

On November 24th from 11:30 a.m., a College Readiness Webinar will be held. High School students can receive 10 Community Service Hours for their participation.

Superintendents Panel for Students with Exceptionalities

Beverly Heller (Enrique Escallon not present)

Subcommittees are great on engagement - mental health and parental involvement

Sally gave the committee an update on mental health

Meetings for anyone that wants to come, want more parents; next Meeting is January 6, 2022

PTA

Sharon Watson and Nancy Lawther

A concentrated effort to bring in more activities this year

Approximately 70 schools have changed in status, activities affected by covid; school's PTAs are looking to reestablish themselves so that parents can be more involved

Proactive partnership with school and district administration to increase parent involvement in schools

PTAs are 501c3s - without reporting the IRS will drop you and will be unable to collect funds for schools and participate as an active organization

FCIAC Parent Budget Sub-Committee

Nancy Lawther

Summary of Chief Financial Officer - are simultaneously very rich and trying to put that money to the best use but at the same time very poor because of restrictions, this is money that we will not be permanent

Seeing where the Build Back Better Act goes to see where next steps go

Funds are non-occurring which has added to the district's financial obligations

The concern is for the CFO is for when the funds run out, we may be scrimping on funds but not sure as of yet; need to look at next year's budget

Concerns due to Tallahassee to penalize those districts that did not adhere to the Governor's stance on masks etc - concern is what they will do financially which can affect programs, how limited will our resources be?

Beverly Heller

New member to the committee Antonio White

Urging members from this committee to become members of the Budget Committee as they are looking for people that are already in the committee to join the subcommittee

get meeting info from Sara - Meet at 5:30pm on Mondays

Citizens Coalition

Enrique Escallon (not present) Nancy Lawther

In a special session week around covid restrictions, vaccine mandates, and potential of pulling out of the federal OSHA program

Things are on hold - committee bill on what will happen with standardized testing moving towards progress monitoring; good thing to rethink the accountability system but not sure what direction they will go into

Tabitha Fazzino is up in Tallahassee discussing testing

Other concern - what will happen to further school safety

Committee meets right after this meeting – Not today due to rescheduling

UTD

Antonio White

Going to Tallahassee tomorrow to speak with the House

Haven't dropped any educational bills but trying to get ahead by having meetings to provide input and change any minds

Hoping this session will not be as detrimental as previous sessions because it's an election year

System has been looking to remove all teacher unions

They may be looking for ways to punish Miami-Dade County because of refusal to initially follow Governor's orders

-Nancy L

Election year there will be redistricting - will affect certain schools as far school board members and state representative but not the students

Will take effect next November 2022

-Beverly H

CC (independent) is very supportive of schools and their initiatives

Support House Bill 125

Meetings are usually after these meetings and are \$15 for a year membership

Department of Mental Health Services

Presentation Sally Alayon and Lianie Cuba

Department started in 2018

-this school year hired 118 assigned mental health coordinators, at the beginning it was only 30; hired additional 45 through MDCPS and 100 part time contracted agencies

-main goal is to provide direct support to students to those showing signs of being "at risk" - Tier 2 and 3

-provide interventions and services - trainings to parents

-Senate Bill 1001.212 - all schools to establish Threat Assessment Teams to get trainings - teams are a preventative and not punitive

-Suicide Prevention/Intervention Assessments - Senate Bill 1418 and Section 1012.583

-Community partnerships - partnerships support 70 schools to provide mental health services

-The Children's Trust - Health Connect

-12 agencies they are working with

-Provide mental health awareness trainings for staff (e.g., bus drivers, schools officers)

-They give free Parent training and Community Awareness Presentations

-9 Mental health/SEL programs, strategies, initiatives for students

-Parent Assistance Line - (305) 995-7100 Mon-Fri 8am-4pm;
www.mentalhealthservices.dadeschools.net

-Lisa R - Q: Is there an intent to put a trust counselor into every school?

