



CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA

The Miami Springs Education Advisory Board met at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The following were present: Chair Dr. John Salomon
Michael G. Hunter
Kim Werner

Absent: Vice Chair Dr. Mara Zapata
Caridad Hidalgo

Also Present: Acting City Clerk Suzanne Hitaffer

Approval of Minutes:

By consensus, the minutes of the November 19, 2013 meeting were approved as written.

II. Education Compact

1. Student Achievement
 - School Reports

Sally Hutchings, Principal of Miami Springs Elementary reported the following:

- In-school house opera of "The Pied Piper"
- 5th Graders went on a camping trip
- Students visited the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens to learn the cultural arts.
- Students are going through a hearing screening
- Miami Springs Elementary maintains quality teachers and the highly qualified percentage was approximately 95%
- There is currently one intern at the school
- Partnerships for the school are Pollo Tropical, Carolina Ale House, Box Tops, Office Depot, and Target
- Title 3 grants are offering support for the ESOL students
- Miami-Dade College is offering external experiential activities for students

- Student achievement for the fall interims showed a decline in mathematics and reading. Interventions are being done during school hours
- Purchased new test prep materials

Board member Hunter asked if the decline in the interims was due to the lack of withdraws with students and Ms. Hutchings replied that it is difficult to say with regards to the validity of the test. The math is difficult to show gains because the test only tests what the pacing guide is and if a student is behind then the interim results will not be as good.

Olga Siddons, Counselor of Springview Elementary reported the following:

- Attendance is 96.3%
- FAIR testing has been completed
- Winter interims are being administered
- Teachers will plan data driven instruction targeting the weaknesses that are found in the test scores
- Data chats for the second administration will conclude this week
- Fall interim assessments are being compared to target weaknesses in order to help project FCAT scores
- After school tutoring and intervention is in progress
- The Write Score has been administered to all 4th graders
- Language Arts teachers were given the opportunity to observe data chats and student grouping at North Hialeah Elementary
- PTA sponsors a portion of the AR program as well as the rewards; the Grandparents' breakfast and parties for the United Way classroom winner
- Kindergarten went to the pumpkin patch and the circus
- Grades 2-5 took field trips to the Museum of Science, Jungle Island, Historical Museum of South Florida and Book Fair International
- A new program is being implemented called "The Cloud Nine World" which is a character education program

Discussion ensued regarding the Cloud Nine World program.

Chairman Salomon asked what the status was for the playground and Ms. Siddons replied that it has been roped off and they are waiting for the new playground to come.

Kimberly Emmanuel, Principal of Miami Springs Middle School reported the following:

- The 7th and 8th grade students placed 1st in the Brain Bowl Middle School division and 3rd in the overall category; they also received the title for the second best school in the Brain Bowl
- A 7th grade student was nominated for the Youth Hall of Fame because of his community service as well as his academic achievement
- The Cambridge Program is being organized for next year; applications have been sent to the elementary schools
- Progress was shown for the fall interims as compared to last year with increases in all areas; there was only a decrease in 8th grade math
- The school has 7 interventionists for writing, math, science, and reading
- Title 3 tutoring begins on Saturday for ELL students
- Before and after school tutoring is being held
- One teacher has resigned and moved

Alina Valero, Assistant Principal for Miami Springs Senior High School reported the following:

- Enrollment is 1,745 students
- The school is in the middle of winter interim assessments
- Increased in all areas for the fall assessment
- The Write Score has been administered to students
- In school and after school interventions are taking place
- Title 3 tutoring began today
- They are targeting students for Saturday tutoring
- The college road trip is coming up in mid-March where 45 Juniors will attend and visit UCF, UF, FSU, USF and Florida Gulf Coast
- Miami-Dade College fair
- Sports achievements include District runner-up in girls volleyball and football and District champions for boys golf and girls soccer
- Girls and boys basketball will compete in districts later this month
- Girls soccer played in the Region finals on Thursday
- Mu Alpha Theta competed in Tampa
- Articulation begins next week
- iTech Academy applications are up 125%

Discussion ensued regarding students having internship or job opportunities in the Miami Springs area.

