



CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA

The **Miami Springs Education Advisory Board** met at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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

1) Call to Order/Roll Call

The following were present: Chair Robert J. Gordon
Vice Chair Dr. John Salomon
Libby Manning
Golnaz Sami
Dr. Mara Zapata

Also Present: Deputy City Clerk Suzanne Hitaffer

2) Approval of Minutes: January 17, 2012 Regular Meeting

Minutes of the January 17, 2012 meeting were approved as written.

Vice Chair Salomon moved to approve and Board member Manning seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on voice vote.

3) School Reports:

Ms. Romero, Assistant Principal of Curriculum for Miami Springs Senior High School, reported the following on behalf of Principal Anna Rodriguez:

- On February 27th there will be a walk-through of the school building with District personnel that will combine the Cambridge S.T.E.M. academy and an I-Tech program when the walk-through is finished. They will determine how much infrastructure the school will receive prior to development of the academies and curricular offerings.
- Tutoring is offered for 1-1/2 hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays and three hours on Saturday. Transportation is provided only on Tuesday and Thursday.
- The winter interim assessment data was analyzed and the students are slated to increase an average of twelve percentage points in reading based on the FCAT scores.
- The Mu Alpha Theta Math Club is winning many trophies; the calculus team placed fifth in the Tampa Bay Tech state-wide invitational and the stats team placed sixth. The Club placed ninth in the state in the Sweepstakes competition; Pablo Hernandez placed third in statistics and Henry Laney placed thirteenth in calculus.
- Students participated in the mock United Nations at Miami-Dade College North campus; Christine Engelmann received an honorable mention and Pablo Hernandez received a commendation for his position paper.
- The softball and baseball teams won their season openers and band members have been selected to perform at the Miami-Dade College honor band.
- Beautification of the school is an on-going project and they continue to request the removal of the portables.

Board member Manning mentioned that students Pablo Hernandez and Henry Laney are in the 11th grade and they will improve more next year.

Chair Gordon asked for comments on articulation and suggested that the Middle School Principal could speak on the topic.

Ms. Romero stated that based on the discussions one year ago, the various articulation forms were compiled into one form with information on all the courses. She clarified that advisors from the High School Student Services Department visited the Middle School in order to go over the academic programs.

Board member Manning asked about the new requirement for students to take the College Placement Test (CPT). She understands that students who do not do well on the test must take an extra course.

Dr. Carmen B. Marinelli, Superintendent of the North Central Regional Center, responded that it is still unknown if the course is going to be a requirement and even though it is included in the rules now it could change.

Dr. Marinelli explained that the CPT is now called the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT), which is a placement exam for students going into a community college setting. She is waiting to see when the rule changes in regard to remediation.

Board member Manning stated that the students who do not score well on the test are often students who are lacking credits and now another course is involved that is hard to arrange during a six-period day. Part of the argument is that Miami-Dade College does not want to be responsible for the remediation they feel should happen in high school.

Chair Gordon asked Dr. Zapata if 70% of the students who enter Miami-Dade College are required to go through some type of remediation.

Board member Zapata clarified that the percentage for remediation is actually higher and those students who do not go through remediation struggle in their courses, especially with writing and math.

Principal Javier Perez, Miami Springs Middle School, thanked Chairman Gordon for visiting the school last week. He reported on the following activities and events:

- High School counselors came to the school for articulation and plans are being discussed for possibly having students tour the High School next year; Elementary School articulation is coming up on March 15th; Students who are attending Westland High School will be going to the school for articulation on March 1st and Hialeah High School counselors will be coming to the school to meet with seven students who are attending Hialeah.

To answer Chair Gordon's question, Mr. Perez confirmed that 177 students will be attending Westland Senior High and 240 are attending Miami Springs. Students who have applied for magnets have not yet been told if they were accepted and they will go through the articulation process with their home schools. The eighth grade class totals a little more than 500 students.

- Winter interim assessment scores increased 3 to 19% in math and reading for all grades and in science for eighth graders. Writing, reading and math interventions are continuing during the day, three hours on Saturday, and for two hours after school.
- Activities include African/American History Month, Faculty Luncheon, Talent Show and performance by the New World School of the Arts Dance Team, door decorating contest and the Brain Bowl.
- The third Band Show of the year will take place on March 7th at 6:00 p.m.
- The Girl's softball team lost in the County semi-final competition today and Track and Field will compete in the County finals tomorrow. Wrestling and Boy's and Girl's Basketball are underway.

