

MINUTES

**Parent Subcommittee on District and School Budget Priorities
Family and Community Involvement Budget Advisory Subcommittee
Miami-Dade County Public Schools**

1450 NE 2nd Avenue, Conference Room 916 & Zoom Meeting
Miami, FL 33132

Monday, March 13, 2023

Voting Members Present:

Mr. Scot Evans	Ms. Laura Philpot	Ms. Meriel C. Seymore
Ms. Beverly Heller	Mr. Elias Seife	Mr. Antonio White
Ms. Janielle Murphy	Ms. Zoraida Serret	

Voting Members Present Via Zoom:

Ms. Mina Hosseini	Dr. Lisa R. Robertson
Mr. James Lopez	Ms. Nadeige Theresias-Joisil

Voting Members Excused/Absent:

Ms. Isabelle Exume (E)	Ms. Maria Norton (E)
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Others Physically Present/Via Zoom:

Ms. Nicole Crooks	Dr. Norín Dollard	Ms. Aillette Rodriguez-Diaz
Ms. Martha M. Diaz	Ms. Karelys Hernandez	

I. Welcome and Introductions: The meeting was called to order by the Parent Subcommittee Chair Ms. Mina Hosseini at 5:36 pm and a quorum was established. Those present introduced themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes for February 13, 2023: Member Ms. Beverly Heller made a motion for the approval of the minutes for the February 13, 2023, Parent Subcommittee on District and School Budget Priorities with minor corrections, and the minutes were approved with the minor corrections.

III. Legislative Update: Ms. Hosseini introduced Dr. Norín Dollard, Senior Analyst/KIDS COUNT Director from the Florida Policy Institute to the group and opened the floor for a Legislative Update. Dr. Dollard started her presentation with an update on Florida HB 1 and Senate Bill 202 and said that these two Bills have been rocketing through their respective houses. Florida HB 1 is the voucher bill that will provide for the Universal Vouchers. Every child in the State of Florida, from K-12 will be eligible regardless of their parent's income. It will cost the State of Florida about \$4 Billion from the Florida Education Finance Program dollars and could cost Miami-Dade more than half a billion if the estimated numbers are correct. Florida HB 1 has made it now through four committees and is ready to head for the floor as early as this week. Senate Bill 202 will be heard Thursday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the Senate Appropriation Committee. Dr. Dollard encourages attendees to make their voices known to the Legislators or their staff because once it passes that Senate committee, it will be poised to be voted on by the Senate as well.

Dr. Dollard concluded her updates and invited the group to share any questions or concerns they may have.

Discussion ensued among members and guests, and the following concerns were raised:

- Regarding the published study by the Florida Policy Institute, there is a difference in the calculation of per pupil cost, base student allocation, between the Florida Policy Institute report and Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). [Seife]

The difference in the amount is that the Florida Policy Institute report includes the average for the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program (FES) students with unique abilities (UA). The vouchers for those students with disabilities averages about \$10,000 per student. FES-UA includes the Garner and the McKay scholarships. [Dollard]

- Has there been any amendment with fiscal impact on the vouchers? [White]