2. Parental Involvement

- PTA reports (discussed during School Reports)

III. New Business

1. Suggestions for next agenda

Board member Werner would like to discuss the following topics:

- District involvement in the River Cities Festival
- City partnership with the District with regards to the education compact
- Implementation of a "Meet the Principals" night
- Facebook partnership

IV. Unfinished Business

1. Motions and resolutions from the November meeting update

- Conceptual Agreement pending a more detailed outline required for implementation

Board member Werner said that she attended the Council meeting and Council would like for the Board to find out what they would need in order for their recommendation to occur.

Lubby Navarro, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Miami-Dade County Schools, commented that she worked on "No Place for Hate" with the City of Miami Beach and the Anti-defamation League. There was a direct partnership with the City and it was taken to the Education Committee and a resolution was passed to support the program.

Board member Werner stated that Lily Medina mentioned that the event in Miami Springs would be counted as a community event if funding could be found for the schools.

Chair Salomon said that he is talking to Councilman Petralanda regarding the partnership with Miami International Airport (M.I.A.). He will add the outlines for discussion at the next meeting.

Chair Salomon asked if Board member Hunter would be willing to work on a partnership with the Miami Springs Historical Society and he replied that he would need to do some research.

Discussion ensued with regards to the Board doing research on the Tourism intern partnerships that are in place at the High School.

V. Report From School Board: None

VI. Report From School District

Lubby Navarro provided copies of the 2014 Legislative Priority Positions that the School Board adopted in October (attached for the record). She explained the following items to the Board that the District is looking to file bills for:

Funding:

- An increase to the Base Student Allocation by \$200 per student
- Flexibility in the use of funds appropriated
- Oppose unfunded state mandates
- Revise the Safe School Allocation formula so that each district's allocation is equal to fifty percent of prior year eligible district expenditures
- Increase funding for safe schools

Class Size Reduction:

- Modify the assessment of the penalty associated with noncompliance with the Constitutional Class Size Requirement to the school-wide average and as it is applied to charter schools
- Modify the calculation of the penalty associated with non-compliance with class size reduction to be half of the base student allocation

Dual Enrollment:

- Allow local school districts to locally establish contract provisions inclusive of cost structures with post-secondary institutions related to the delivery of dual enrollment education

Capital Funding:

- Fully fund provisions of Florida Statute 1013.64 pertaining to the Public Education Capital Outlay Program
- Oppose any diversion of Local Discretionary Capital Outlay levy revenue from traditional public schools to charter schools

Accountability:

- Ensure that state assessments and the state's accountability system are valid, reliable and aligned to the states standards
- Provide a transitional period for school and district accountability as the state transitions to a new assessment tool

Parent Empowerment:

- Oppose any changes regarding conversions of traditional public schools to charter schools that dilute the role of parents, teachers, and community stakeholders

Capital Outlay for Charter Schools:

Support capital funding for charter schools that:

- Creates neither a reduction of funding to traditional public schools in operating or capital funding nor an additional taxing mandate on the local school district
- Requires public input
- Protects the taxpayers investment by ensuring that capital funding be spent only on assets that can be returned to the public school district

Charter Schools:

- Allow traditional public schools to extend statutory flexibility on the exemption from State Required Education Facilities (SREF), class size reduction compliance, and penalties not affecting charter schools
- Improve safeguards and transparency for taxpayer investments between traditional public schools and charter schools, including, but not limited to, implementing the following safeguards:
 - Require that charter school applications and lotteries be administered by local school boards to ensure fair, equitable, and transparent admission processes for all students;
 - Allow local school districts to negotiate appropriate usage fees based on market comparables;
 - Require funding to follow the student when transferring between charter and traditional public schools during the entire school year;
 - Establish similar traditional public school financial disclosure standards for charter school officers and/or related parties involved in financial decision making; and
 - Establish clear academic and financial standards for the purpose of distribution of charter school capital outlay funds as well as appropriate standards of review prior to distribution.

Chair Salomon commented that the formula for calculating the amount of funds that every student receives is not fair because there are students in other counties that receive more funds than students in Miami-Dade County.

Ms. Navarro stated that when the legislature changed the formula it hurt the School District. She is uncertain of the amount of funding that was lost but it is a large amount. There is also scarcity and other cost factors that compound the issue.