Chair Gordon commented that when he visited the school he learned that there are activities to motivate Staff.

Principal Perez explained that they are planning a Staff Olympics for one of the teacher workdays and there are twelve competition activities that should make a fun team building event.

Chair Gordon felt that it would be helpful to know the percentage of students that are Miami Springs' residents. He was able to acquire some information from the High School and would like this information for all the schools.

Principal Mayte Dovale of Springview Elementary School reported:

- Two students were recognized for the District "Walk Safe" poster contest for their artwork efforts.
- Mid-year narrative and expository writing prompts were held and approximately twenty students received a four or higher. The McDonalds Dade Partner helped by providing Happy Meals as an incentive for those students in an effort to encourage them to continue with their writing.
- FCAT testing for writing is next week; tutoring will end on Thursday and a mock test will be held; she will host a Jeopardy writing game
- SAT testing begins on April 10th and they are assessing FAIR data and holding data chats. Student data chat forms were sent home with progress reports.
- Interventions and tutoring will continue for the ELL as well as reading and math. Winter interim assessments show that the fourth grade math was having the most difficulty, while the third and fifth grade scores were strong at approximately 80%.
- Nigerian Prince Emanuel who is an accomplished artist, dancer and educator visited the school and the fifth grade students heard stories about how art and music have shaped his life.
- The media center has had great success with more than 22,800 books being checked out by parents, students and staff, or an average of 87 books per student.
- The P.T.A. purchased learning tools for the fourth and fifth grade students to assist with their math skills.

To answer Chair Gordon's question, Ms. Dovale clarified that funding for incentives is provided by McDonalds who is the school's Dade Partner and they also receive funds from Target. In the past, the Town of Medley has also donated funds for the purchase of planners. The P.T.A. is the biggest contributor in helping with incentives and certificates.

Miami Springs Elementary School Principal Sally Hutchings reported on the following school activities and curriculum:

- Fourth grade is participating in the Writing Wizard Program every Wednesday.
- The mock SAT/FCAT is being held during the week of March 5th.
- Interim assessments indicated a high in fourth grade reading and science was low.
- The Parent Academy Workshop regarding financial security will be held on Thursday, February 23rd.
- Enrollment is up seven students for a total of 645.

- Kindergarten students are going to the Miami Science Museum; first grade is going to the Playground Theater and fifth grade is going to see Dr. Seuss' the Lorax.
- Papa John's Night is February 26th and the school will receive a percentage of the pizza sales by mentioning the school name.
- The P.T.A. sponsored the Family Valentine's Dance, and raised funds by selling Valentines and ED Bucks.
- The P.T.A. purchased devices that attach to a white board and changes it to a smart board.
- Parents are setting up a vegetable and herb garden outside the second grade wing.
- ELL tutoring is continuing for four more weeks.
- Accelerated Reading incentives are showing progress.

Discussion ensued regarding the P.T.A. 501-C-3 status and the application process.

Principal Vera Hirsh from the AIE Charter School reported that every Thursday morning the school has Open House and everyone is invited to tour the school. She added that the School applied for the 501-C-3 status; the application was a 1,300 page document and the fee to the I.R.S. was \$850.00.

Principal Hirsh clarified for Chair Gordon that the school is a District managed Charter School and the Board is the Miami-Dade Foundation for Educational Innovation that requires a 501-C-3 status in order to be able to apply for grants and seek additional funding for the school operation.

Principal Hirsh reported the following activity dates and events:

- The January 21st Open House was very successful with several hundred parents attending.
- Rosetta Stone representatives visited the school on February 9th to observe the classes using the program to learn English and Spanish. The program has been very successful and she will be speaking about the program at a National Charter School Conference in June.
- Miami Springs Mayor Xavier Garcia spoke to students on February 16th about volunteering and students will be helping to clean-up Stafford Park.
- The P.T.A. is sponsoring a walk on Saturday, February 25th at 8:30 a.m. to raise funds for the school playground.
- The school received funds from Race to the Top and the funds were used to purchase the devices to make the white boards smart.
- One group of third graders will be taking the FCAT and the Kindergarten students are taking a form of the SAT.