-A: Additional dollars have been provided for current and additional counselors; via ESSR dollars

-Beverly H - Q: Can they break up the difference between the types of social workers and counselors? How are they assigned? And the percentage of social workers and counselors against the total?

-A: School counselors are allocated to all school sites; minimum every school should have one; social workers and counselors are under their social development umbrella

-A: Multi-tiered system has been around for years - Tier 1 performing at level for grade level, Tier 2 need academic intervention at risk of falling behind and below grade level, and Tier 3 high risk and experiencing a deeper need and need more intensive support and are given support from outside agencies

-A: all social workers and counselors are assigned to schools by need

-Adele I - Q: Training offered to schools for staff have been completed for all Miami-Dade Schools?

-A: Yes, kind of, trying to keep up with new hires; have not gotten all through trainings but focused on teachers and non-instructional support

-Rene W - Q: Are there services available for the teachers as well?

-A: Focused on students, but do have self-care and departments focused on employee assistance and wellness program for training and support

- A: Got Headspace for the entire district for free - provides mindfulness practices for adults

-Kenny F - Q: Cultural shock for immigrant students from Haiti; how many of the Tiers 1,2, and 3 are bilingual in terms of students and counselors?

-A: Are very careful of their hires and where they are placed, very intentional work.

-Nancy L - Q: Petition from Miami Organizing Alliance - if going to implement pilot level program how will inform families and what happens with any collected data on students? Wary of databases.

-A: Any sort of mental health screenings they are abiding by HIPPA laws

-Rene W - Q: Once students are referred are they financially funded?

-A: They have mental health allocation assistance from the state

Nancy Lawther

Officially Have Quorum

-Approval of 9/18 Minutes - Approved as written

-Approval of 10/18 Minutes - Approved as corrected

-Correction: page 5 under Digital Citizenship Month - typo says don not don't

Main Business

-Looking at Priorities

-Send in questions and comments so that we can convene a presentation

-Lisa R - may want to consider adding testing as the state establishes new policies, we may want to be a part of the conversation - add to college & career readiness

-Major focus be safety (January), staffing issues (February), and college and career readiness (March) - motion carries and these will be our priorities

-Sending questions to Sara Walkup regarding priority topic areas

Office of Communications and Community Engagement - Superintendent's Report

Lisa Thurber

-Gradually relaxed the masking protocols in schools

-As of November 12th, parents can decide if their child should wear a mask but have an opt-out form

-For those that are vaccinated have options as well

-Are now expanding their voluntary vaccination program for children 5-11 - 3:30pm-7pm school sites to Saturday November 20th

-Flu Vaccine Campaign

-Continue to monitor and consult with medical experts so they have to go back to medical restrictions

-Need to look at where these kids are in terms of academic reporting - there is much higher percentage of students are behind - need a wraparound process to look at academic performance (looking for ideas)

-Kids need extra support - teachers are being faced with a phenomenal challenge moving forward - expecting large academic regression

-Students can be vaccinated at schools and parents do not need to be present

-Lina H - Q: How does visitors coming on campus continue?

- A: Have not relaxed on that, asked adults to continue masking on campuses regardless of vaccinated status - want volunteers on campus

-Lara C - Q: Anyone interested in volunteering for student support or tutoring what can they do?

- A: Go through parent portal for parents and community volunteers

-Carolyn Nelson-G - Q: Are schools now welcoming volunteers on campus or is it a school-by-school basis; principal choice?

- A: All are open to volunteers, but some principals may have different restrictions based on space etc. on how they accept intake; if there are any kickback contact Lisa Thurber

-Lina H - Q: Can parents come in on campus?

- A: All parents can come in, not doing open house, but are welcome to come into the schools - looking to loosen boundaries

-Laura H - Q: Can Nursing Students come in as volunteers to fulfill observational learning?

- A: Will have to look further into that

Next Meeting in January 10,2022

Meeting adjourned at 11:41am