Discussion ensued regarding the change in the formula.

Ms. Navarro said that there is something that can be done about the non-compliance for class size reduction. She advised the Board that they could pass a motion to encourage the City to support the legislative priorities.

Board member Hunter said that he would like anything that is brought up in these meetings to be linked to the City locally.

To answer Board member Werner's question, Ms. Navarro said that Safe Schools is categorical and funds must be spent on safe schools. There are very specific parameters.

Board member Werner moved to recommend that the Miami Springs Education Advisory Board support the 2014 State Legislation Priority Positions of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Chair Salomon seconded the motion which was denied because there was not a majority of affirmative votes (Board member Hunter casted the dissenting vote).

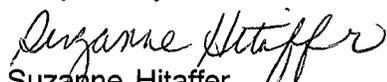
Ms. Navarro explained that she could provide information on the bond projects that are on the Miami-Dade County website. She can make it a part of the presentation for the Administrator who comes to the meeting to speak with the Board and it can be specified for local schools.

VII. Announcement: None

VIII. Adjournment

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Suzanne Hitaffer
Clerk of the Board

Transcribed by Assistant City Clerk Elora R. Sakal.

Approved as written at meeting of: 03-18-2014

The comments, discussions, recommendations and proposed actions of City Citizen Advisory Boards do not constitute the policy, position, or prospective action of the City, which may only be established and authorized by an appropriate vote or other action of the City Council.



2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY POSITIONS

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

FUNDING:

- Invest in education by increasing the Base Student Allocation (BSA) by at least \$200 per student and increasing the categorical funding by enrollment growth multiplied by the annual inflationary rate until the per pupil funding is at pre-recession levels.
- Support maximum flexibility in the use of funds appropriated.
- Oppose unfunded state mandates.
- Revise the Safe School Allocation formula so that each district's allocation is equal to fifty percent of prior year eligible district expenditures.
- Increase funding for Safe Schools to implement and expand interventions that focus on reducing disruptive and aggressive behaviors and strengthening emotional and behavioral competencies of students.

CLASS SIZE REDUCTION:

- Modify the assessment of the penalty associated with noncompliance with the Constitutional Class Size Requirement to the school-wide average and as it is applied to charter schools.
- Modify the calculation of the penalty associated with non-compliance with class size reduction to be half of the base student allocation (BSA) instead of the full BSA. Bills: SB / HB 319 by Rep. Moraitis

DUAL ENROLLMENT:

- Allow local school districts to locally establish contract provisions inclusive of cost structures with post-secondary institutions related to the delivery of dual enrollment education.

CAPITAL FUNDING:

- Fully fund provisions of Florida Statute 1013.64 pertaining to the Public Education Capital Outlay Program that involve construction and maintenance programs of public school districts.
- Oppose any diversion of Local Discretionary Capital Outlay levy revenue from traditional public schools to charter schools.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

- Ensure that state assessments and the state's accountability system are valid, reliable and aligned to the state standards.
- Provide a transitional period for school and district accountability as the state transitions to a new assessment tool.



PARENT EMPOWERMENT:

- Oppose any changes regarding conversions of traditional public schools to charter schools that dilute the role of parents, teachers, and community stakeholders.

CAPITAL OUTLAY FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS:

Support capital funding for charter schools that:

- Creates neither a reduction of funding to traditional public schools in operating or capital funding nor an additional taxing mandate on the local school district;
- Requires public input; and
- Protects the taxpayers' investment by ensuring that capital funding be spent only on assets that can be returned to the public school district.

CHARTER SCHOOLS:

Allow traditional public schools to extend statutory flexibility on the exemption from State Required Education Facilities (SREF), class size reduction compliance, and penalties not affecting charter schools.

Improve safeguards and transparency for taxpayer investments between traditional public schools and charter schools, including, but not limited to, implementing the following safeguards:

- ✓ Require that charter school applications and lotteries be administered by local school boards to ensure fair, equitable, and transparent admission processes for all students;
- ✓ Allow local school districts to negotiate appropriate usage fees based on market comparables;
- ✓ Require funding to follow the student when transferring between charter and traditional public schools during the entire school year;
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