To answer Chair Gordon's question, Ms. Hirsh confirmed that the school has 142 students. She added that parents live in different areas in the County and several work Downtown or at Jackson Memorial Hospital and they bring their children to the school.

Principal Hirsh informed the Board that New Life will provide aftercare and operate a summer camp. She reported that she was able to obtain funds for a kindergarten transition program for the incoming students that will be held one week before school begins.

Chair Gordon asked the High School for a breakdown of the student population.

Ms. Romero stated that current enrollment is 1,842 students and 631 live in Zip Code 33166. The breakdown is 40 students from Medley, 392 from Miami Springs, 90 from Virginia Gardens and 109 from Miami.

Dr. Marinelli reported that the invitation from the Superintendent for the School Bus Tour will be sent out soon to the City Council and the Education Advisory Board members. Her recommendation was for the tour to include all four public schools.

Chair Gordon stated that the objective of the School Tour is to showcase Miami Springs. The City is surrounded by a number of corporations and entities who would like to know more about the City.

Dr. Marinelli assured the Board that the District representatives will handle the marketing and information for the Bus Tour and there will be various speakers who will discuss legislative issues, curriculum, buildings, etc. and each school will make a presentation.

Dr. Marinelli discussed the importance of planning for future academic programs and school improvements. She noted that the school Principals and Assistant Principals will be meeting and working together to give each other ideas from all schools in the Region.

District issues include proposed State legislation in regard to PECO funds, which are capital funds for building, according to Dr. Marinelli. The new legislation would allow charter schools to receive a percentage of the tax dollars and that would be critical for the school system and the building maintenance. There are no funds for new schools; the funds are needed to upgrade and maintain the existing schools.

Dr. Marinelli explained that a group of parents and principals work on the budget and make recommendations for how the dollars should be spent. The committee is made up of District personnel, school site personnel and community members.

Chair Gordon mentioned that he placed information on the back table that he obtained from the www.dadeschools.net website regarding SB1852 and the legislative update.

4) PTA/PTSA Reports: None

5) Business/Reports:

a. Youth Advisory Council

Board member Golnaz Sami reported that she contacted City Manager Gorland and he provided the Resolution establishing the Youth Advisory Council. She reviewed the document in detail and prepared folders for the seven schools listed. The resolution provides for the selection of one student from each of the seven schools to be members of the Youth Advisory Council.

Board member Sami prepared an application for the Board's consideration and if approved, she will set aside time to visit the schools. She is also providing each school with a copy of the rules, explaining that students must be in the 5th grade or higher and that they must be residents of Miami Springs. She suggested that members of the student government may be interested in participating.

Chair Gordon said that Ms. Sami could distribute the information to the school principals and provide a copy to the Board Secretary. He felt that the Board members could review the information and make a decision at the next meeting.

Ms. Sami commented that the Charter School does not currently have a fifth grade class and they would be eligible to participate in the future. She included the Youth Advisory Council resolution and rules in each packet with three applications. She added that it would be a good idea for the students to fill out the application and to have their parents' permission, with a recommendation from a school teacher, counselor or administrator.

Chair Gordon asked the Board Secretary to attach a copy of the application to the minutes for the record. He asked the school principals and Board members to review the application and note any changes.

Ms. Sami clarified that the Resolution establishing the Youth Advisory Council was passed and adopted by the City Council on May 9, 2011. She asked if the recommendation is to begin the Youth Council this year or the following school year.

Board member Manning recalled that the intent was to establish the Youth Council this year and it is already late in the year to select the members.

Board member Zapata asked what is the basis for the student selection and who makes the selection.

Board member Sami suggested that each school principal would make one selection because they are familiar with the students.

Board member Zapata was of the opinion that each school should have uniform criteria in terms of the basis for the selection, because the application only requires the student to explain why they are interested.

Board member Sami stated that each school has access to attendance records, grades and extracurricular involvement.

Vice Chair Salomon noted that the Resolution states that each student interested in becoming a member of the Council should complete a membership application and comply with whatever other conditions and requirements may be imposed by the prospective member's school. Each school shall nominate one student for membership on the Youth Advisory Council and it is really up to the school to set the criteria.

