



CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA

The **Miami Springs Education Advisory Board** met at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

1) Call to Order/Roll Call

The following were present: Chair Mindy McNichols
Vice Chair Christina Shapiro
Dorrene Cook
Cheryl Mulet

Also Present: Vice Mayor Dotson
Deputy City Clerk Suzanne Hitaffer

2) Approval of Minutes

2a. August 16, 2005 Regular Meeting

Minutes of the August 16, 2005 Regular meeting were approved as written.

The motion to approve was offered by Cheryl Mulet seconded by Dorrene Cook, and it carried unanimously on voice vote.

(Agenda Item 5 was discussed at this time, followed by Item 4)

3) Miami-Dade County Public Schools Region 3 Report

Robert Kalinsky presented the Region 3 report on behalf of Director George Núñez who could not be present.

a. Construction Status

i. “WWW” Senior

Mr. Kalinsky reported that School “WWW” is scheduled to open in January 2008, and the contractor will break ground in a few months to build a four-story building with a gymnasium on top of the parking lot. He promised to closely follow the construction progress.

ii. Ronald Reagan Doral Senior

Mr. Kalinsky stated that the construction of the Ronald Reagan Doral High School is scheduled to open with 700 to 800 ninth and tenth grade students and because the school is capped at 2,000 students, they are looking for potential property that could be purchased for a possible relief school for Doral and Coral Park.

iii. Jackson Senior

According to Mr. Kalinsky, the new Miami Jackson Senior High School is scheduled to open in January 2008 with a capacity of 2,800 students. The project is estimated to cost \$58MM and the new facility is being constructed on the field next to the existing school that will eventually be demolished.

b. Capital Improvements

There was no discussion related to capital improvements.

c. FISH Capacity of Miami Springs Senior High

Mr. Kalinsky presented the FISH Capacity and student enrollment report dated October 8, 2005, as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>FISH Permanent Capacity</u>	<u>Student Population</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Miami Springs Elementary	602	776	129%
Springview Elementary	442	656	148%
Miami Springs Middle	1,431	1,781	124%
Miami Springs Senior	2,164	3,443	159%

Mr. Kalinsky reviewed the report and answered questions from Board members regarding the Miami Springs’ schools.

4) Individual School Reports

Miami Springs Senior High School Principal Ed Smith reported the following:

- As of September 30th the enrollment was 3,468 students, and currently it is 3,427
- The school hired a person to verify addresses and the enrollment could eventually drop below 3,400 students
- More than 1,000 students were tested for the PSAT last week
- School employees received money from the Governor's A+ Plan
- Teachers, Counselors and Administrators received a 5% bonus on their base salary because of the learning gains
- The Mu Alpha Theta Math Team will be recognized by the School Board at their meeting on October 19th
- The girls volleyball team is doing well and the district finals will be held on Thursday, October 20th at Northwestern Senior High School
- School Superintendent Rudy Crew will hold a Region 3 Town Hall Meeting at Northwestern on November 14, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

Betty Capley of 332 De Leon Drive expressed her concern that there is only one Media Specialist at the High School because funding allows for three positions based on the student enrollment.

Principal Ed Smith advised Mrs. Capley that the school generates two Media Specialists and the decision was made to keep one Media Specialist and to hire a teacher in order to be able to reduce class size.

Miami Springs Middle School Principal Dr. Gail Senita reported:

- The partnership with the Miami Museum of Science is in place and the students have taken a number of field trips
- The After School Program is fully operational and activities include tutoring, arts and crafts, homework assistance, sports, etc.
- A state of the art sound and lighting system will be installed in the auditorium
- The school was recognized by the State as one of the few schools who moved the lowest 25% every year, and the school was recommended by the District as an Exemplary Program
- School enrollment is down to 1,781 students

Springview Elementary School Principal Dr. Tonya Dillard reported:

- Students received report cards today and they will celebrate the students' academic success.
- Junior Training Camp activities were held for students in grades two through five with the participation of a former Miami Dolphin football player

- Radio Disney will visit the school this week to promote academic success and character education
- The school will have separate Honor Roll programs for every grade level this year
- The annual P.T.A. Fall Dance is scheduled for Friday, October 28th

5) Special Presentation: Bilingual Education Program at Springview Elementary

Chair Mindy McNichols stated that she scheduled this presentation because some parents in the community had expressed their concerns and questions were raised at the last meeting about the Bilingual Education Program at Springview Elementary.