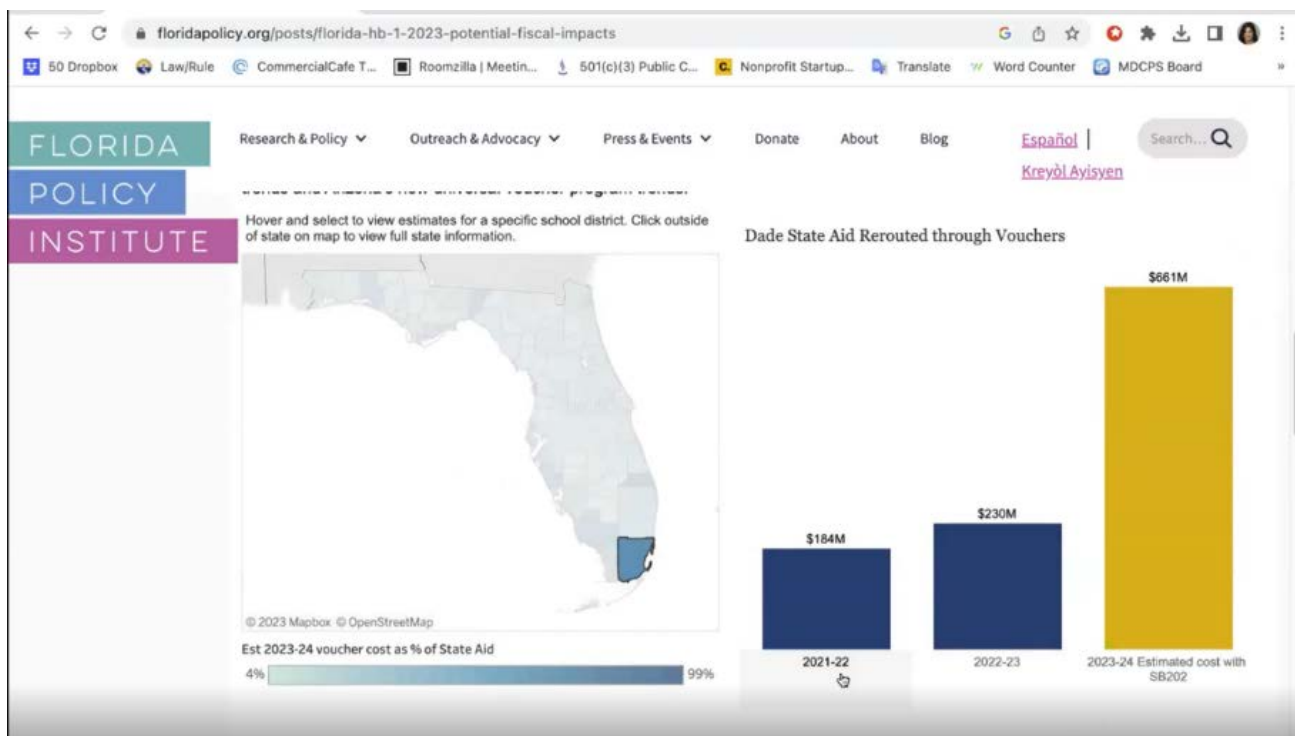
There are no amendments to what is being proposed at this time that will make a fiscal impact on Florida HB 1 and Senate Bill 202. [Dollard]

- What are the ways that the District is planning to adjust in order to absorb the \$600 million loss that the vouchers will create? [Lopez]

