



CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA

The **Miami Springs Education Advisory Board** met at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

1) Call to Order/Roll Call

The following were present: Chair Dr. John Salomon
 Vice Chair Dr. Mara Zapata
 Michael G. Hunter

Absent: Golnaz Sami

Also Present: Deputy City Clerk Suzanne Hitaffer

2) Approval of Minutes: September 18, 2012 Regular Meeting

Minutes of the September 18, 2012 meeting were approved as written.

Board member Hunter moved to approve the minutes and Vice Chair Zapata seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on voice vote.

3) Individual School Reports:

AIE Charter School Principal Vera Hirsh reported that the school has more than 300 students this year in grades K-7 and 75% are from the Miami Springs and East Hialeah area. The school will expand to 8th grade next year. Students are preparing for computer based testing and are participating in United Way fundraising activities.

Ms. Hirsh informed the Board that the school received a State Charter School Grant; the award letter was received last week, and funds will be used to purchase interactive boards for all teachers, two computer labs and state of the art technology for the classrooms.

Ms. Hirsh announced upcoming school events, including the Book Fair on November 13-16, and the dedication of the AIE Charter School Glenn Curtiss Campus on November 21st. She hosted a roundtable at the Association for Latino Administrators and Superintendents and spoke about the benefits of utilizing the Rosetta Stone program for learning Spanish and English as a second language.

Ms. Hirsh reported that upcoming student activities include a Mock Election Day on November 5th. She added that applications are being accepted for the next school year with a lottery drawing.

Miami Springs Senior High School Principal Anna Rodríguez reported on the United Way campaign, scholarship awards and homecoming activities. The school band placed fourth in a competition last weekend and received superiors in visual arts and the Color Guard.

Ms. Rodríguez said that more than 400 students were tested for the FCAT retakes and approximately 60 kids attended Saturday tutoring. College Night was held on October 9th with about 75 parents who received college information.

Ms. Rodríguez informed the Board that she met with the President of the Wolfson Campus and they are looking forward to expanding dual enrollment, especially with the Cambridge and ITEC programs. Students will have a myriad of opportunities during the day and after school.

Vice Chair Zapata asked if a presentation from the Miami-Dade Honors College was made at the College Night event.

Ms. Rodríguez explained that a presentation was not made from the Honors College; it was only a College Night for the parents to receive information and the colleges will come back in two weeks to make their presentations.

Vice Chair Zapata explained that the Honors College is a great opportunity that some students are not aware of and she has already asked the College to make a presentation at Miami Springs Senior High School.

Ms. Rodríguez agreed that the Honors College is another area she would like to explore and she is hoping that students can participate in these classes through dual enrollment.

Miami Springs Middle School Principal Javier Pérez reported that the magnet program participated in the Family and Career Expo at Miami-Dade North with a booth to showcase the magnet program. He said that the PTSA fund raising efforts are outstanding and they were able to purchase the patio cover that will be installed within the next three weeks.

Mr. Pérez announced that the ELL tutoring program is being held before and after school on Monday through Thursday and regular students will begin on November 1st. Funding was secured for ten promethean boards that are expected to be installed within the next month. He also reported on the fall sports activities and programs.

To answer Vice Chair Zapata's question, Mr. Pérez explained that the school teachers conduct the ELL tutoring through a grant from Title II and Title III. The school lost funding from the Easter Seal Program and they are using Title I monies.

Chair Salomon asked how Principal Pérez is dealing with the school capacity since he mentioned at the last meeting that it was at 115% capacity.

Mr. Pérez responded that the capacity is a little lower because some of the portable areas are being utilized.

Board member Hunter mentioned that there are various types of smart board devices and he asked if there is a preferred single board that is used for training the teachers.

Mr. Pérez commented that he has used all three types of boards and the mimeos are the best priced, but they are difficult to secure. Promethean is putting together a package for the schools for a good price that includes installation. He said that if teachers learn how to use one device they will be able to use the others; training is also provided for the teachers.

Board member Hunter suggested that schools might be interested in the mimeo tablet that can be secured in a desk drawer and it requires nothing more than an overhead projector and a white board.