Board member Sami reiterated that the student should have permission from their parent to attend the meetings.

Board member Manning said that in speaking with the schools, she would suggest finding a student that is reliable and will be responsible for attending the meetings.

Chair Gordon explained that the criteria for the Youth Advisory Council could be amended or adjusted as time evolves. He feels that the application is fine and it is a great start.

Board member Manning suggested that once the meetings begin that a member of the Education Advisory Board could occasionally attend the meetings to act as a mentor or advisor.

The information packets and applications were distributed to the Principals who were present and Board member Sami offered to distribute packets to those schools that were not present.

At the request of Chair Gordon, Vice Chair Salomon presented the background on the Youth Advisory Council, explaining that the students would be Miami Springs' residents who attend the City's schools and they would take part in discussing issues of concern to youth. The intent is to meet on a quarterly basis, as a part of the Civic Initiative.

Chair Gordon explained that the Principals can choose to recognize a student that gets all the awards or a different student who shows potential. This is an opportunity for students to obtain leadership experience and to have the opportunity to voice their opinions. He urged the schools to contact the Board Secretary who will distribute information to the Board members.

b. School Tour Update

Chair Gordon commented that the School Tour is an opportunity for the District to focus on Miami Springs' area schools and hopefully the commercial entities will attend. He announced that the date is set for Friday, April 27th and it will begin at City Hall at 8:30 a.m.

c. Advanced Academic Committee

Chair Gordon reported that the High School is moving forward with the Cambridge S.T.E.M. program. There are many concerns with testing during this time of the year and there is not much conversation about advanced academics.

Chair Gordon noted that the High School walk-through will take place on February 27th with the District and Cambridge company representatives. His hope is that the advanced academic program will trickle down to the elementary and middle schools.

Chair Gordon reported that he hopes to hold a smaller College Fair next year. This year the District College Fair was held on February 19th and it was well attended.

Board member Manning asked to consider an earlier date for holding the College Fair next year if the Colleges are able to come.

6) Other

Vice Chair Salomon mentioned that at the last meeting the Board members discussed drafting a Student Letter of Recognition. He submitted a draft copy of the letter (attached for the record). He explained that students who display exemplary citizenship would be recognized.

Discussion ensued among the Principals who were present and the Board members regarding the criteria for recognition.

Board member Manning stated that she would be willing to trust the judgment of the school Principals for recommending students to be recognized.

Board member Sami asked if the recognition would be on a monthly basis or at random and it was agreed that the letters would be presented at random, based on the recommendation of the respective Principal.

Vice Chair Salomon suggested that each school could be provided with 50 letters that would be presented at their discretion.

Vice Chair Salomon moved to recommend that Council approve a letter that recognizes exemplary citizenship at the discretion of the Principals. Board member Sami seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on voice vote.

7. Adjourn

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Suzanne Hitaffer
Clerk of the Board

Approved as written at meeting of: 03-20-2012

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.

**Youth Advisory Council for Education
City of Miami Springs
Application**

Instructions: Please print clearly in black/blue ink, answer all questions, and sign and date the form.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Last Name: _____

MDCPS Student ID: _____ Grade Level: _____

Street Address: _____ City, Postal Code: _____

PARENTS/GARDIANS INFORMATION:

Name: _____ Number: (____) _____

Name: _____ Number: (____) _____

EDUCATION:

Name and Address of School: _____

Briefly explain why you are interested in this position, and describe what qualifies you for this role.

I certify that information contained in this application is true and complete.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____

RECOMMENDATION:

Instructions: The section below must be completed by a teacher, counselor, or administrator

I, _____, recommend the above applicant to serve as a member of the Youth Advisory Council for Education of Miami Springs

Signature: _____

Date: _____

ATTACHMENT: EAB 2-21-2012

Dear Student,

We the Council of the City of Miami Springs, along with the members of the Education Advisory Board would like to extend our sincere congratulations for your exemplary citizenship. It is individuals like you who exhibit the character, duties and functions that a model citizen should and that every student ought to work towards. Additionally, your contribution has played a significant part in the betterment of your school and community and we commend you for your service.

With sincere appreciation,

Mayor,

City Council Members

EAB Members

ATTACHMENT: EAB 2-21-2012