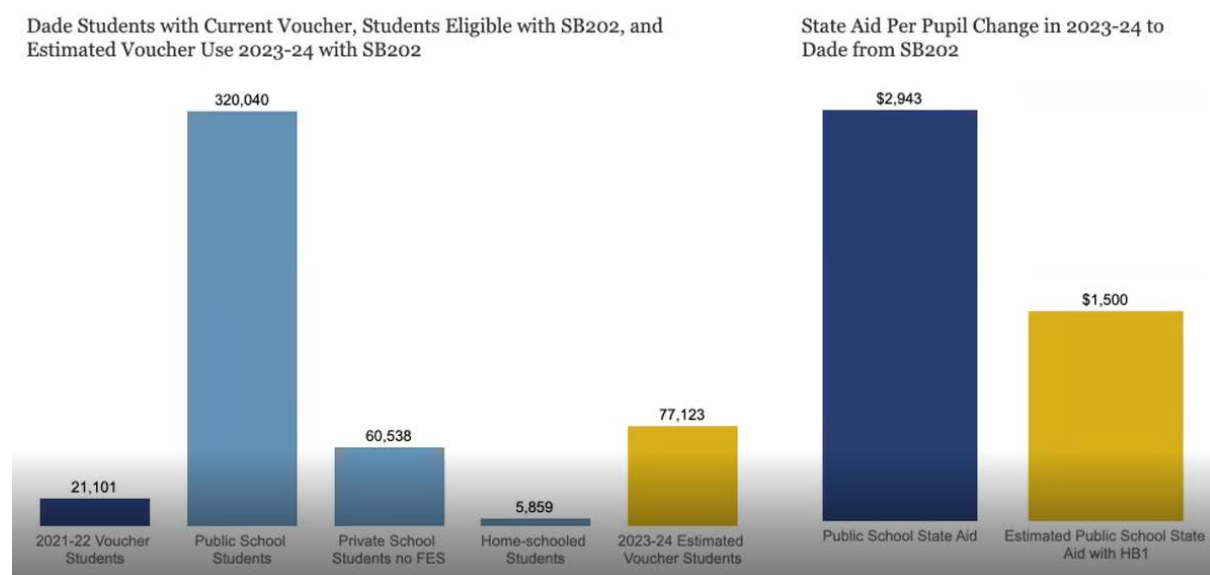
This year the Statewide Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) is \$1.2 Billion, and the vouchers will be about \$600 million, half of the budget. As of the October survey, Dade's projected unweighted Full-Time Equivalent (uFTE) for FES is 23,890.59. For next year Dade is estimating 29,021.19, that is an increase of 5,130 coming from FES alone. From Charter schools we will have an increase of 3,535.63. M-DCPS schools are only estimated to increase by 531.88. [Diaz]

Ms. Hosseini shared with the committee the M-DCPS projections from the Florida Policy Institute website to continue conversations on FTE and FEFP:

Looking at the first chart on page 3, Dr. Dollard explained that the yellow bar, \$661 Million, is the 2023-24 estimated cost with SB202. It was calculated based on the current students now receiving FES Educational Options (EO) and UA; it includes new private school students that are currently not seeking these vouchers but if the income limits are taken off, the Institute anticipates that 75% of these students will apply for them. Additionally, it also includes home education students and students who were not previously eligible in public schools.



Dr. Dollard mentioned that the chart below differs a little bit from the M-DCPS data, but still in range. It shows Students with current vouchers, students eligible with SB202, and estimates vouchers to be used during 2023-24 with SB202. The \$661 Million comes from the 77,123 yellow bar. The two bars on the right are not related and show the State Aid per pupil change in 2023-24 to Dade from SB02; this is what the Institute anticipates the decrease will be per pupil remaining in the public education system after implementation of SB202.



Dr. Dollard concluded her explanation on the charts and invited the group to share any questions or concerns they may have.

The committee discussed, provided comments, questions, and concerns which were addressed as follows:

- Is the estimated number of 77,123 comprised of M-DCPS students only? [Seife]

The estimated number of 77,123 students does not entirely come from M-DCPS. The majority of students who will be benefiting from the vouchers will come from kids already in private schools. This means that the limited amount of dollars allocated to K-12 will now have to be split among a much larger number of students many of them are already in private schools. [Dollard / Diaz]

Dr. Dollard thanked all attendees for their attention and shared her email address in case she can be of further assistance: dollard@floridapolicy.org.

IV. Discussion related to FY 23/24 Potential Budget Reductions, Part II: Ms. Hosseini opened the floor to Ms. Diaz for her part II presentation on Discussion related to FY 23/24 Potential Budget Reductions. Ms. Diaz shared with the group that the reason why Mr. Ron Y. Steiger, Chief Financial Officer, was not present at the meeting was because he was in London, England, trying to procure a better health insurance deal for the District. Mr. Steiger has also been in Tallahassee following up on what is being proposed. He is trying to ensure that what gets passed will benefit and not hurt K-12 funding. One of the mayor changes being proposed is for some of the categoricals which are part of the FEFP to be rolled up into the Base Student Allocation (BSA). Mr. Steiger is making sure that what is being proposed will be for the benefit of M-DCPS as well as other school districts in general.

