

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 SB 559 and simultaneously via Zoom conference on Monday, May 17, 2021, was called to order by Chair Nancy Lawther at 9:43 a.m.

### **Attendance/Members Present**

Aundray Adams, Rosa Maria Barbara, Cleo Chumiso, Analisa Claps, Mariangela Cordero, Laura Crenshaw-Philpot, Sherian Demetrius, Enrique Escallon, Deborah Gonzalez, Vanessa Grice, Beverly Heller, Shameka Jenkins, Ashley Jones, Brittany Lambert-Brown, Nancy Lawther, Dannie McMillon, Renata Merjam, Carolyn Nelson-Goedert, Patricia Ortega, Reinaldo Palacios, Flavia Pedrosa, Maiky Perez de Corcho, Carmen Portela, Diane Quick, Tommy Richardson, Angel Rodriguez, Aileen Segal, Meriel Seymore, Lenora Stafford, Nadeige Theresias-Joisil, Sharon Watson, Antonio White, Renee Williams

### **Also Present**

Maria Diaz-Almendral, Sheila Jackson, Arnold R. Montgomery, Lisa Thurber, Sara Walkup

April Minutes were approved as amended

### **Reports**

#### **North Region**

Reinaldo Palacios

- Barbara Goleman Senior High (Full-Magnet School) on May 7, 2021, hosted their annual Academic Signing Event for seniors. Students celebrated their college and/or university acceptances. Ivy League schools such as Brown and Columbia along with over 20 colleges and universities were represented at the event.
- A student received the Gates Scholar award. This scholarship pays for full tuition to the school, including travel. The student will be continuing their studies at Columbia University in the fall.
- Hialeah Gardens Senior High School achieved the level of Distinguished for their last two National Academy Foundation (NAF) academies, Academy of Law Studies and the Academy of Arts & Entertainment, having a total of 9 NAF Distinguished Academies.
  - NAF Distinguished Academy of Education
  - NAF Distinguished Academy of Engineering

- o NAF Distinguished Academy of IT
- o NAF Distinguished Academy of Health Sciences
- o NAF Distinguished Academy of Finance
- o NAF Distinguished Academy of Hospitality and Tourism
- o NAF Distinguished Academy of Agricultural Sciences
- o Only school in the Nation to have wall - to wall Distinguished NAF Academies
- NRO has three Parent Advocates available to aid our NRO parents/schools with any school related matters until June 9, 2021.
- Contact number: 305-572-2800
- Schedule: M-F from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

### **Central Region**

Deborah Gonzalez

- Highlights – Mental Health Awareness Month
- Coral Gables Senior High School IB Program is a Legacy of Excellence - 33 years as the original IB World School in MDCPS. This program provides students with values and academic opportunities that will enable them to succeed in our competitive modern world.
- The Central Region Office advocates and continues to assist with concerned parents. The Transfers department continues to process Parent Choice Transfers for the current school year as well as the 2021-2022 school year.
- Ronald Reagan/Doral Senior High School is offering a New Law Academy this fall, to provide students with a foundation in legal thinking and problem solving. Applications are open now on the website.

### **South Region**

Vanessa Grice

- The South Region is home to four (4) of the top ranked Florida schools (School for Advanced Studies (Kendall) ranked #1 in Florida and 5th Nationally), TERRA Environmental Research Institute, MAST @ Homestead and Coral Reef Senior High.
- Miami Arts Studio (6-12) @ Zelda Glazer Law Academy Entertainment Magnet Strand is the 2021 State Champion for the We The People Competition in Congressional Style Debate.

- Last week, Samuel J. Louis of John A. Ferguson Senior High was recognized as the Miami Dade County Public School 2021 Assistant Principal of the Year.
- Two (2) South Region students were honored with scholarships for their essay entries to the Elie Wiesel Foundation on Society's Ethical Challenges. Nicholas Gonzalez Pagliere from TERRA Environmental Research Institute, received 2nd Place Award for his essay (The Dangers of a Misinformed Population) and Kayla Goodman from the Center for International Education: A Cambridge Associate School received the 3rd place award for her essay (The Invisible War).
- South Region schools continue to complete subject selections for the next school year and Seniors are completing the Exit Surveys.
- Registration for SUMMER 305 ends on June 9, 2021.
- South Region Graduations are scheduled for June 1-9 and will be held at either the Miami Dade Fair and Expo or the Ocean Bank Convocation Center at FIU. The specific schedules can be accessed at the district and school MDCPS websites.

### **Title 1**

Lenora Stafford

- District Advisory Council (DAC) Virtual Executive Board Meeting
  - Rescheduled Date: Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 6:00 pm
- Training offered by Informed Families and Parenteen Moments regarding the Parent Peer Group Training.
  - Next Leader Training: Friday, May 28, 2021, be from 9 am to 12 pm.
  - For additional information call 786-7087508

### **Superintendents Panel for Students with Exceptionalities**

Enrique Escallon

No report at this time.

### **PTA**

Nancy Lawther

### **FCIAC Parent Budget Sub-Committee**

Beverly Heller

### **Citizens Coalition**

Enrique Escallon/ Nancy Lawther

### **Office of Communications and Community Engagement**

Lisa Thurber

## **2020-21 Priorities & Recommendations**

Alberto Carvalho

Superintendent of Schools

### **COVID-19**

1. Provide more counselors and/or better coordination with outside agencies to ensure student access to mental health resources.
2. Address the disparity between students and access to devices/condition of devices and provide training for students on usage of devices.
3. Continue to follow CDC guidelines and consultations with medical experts.
4. Continue to provide access to COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.
5. Establish protocols to ensure accountability in terms of adherence to COVID-19 protocols at the school site; with a districtwide mask mandate.
6. Prioritize school site maintenance by using ESSER funds to address ventilation issues and other physical conditions that may create barriers to good health.
7. Rethink and re-purpose outdoor areas to create spaces for learning.
8. Invest in additional nurses; specifically traveling nurses.

### **Early Childhood**

1. Encourage the exploration of funding mechanisms for:
  - Expansion of VPK instructional hours in fee-supported schools to match Title I VPK schedule.
  - Align program/operational hours of VPK and Head Start so both provide the same amount of instructional time.
2. Expand programs to ensure access for all populations.

### **Communications and Engagement**

1. Provide more opportunities for the public to freely express issues of concern.
2. Provide better accountability in terms of access to information and response times from schools to the public.
3. Develop a mechanism to account for incoming calls/requests/responses.
4. Conduct an annual assessment of communication strategies to find what worked, what didn't and where to focus attention moving forward.
5. Provide a mechanism (i.e., electronic chat) to communicate in real-time on [dadeschools.net](https://dadeschools.net).
6. Review available technologies and invest in those that would improve communication; specifically two-way communication.

### **Testing and Assessment**

1. Explore alternate testing modalities (i.e., testing center(s)).
2. Maintain flexibility with assessments utilized to determine student promotion.
3. Focus more on assessment of individual needs versus state/federal accountability.
4. Re-examine Florida's accountability system.
5. Possibility for testing all students for exceptionalities.

Next meeting September 20, 2021

Meeting is adjourned 11:50