

MINUTES

Parent Subcommittee on District and School Budget Priorities
Family and Community Involvement Budget Advisory Subcommittee
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
1450 N.E. 2 Avenue, Room 916 & Zoom Meeting
Miami, FL 33132
Monday, May 10, 2021

Members Present: Mr. Eddy Barea, Chair, Mr. Scot Evans, Ms. Beverly Heller, Ms. Mina Hosseini, Dr. Nancy Lawther, Mr. James Lopez, Mr. Elias Seife, Ms. Zoraida Serret, Ms. Meriel C. Seymour, Ms. Nadeige Theresias-Joisil.

Members Excused Absent: Ms. Isabelle Exume, Ms. Maria Norton, Ms. Laura Philpot, Dr. Lisa Robertson.

Others Present: Ms. Nancy Cermeño, Ms. Martha M. Diaz, Ms. Tabitha Fazzino, Ms. Milagros Hernandez, Ms. Janielle Murphy, Mr. Ron Steiger, Ms. Sara Walkup, Mr. Antonio White.

I. Welcome and Introductions: The meeting was called to order. A quorum was established. Those present introduced themselves. Committee members and staff were welcomed.

II. Approval of Minutes for April 19, 2021: Ms. Seymour, asked for the approval of the minutes for the April 19, 2021, Parent Advisory Subcommittee meeting. The minutes were approved with corrections.

III. Presentation on the Sunshine Law: Ms. Seymour opened the floor to Ms. Sara Walkup. Director of Community Outreach. Ms. Walkup explained to the members how meetings are normally run. She continued explaining about the Sunshine Law and Robert's Rules of Order. She stated that a quorum is necessary to start official business. She is going to send a copy of the Official Sunshine Law manual, Robert's Rules of Order and the Family & Community Involvement Advisory Committee (FCIC) bylaws to the committee members.

IV. Legislative Update: Ms. Seymour opened the floor to Ms. Tabitha Fazzino, Chief Intergovernmental Affairs and Compliance Officer. She provided the committee with current updates on the Legislative session. Ms. Fazzino informed the committee that the 2021 Legislative session had ended. Our legislative team will be working on issues for next year's session to see how education can benefit from funds as they become available from different sources which are being looked into. She mentioned that Legislation passed a State law to collect sales tax on purchases made online. Sales tax was previously not collected from retailers that did not have a physical presence in the State of Florida. Unfortunately, education did not benefit from this new sales tax. Those dollars are going to benefit the unemployment system. The State has additional revenue in the amount of \$2 billion over the next two years and \$1.5 billion will be available for this coming fiscal year. The State no longer expected a revenue shortfall since they were the beneficiaries of Federal revenue three times during this session. Therefore, the educational budget is not as bad as it could have been. These are some of the high points of Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP): Total funds \$22.35 billion for education, the Base Student Allocation (BSA) went up \$53.42 to \$4,372.91. Total per student funding went up \$38.71. School Safety stayed at \$180 million. Mental Health received a \$20 million increase to \$120 million. Class Size Reduction dropped to \$2.83 billion, a decrease of \$308 million.

Ms. Fazzino mentioned that there are some good bills that are certified and those are: House Bill 419 which relates to Early Learning. This bill is moving a lot of the responsibilities related to Early Learning programs from DCS to the Department of Education (DOE) creating additional accountability. House Bill 711 addressed Kindergarten Readiness Rates. These bills were supported by everybody. House Bill 7045 which pertains to School Choice, the House version of what passed in the Senate, was sent to the governor today. Ms. Fazzino suggested to the committee that since there are several bills to discuss she wants to give them a summary of the bills in advance and after they read it, they could meet and ask questions. The committee agreed.

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

V. Planning for 2021-22 Budget: Ms. Seymour opened the floor to Mr. Ron Steiger, Chief Financial Officer. He began by showing a presentation on the amounts per the Final Conference report for M-DCPS. The FTE for FY 20/21 ended up being 334k, even though we had projected it to be 344k. The increase in FTE shown for FY 21/22 of 5,560 students is solely related to FTE for the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program (FES). The dollars per FTE are decreasing \$254 per student. This is due to the fact that the dollars per student last year were being artificially inflated by the Hold Harmless provision. The 344K FTE was funded all year even though we did not have that amount. Since we will not be held harmless for FY 21/22, our true loss will be \$41 million. Two important categories are the Mental Health Assistance Allocation at an increase of \$2.1 million and the Teacher Salary Increase allocation at an increase of \$5.6 million. Even though the revenue allocated is increasing the increase comes with an equal increase on the appropriation side. Charter school FTE is projected to go up with a projected loss to M-DCPS of \$26.9 million. The FES FTE is projected to go up between 6,500 to 7,000. This is the largest voucher expansion in history and leaves us at a loss of \$56.9 million. Our schools are losing students, around 19,000 students per year. This is a revenue loss, but it also saves us money in expenses since we allocate less personnel. This will save us \$71 million. The Florida Retirement System (FRS) is a loss of \$15 million due to increased contribution rates. There are other increases that we are going to have to deal with like health insurance which is \$29 million. In total we are in a deficit position of \$76.7 million to balance FY 2021-22.

VI. Update on ESSER II Funds: Ms. Seymour opened the floor to Mr. Ron Steiger, Chief Budget officer. Mr. Steiger informed the committee about the ESSER II funds. He shared with the committee the following information he received from the State: M-DCPS and Charters schools are receiving \$468 million. The portion for M-DCPS is around \$350 million. The State has reserved \$18 million in a Non-enrollment Assistance Allocation; \$93 million for an Academic Assistance Allocation; \$23 million for a Technology Assistance Allocation; \$216 million for an Advance Lump Sum that is supposed to be spent by September 1, 2021. The Balance of Lump Sum is \$116 million. What they don't have is the other \$800 million that is coming through the American Rescue Plan (ARP). When they receive more information on the ARP, they will have a meeting with the Board and present a plan with all the input we have received from the committees with regard to the use of the ESSER II and ARP funds.

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

VII. New Business: The committee approved Monday, June 7, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. as the next meeting date.

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