Ms. Diaz started the presentation informing the group how to get to the State website. If you write FEFP, the first option on the internet will be Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) Calculations (<https://www.fldoe.org/finance/fl-edu-finance-program-fefp/fl-edu-finance-program-fefp-calculatio.shtml>) and you should be able to corroborate the information about to be shown.

Ms. Diaz explained that M-DCPS' FTE projections for next year ended up being a little higher than was referred to at the last Parent Subcommittee meeting because of the District's third calculation breakdown of FTE plus the results from the Pupil Population Estimating Conference. The Pupil Population Estimating Conference is a session convened with District personnel, to get feedback related to FTE in order to come up with an educated guess to provide to the State. After each school district determines what their projected FTE will be for the following year, they must then enter their projected FTE into the State's FTE forecasting system. The State's FTE forecasting system has different models and suggests different scenarios. Each District chooses the one it feels is the best that suits them and meets their group's projection for the following year. This year, there was no way that anyone could have anticipated what is currently happening. There has been a huge increase related to English Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) students as a result of the unexpected large number of families coming in through the border. At one point, the District was receiving up to 800 ESOL kids a month. As a result, the programs capped at the FTE initially provided to the State, like ESOL and Exceptional Student Education (ESE), will get penalized for ending up higher than anticipated. The estimated number sent to the State is unweighted FTE. The unweighted FTE gets multiplied by the yearly cost factors in order to get the weighted FTE.

For the benefit of the group Ms. Diaz explained further what unweighted FTE (uFTE) is. The initial projected FTE is called Unweighted FTE. Some students have higher needs/or need to be placed in special programs as the chart below explains. The information below is taken from the Executive Summary Tentative Budget, page A-8.

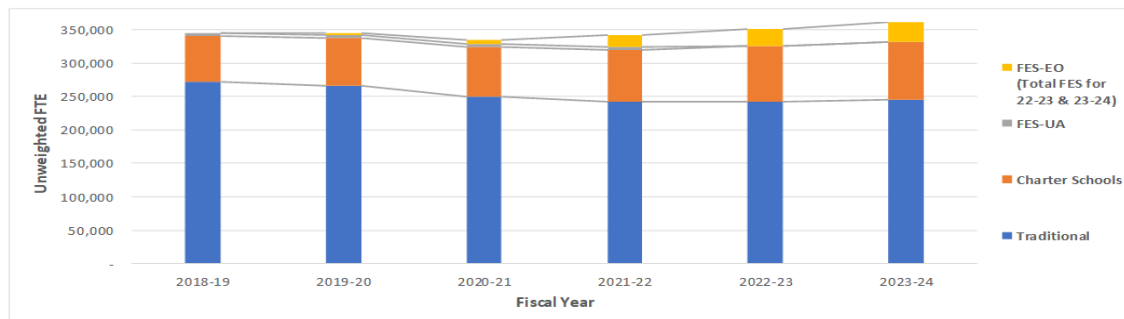
No.	Program	Unweighted FTE	x	Weights	=	Weighted FTE
101	K-3 Basic	Number based on Estimated number / Projections. Updated during the year after survey counts.	x	Each Program has a different Weight provided by the State based on Cost Factors	=	M-DCPS gets funded based this amount
102	4-8 Basic		x		=	
103	9-12 Basic		x		=	
111	K-3 Basic with ESE		x		=	
112	4-8 Basic with ESE		x		=	
113	9-12 Basic with ESE		x		=	
254	ESE Level 4*		x			
255	ESE Level 5*		x			
300	Career Education (9-12)*		x			
130	ESOL*		x			

*Capped Programs: If the October survey is higher than the initial estimated number M-DCPS sent to the State at the beginning of the previous year, the District gets penalized via the Weights. The District will only get paid at a higher weight for the number initially estimated and sent to the State. Any number above that will get paid at a Weight of 1.000 as a penalty for underestimating.

