

MINUTES

Parent Subcommittee on District and School Budget Priorities
Family and Community Involvement Advisory Subcommittee
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
1450 N.E. 2 Avenue, Room 916 & Zoom Meeting
Miami, FL 33132
Monday, March 22, 2021

Members Present: Mr. Eddy Barea, Chair, Mr. Scot Evans, Ms. Beverly Heller, Ms. Mina Hosseini, Dr. Nancy Lawther, Mr. James Lopez, Ms. Maria Norton, Ms. Laura Philpot, Mr. Elias Seife, Ms. Zoraida Serret, Ms. Meriel C. Seymore.

Members Excused Absent: Ms. Isabelle Exume, Ms. Karen Rivo, Dr. Lisa Robertson,.

Others Present: Mr. Jerold Blumstein, Ms. Martha M. Diaz, Ms. Milagros Hernandez, Mr. Christopher Snider, Mr. Ron Steiger, Ms. Sara Walkup, Mr. Antonio White.

I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Ron Steiger, Chief Financial Officer, called the meeting to order. He welcomed committee members and staff.

II. Approval of Minutes for February 22, 2021: Mr. Barea, asked for the approval of the minutes for the February 22, 2021, Parent Advisory Subcommittee meeting and the minutes were approved.

III. Legislative Update: Mr. Barea opened the floor to Ms. Tabitha Fazzino, Chief Intergovernmental Affairs and Compliance Officer, she informed the committee that the House and Senate had not released their budget recommendations. They believe that they will be out around mid-week this week but no later than next week. From a State perspective a critical fiscal policy component in the governor's budget is to not require a roll back of the Required Local Effort (RLE). She mentioned that school districts are the only public entity which aren't able to capitalize on the growth in property value since the roll back of the RLE does not apply to municipalities or to any other entity. They are working to get the message across with their Legislative delegation.

Ms. Fazzino spoke about the hold harmless compression allocation formula that gave Miami-Dade \$13.9 million last year. That language was not provided in this year governor's budget recommendation. They are working diligently to ensure the message gets across to their delegation members in both the House and Senate. If they are unsuccessful Miami-Dade will start the 2021-22 budget with a negative of approximately \$14 million in terms of State funding. She mentioned that the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) has sent a letter to all central schools officers that indicated that if a waiver was made to waive accountability reporting requirements it will be looked upon as unfavorable. The commissioner of Education has drafted that waiver and it is open for public comments through March 31, 2021, it is available at the DOE web site and in our web site at dadeschools.net. She encouraged the committee members to comment and support this action. There is other Legislation related to charter schools, a bill that proposes to expand the authority of State universities and colleges to become Charter schools authorizers. This could create an opportunity for an additional Local Education Agency (LEA) within an LEA. They are working with the bill sponsors and trying to offer amendments to defeat it.

She gave an overview of the Federal American Rescue Plan that was signed by President Biden. For K-12 Education it is about \$128 billion overall. It requires 20% of the funding that schools receive to be reserved for learning loss, \$800 million to help homeless students, \$1.3 billion towards after school support activities, \$1.3 billion towards summer enrichment, \$40 billion for childcare, \$1 billion towards head start, \$7 billion for E-rate funding. It also has a provision which requires states to distribute the funds to Districts within 60 days of receiving it. She mentioned that there is going to be additional Federal dollars coming from another piece of legislation called Build Back Better plan. Miami-Dade will receive about \$1 billion from ESSER 3. These dollars are all going to be spent for things that have happened to our students and our district without which the COVID pandemic would not have occurred. The district is in the process of developing plans for potentially extended days, summer school, additional intervention as well as improvements to facilities, indoor air quality. But these funds should not be used to replace funding that the state otherwise should be providing to K-12 education.

Senate Bill 48 was mentioned as a great financial concern because it is very close to a universal

education voucher bill, and most students in Florida will qualify and now it has a House companion bill.

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

Committee members requested information regarding the extension dates for the required end of year course exams. Mr. Barea stated that Ms. Sara Walkup was going to follow-up with them.

IV. Stimulus Funds: Mr. Barea opened the floor to Mr. Ron Steiger, Chief Budget officer. He began by showing a presentation on the Stimulus Funds – ESSER funds. ESSER 1 was about \$80 million, of that \$55 million was put in a reserve called Program and Personnel Protection Reserve. He explained that they took the general fund work money and put it into a reserve to protect the district in case the House and Senate decide to cut funds. The rest of the funds went to personal protective equipment (PPE), enhanced cleaning supplies, nurses, computers, and everything else needed for the past year.

In December 2020 President Trump signed into law ESSER II, it is about \$468 million for Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and Charter schools together. There are four categories in ESSER II and those are: 1. Safe reopening of Schools. 2. Restore/Maintain high-quality learning environments. 3. Measure and effectively address significant learning loss. 4. Mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on students & families. These all came from the Federal Government and reiterated to us by a memo from Commissioner Corcoran that said: 2021 Legislative session might include adjustments to districts' recurring appropriations in the 2021-22 General Appropriations Act. This means that there could be an adjustment to our recurring appropriations. He mentioned that out of the \$468 million from ESSER II the district is estimating their portion to be \$355 million. This is based on the number of students we are estimating will be present in October, the rest will go to the charter schools. President Biden passed a bigger stimulus that is ESSER III, it's called the American Recovery Plan. The amount allocated is \$1,052,147,460 for M-DCPS and Charter Schools and the estimated portion for MDCPS is \$790 million.

Mr. Steiger explained the following assurances required related to the use of ESSER funds: Coordinating preparedness and response efforts with State, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19; Training and professional development on sanitizing and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases; Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean facilities; Repairing and improving school facilities to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards; Improving indoor air quality; Addressing the needs of children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness and foster care youth; Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve preparedness and response efforts. Furthermore Mr. Steiger explained the plans the district is working on. He emphasized that these funds are non-recurring funds, they expire in two and half years and they must meet the specific requirements of the grant. The amounts spent must be related to the pandemic in order to be able to spend any of these funds.

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

Mr. Barrera asked the committee to bring creative ideas on how to use these funds to the next meeting.

V. Follow-up Item: Mr. Barea opened the floor to Ms. Martha M. Diaz, Chief Budget Officer, to provide a follow-up on the security monitor allocation. Ms. Diaz began telling the committee that this year they are not going to be able to revamp the whole allocation because they are missing one component which is the community, parental and student surveys and until that happens, they can't reassess the current way that this allocation is calculated. She explained that the components of the current equation are: Incident reports, square footages, suspensions, community, parental and student surveys and membership. All these components were considered when the current allocation was derived. We are going to be looking at this very closely. She continued by saying that if they take the current amount and reduce it by 10% they will save \$3.9 million, if they reduce it by 15% they will save \$5.9 million and by 20% they will save \$7.9 million.

VI. New Business: The committee approved Monday, April 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. as the next meeting date.

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