Springview Elementary Principal Dr. Tonya Dillard introduced Administrative Director Dr. Joanne Urrutia and Supervisor Maria (Toni) Miranda from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Division of Bilingual Education and World Languages. She also introduced Assistant Principal Roxana Herrera and Bilingual School Organization (BISO) Coach Naomi Simon from Springview Elementary.

Dr. Urrutia distributed a packet of general information to the Board members and presented an overview of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Dual Language Programs. She said that Springview Elementary was converted into a total bilingual school, and there are currently eight schools that participate in the BISO program.

Dr. Urrutia stated that international corporations with offices in Miami-Dade County that do business with South America have expressed a need for a multi-lingual workforce and the School Board has responded by supporting the expansion of Dual Language Programs. She explained that the program aims to give the students 30 to 40% of their daily instruction in the Spanish language, research shows that the children perform very well in English language standardized tests, and the proof is shown by the fact that all the bilingual schools are “A” schools.

Dr. Urrutia said that the School District provides staff development for teachers and instructional materials for the program and they would like to eventually expand the program from kindergarten through the 12th grade (K-12). Some schools have Dual Language Programs in French, Italian, Portuguese and German but they are very limited.

Springview Assistant Principal Roxana Herrera stated that there is a misconception that English is losing ground to other languages in the United States. Another misconception is that bilingual education is more costly. Programs were studied in California, and the results were that the increment cost is about the same as English only programs. The last misconception is that people believe that research is lacking on bilingual education, and this is not true because Dr. Jim Cummings has focused all his study on this subject.

Ms. Herrera explained that the study shows that students can transfer reading skills, concepts and learning strategies across languages and they have the ability to learn more than one language. It was determined that students who are educated for part of the day through a minority language do not suffer adverse consequences in the development of academic skills in the majority language. Dual Language Programs provide cognitive advantages and a strong literacy foundation. The students need to be prepared in order to compete in the global economy by learning a second language, and many top universities are requiring proficiency in a foreign language as part of graduation.

Springview Elementary BISO Coach Naomi Simon said that she collaborates with the Bilingual Department, the Principal and Assistant Principal to gear the program and to lend her support to the teachers and program implementation. She distributed brochures outlining the structure of the school program.

Ms. Simon stated that the program objective is to produce students who master listening, speaking, reading and writing in both English and Spanish and program goals are:

- Develop higher order thinking skills as students master both languages
- Encourage the development of language and academic skills in the second language while increasing the mastery of these in the first language
- Foster the development of bilingual, bicultural, and biliterate individuals
- Encourage greater interaction between members of both cultures within the school and community

Students receive 60% of the daily instruction in English and 40% in Spanish. English instruction is given in reading, language arts, math and content by the “English teacher”, and Spanish instruction is given in Spanish language arts, math and content by a “Spanish teacher.”

Dr. Dillard stated that quality instruction drives success. The teachers in the BISO Program receive enough staff development and they participate in a summer institute and visit other schools. She said there are strategies in place so that parents have an idea of what their child is trying to learn, and the Book Fair promoted Spanish/English dictionaries so that parents could help their children at home. Dr. Dillard explained that various school activities have a bilingual theme.

Dr. Dillard advised the Board that the school has partnered with the University of Miami and they are involved in a language transfer study to determine how students acquire second languages.

Ms. Simon explained the teaching techniques that are used in the BISO Program and answered questions from the Board.