Ms. Diaz explained that there are two groups under the FES FTE:

- UA: Unique Abilities (includes McKay Scholarships and Garner Scholarship students)
- EO: Educational Opportunity

Ms. Diaz continued with her presentation showing a chart with updated numbers provided by the State:



	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2023-24 Governor
Scholarships	4,672.52	7,770.34	10,878.75	21,100.91	25,885.00	29,021.19	29,021.19
Charter Schools	68,302.87	70,841.19	74,492.97	77,590.26	82,627.37	86,163.00	86,163.00
Traditional	272,575.48	266,154.24	249,532.62	242,450.14	242,814.51	245,340.80	242,835.48
Grand Total uFTE	345,550.87	344,765.77	334,904.34	341,141.31	351,326.88	360,524.99	358,019.67

Notes:

FY 2019-20: First fiscal year that includes Family Empowerment Scholarships - Educational Opportunities (FES-EO).
FY 2020-21: Based on Final calc uFTE.
FY 2021-22: Based on Final calc uFTE. First fiscal year that includes Gardiner Scholarships FTE within FES-Unique Abilities (FES-UA).
FY 2022-23: Based on 3rd calc uFTE. FES-UA and FES-EO combined starting in 2022-23.
FY 2023-24: Based on Pupil Population Estimating Committee (PPEC) projected uFTE.

As you can see on the chart on page 5, the increase is mostly due to the Charter School and Scholarship FTE.

The committee discussed, provided comments, questions, and concerns regarding the chart on page 5, which were addressed as follows:

- Is the number 21,100.91 under Scholarship, Year 2021-22, the one expected to increase by over 70,000 students in Norin's numbers? [Hosseini]

Correction of response provided during the meeting. These are Dade's numbers and the expectation is that Dade's portion will increase by 7,92.28 by 2023-24. Some kids may go from a public school to a private school, but it's expected to be only 10% of the 90% that are projected to benefit from the scholarship programs. I believe Norin's number was also factoring in home schooled FTE as well as existing private school students who couldn't benefit from the scholarships due to income limitations. [Diaz]

- Is the increase for Scholarships and Charter Schools coming from separate funding? [Seife]

No. The dollars will come out from the total amount that the Legislators allocate for K-12 education [Diaz]

Ms. Diaz continued her presentation with the following chart. As you may remember from last month, this chart had a different number being offered as the potential true increase/decrease, 75.7, but now that we have a truer figure for the FES and Charter bucket, the number has gone down to 68.8. This is just looking at the Governor's Budget, which is based on unweighted FTE that is lower than what we are expecting. This increase does not include other increases, like FRS rates which are proposing a cost-of-living increase of 3%. Also increases expected for Health insurance.

	FY 2022/23 3rd Calc	FY 2023/24 Governor's Budget	VARIANCE
Unweighted FTE	351,326.88	358,019.67	6,692.79
\$ per uFTE	\$ 8,334.32	\$ 8,536.04	\$ 201.72
(\$ in millions)			
State Funding	\$ 1,238.9	\$ 1,283.8	\$ 44.9
Local Funding	1,689.1	1,772.3	83.2
Total Funding	\$ 2,928.0	\$ 3,056.1	\$ 128.1
Mental Health Assistance			(2.1)
Teacher Salary Increase Allocation			(22.8)
Charter & FES FTE Growth (net of Workload Decrease)			(34.4)
True Increase/(Decrease)			\$ 68.8

Ms. Diaz shared with the group that the penalty the District had to pay for understating the ESOL kids for FY 2022-23 is \$8.5 million plus another \$4 million for the ESE students because they came in higher than the initial projection. The District is currently working with Legislators to try to get this cap waived for this year.

The next report, *M-DCPS, FY 2022-23 3rd Calc Vs 2nd Calc*, has been sent via email to all members and handouts were distributed to all present at the meeting. The 2nd Calc is the one that is used after the legislature ends and they tweak the amount based on everyone's required local effort, which is based on updated tax rolls from the property appraiser for every single District. The 2nd Calc is the one that is used for our budget adoption and is based on what we initially projected for FTE. The 3rd Calc is as of the October survey. This update is based on actual FTE results for July and October and projected FTE for February and June. This is a mixture of actual and projected figures. As you can see the unweighted FTE increased by 531.47. When the increase in unweighted FTE is multiplied by its respective cost factor (i.e. weight) this translates to 793.69 wFTE (weighted FTE). This number reflects the hit that we already had to pay for the categories that were capped at the initial projected figures. The weighted FTE, once it goes through that calculation, gets multiplied by the Base Student Allocation (BSA). This is a fixed figure for all Districts across the State. What changes is the District Cost Differential (DCD), which is the amount that the State calculates taking into account the cost of living. The result of this formula is the Base FEFP. The Required Local Effort you see on the chart is the funding expected to come from the local taxpayers.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS			
FY 2022-23 3RD CALC VS 2ND CALC			
	(A)	(B)	(C)=(B)-(A)
	FY 2022/23 2nd Calc (SP-2 TENTATIVE AMENDED)	FY 2022/23 3rd Calc	22/23 3rd Calc vs 2nd Calc
FTEu	350,795.41	351,326.88	531.47
FTEw (funded)	384,564.25	385,357.94	793.69
BSA	\$ 4,587.40	\$ 4,587.40	-
DCD (21/22=1.0147 & 22/23=1.0166)	29,284,891	29,345,331	60,440
Base FEFP (FTEw x BSA x DCD)	1,793,434,931	1,797,136,345	3,701,414
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 1,793,434,931	\$ 1,797,136,345	\$ 3,701,414
Less: Req. Local Effort	(1,381,198,224)	(1,381,198,224)	-
Base Funding	\$ 412,236,707	\$ 415,938,121	\$ 3,701,414

Initially when the teacher salary increase started, the District had to split the amount between M-DCPS and Charter schools. But now it must be separated into three buckets to include the FES FTE. Even though private schools are not required to give salary increases to their teachers and are not forced to provide transportation, or provide ESE services to their

students, or forced by law to have a police officer at every school, they are receiving a portion of these allocations as part of the scholarship amount they receive. We are not receiving the entire amount allocated. We are sharing these allocations with Charter FTE as well as FES FTE.

On the chart you see the Gross State FEFP and then the Adjusted Net State, which shows amounts that really pertain to prior year adjustments, FES adjustments, and proration to appropriation.

The committee discussed, provided comments, questions, and concerns which were addressed as follows:

- Are Unfunded Mandates, categorical that are not fully funded by the State? [Hosseini]
Yes. We get funds for these different categories of expenditures, but the District's costs are way higher. For example, Transportation costs greatly outweigh the funds provided by the State. [Diaz]
- Where does the District think, they will begin making the cuts to make up for the losses? [Theresias-Joisil]
That is the process which the District is going through at this time. One thing that will be eliminated is the funding that is currently being given to EESAC since the District has not been getting the discretionary lottery dollars that were supposed to be allocated for that. The Budget Office is also meeting with the Principals' Committee to get their input on potential budget cuts. [Diaz]
- If Florida HB 1 and Senate Bill 202 pass, would it be permanent? Can we get the Legislators to evaluate this bill? [Heller]
Yes, it will be permanent at a minimum for this year. [Diaz]

Ms. Diaz continued to go over the FEFP report and give a summarized version of the biggest buckets of funding that the District gets, which is State funding and local property tax (both dictated by the State).

Ms. Hosseini asked Mr. Antonio White to provide an update on Senate Bill 256. Mr. White shared that Senate Bill 256:

- affects teachers' and nurses' unions;
- asking to increase threshold from 50% membership to 60% to stay in business;
- looking to eliminate dues deductions directly; and
- enforce re-enrollment of 14,000 members every single year.

As final reminders, Ms. Hosseini, asked the group to provide recommendations or ideas to Ms. Diaz or Mr. Steiger.

IV. New Business: None

V: Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.