Ms. Herrera stated that textbooks are published in both English and Spanish. She clarified that Springview is 80% Hispanic according to the last names, but that does not mean the students speak Spanish because some of the second and third generation students only speak English.

Cheryl Mulet asked what information the school provides to parents about the BISO Program when their children are first enrolled at Springview Elementary.

Principal Dillard said that the information depends on the grade level of the student, and parents receive detailed information during the Kindergarten orientation, and more information is provided throughout the year during the Open House and grade level workshops.

Ms. Mulet pointed out that the answers to some questions are not included in the program material, including the information regarding remediation for children who are falling behind and that the homework is sent home in both languages. She suggested that there should be a plan in place to ensure that the teachers are sending the homework directions home in both languages.

Chair McNichols stated that parents who object to the BISO Program at Springview are allowed to send their children to Miami Springs Elementary School.

Further discussion ensued regarding the advantages of the Dual Language Program in the public schools.

Ms. Simon urged parents to please call the school to express their concerns and ideas about the program.

6) Old Business:

6a. High School Boundaries and ABC Timeline

Chair McNichols referred to the 2005-2006 Attendance Boundary Committee (ABC) calendar.

Mr. Kalinsky reported that Eugenia B. Thomas Elementary and Doral Middle School were targeted for boundary changes. He said that there is an area of land that is zoned industrial, it will never be residential and that an ABC meeting was held with schools in Region 5 who will work together to draw a boundary that is west of the Turnpike.

Chair McNichols said that Miami Springs Senior High School missed this year's timeline in order to be targeted for a boundary change.

Vice Chair Christina Shapiro emphasized that it is very clear that the intention was to target Miami Springs Senior High School this year, and it is disappointing to find out that the deadline was not met. She said that there are eight other schools that are contiguous to the boundary for Miami Springs Senior High and the school needs attention.

Mr. Kalinsky was under the impression that Miami Springs Senior High School is on advised status.

Further discussion ensued regarding the overcrowding at Miami Springs Senior High School and targeting the school for a boundary change.

Mr. Kalinsky offered to find out more information from the Regional Superintendent as to the status of the boundary change for Miami Springs Senior High and what are the available options. He added that there would be a smaller number of Middle School students who would attend the High School next year.

Ms. Shapiro stressed the importance of targeting Miami Springs Senior High School for a boundary change because the enrollment has increased now that it has returned to a single shift. She said that the Education Advisory Board minutes have repeatedly included recommendations from the Board to target Miami Springs.

Ms. Mulet stated that the boundaries for the Middle School were not changed and although the student population is declining, it could also increase in the future.

Charlene Anderson of 887 Heron Avenue reminded the Board that there are eighth graders at Blessed Trinity and other private schools that would also go to Miami Springs Senior High. She said that Ms. Shapiro is absolutely correct about targeting the High School, and she suggested calling Councilman Youngs who is a member of the ABC Committee.

6b. Middle School Presentation Outline: What do we want in the presentation for the November 15th EAB meeting?

Chair McNichols suggested that a representative from the Museum of Science could give a presentation about the Magnet Program. She said that the Board might like to know more about the demographics, where the students are coming from, and the After School Program.

At the request of Principal Senita, the Board agreed to schedule a presentation for the January 2006 Education Advisory Board meeting.

Chair McNichols said that it would be interesting to learn about the curricular programs that prepare the students for High School and what programs address the lower 25% students.

7) New Business

7a. Legislative Update

Chair McNichols reported that a bill was filed in Tallahassee supporting legislation that would prevent the school year from beginning any earlier than the last week in August. She mentioned that there is a website called www.saveoursummers.com.

Ms. McNichols announced that there is an effort to start an all girls school in the City of Miami and the proposal is scheduled for discussion on the October 19, 2005 School Board agenda.

8) Other Business

Vice Mayor Dotson stated that he is very impressed with the Education Advisory Board members. He offered his assistance and said that he would be happy to help the Board.

9) Adjourn

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Hitaffer
Clerk of the Board

Approved as written at meeting of : January 17, 2006

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