Mother Susan Keedy from All Angels Academy reported that the school is hosting home games for volleyball and cross country meets. The school will host National History Day and there is a great deal of interest from public and private schools this year. Events include a Book Fair in November, student interdisciplinary projects, the PTO Open House and pot luck supper, overnight lock-in for the Middle School and the "Spooktacular".

Mother Keedy announced that the student government campaign and election was held; there are three new mimeos for the classrooms; there is a new math curriculum and students are using Singapore Math in light of the new standards.

Miami Springs Elementary School Principal Sally Hutchings reported that the students' Artwork for Nature as Designer was accepted to be displayed at Pinecrest Gardens. ELL tutoring will begin November 5th and will target the lowest 25% of students in grades 3-5. Classes are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by focusing on different Hispanic cultures. The Parent Program had a mobile station that was sponsored by a visual funded program and fifteen students will receive free eyeglasses. McDonald's sponsored a fund raising parent night. Enrollment is at 551 students and the school is at 90% capacity.

Ms. Hutchings continued to report on field trips, including trips to the Biscayne Nature Center, the Cleveland Orchestra, and the Pumpkin Patch. Other events include a film presentation of "Surviving the Everglades", "Say No to Drugs", and the Halloween parade. The PTA has completed the catalog sale and will continue to collect box tops and Campbell labels; they will also host the Halloween Trick or Treat dance.

Ms. Hutchings announced that class size is in compliance with the exception of 13 periods. Dade Partners include Papa Johns, Chuck E. Cheese, Milam's Market, and McDonalds.

Springview Elementary School Assistant Principal Irene Gómez-Lugo reported on the ELL Program and ELL tutoring, the United Way campaign, Hispanic Heritage Month activities, the PTA Book Fair, and the vision and hearing screening. Field trips and presentations include "Walk Odyssey", a Humane Society presentation on service dogs, and trips to the Pumpkin Patch, Pinecrest Gardens and Miami-Dade Community College Nature Center. Everyone is invited to the haunted house on October 25th at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Gómez-Lugo stated that the school is considering the purchase of a web-based accelerated reading (AR) program and they are hoping to collect donations.

To answer Chair Salomon's question, Ms. Gómez-Lugo stated that books and tests will be available on-line; the testing will take place at the school. Parents will have access to the books at home, but not the test questions.

Region Director Richard Vidal announced that a Town Hall meeting will be held on Thursday, November 1st at 7:00 p.m. for the Miami Springs/Doral feeder pattern at Doral Ronald Reagan Senior High School.

4) PTA/PTSA Reports

PTA activities were discussed under the School Reports.

5) Education Advisory Board Goals

Chair Salomon explained that at the last meeting the Board had requested information about the strengths and deficiencies of every school. The Board members did not receive this information, which is needed in order to move forward with the goals and to know which specific areas to target.

In regard to the education compact, Chair Salomon suggested that the Board could help push forward dual enrollment, as mentioned by Principal Rodríguez. He would also like to discuss the feeder pattern and the transition from the elementary schools to the Middle School.

Chair Salomon mentioned that the compact is dated May 17, 2008 when Rudolph Crew was the Superintendent of Schools and it obviously needs updating. He asked the other Board members for their comments.

Board member Hunter said that he would like to receive the information that is gathered from the schools and put that in perspective with the compact to see if there are items from the four-year old compact that could be brought up to date.

Chair Salomon commented that the Board members should review the compact to see what is working. He noted that the compact states that the City is home to five district facilities, including George T. Baker Aviation School. He clarified that George T. Baker is not part of the feeder pattern, but learned that they are sponsored by the Miami International Airport (MIA). He would love to see MIA partner with the Miami Springs' schools, which is something the Board could work toward.

Chair Salomon added that the compact mentions that Westland Hialeah Senior High School serves the City's youth even though it is not within the City limits. He asked if this information was still accurate.

Principal Rodríguez clarified that none of the students that live in Miami Springs attend Westland Hialeah Senior High.

Chair Salomon asked if the other Board members wanted to address any items in the compact and Board member Hunter suggested waiting until the next meeting after receiving the compact matrix and the information that was requested from the school Principals.

Vice Chair Zapata also agreed to wait until the next meeting.

Chair Salomon advised the Principals that the Board would like data from their schools in order to create goals in conjunction with the compact.

6) Youth Advisory Council Update

This item was tabled since Board member Sami was not present.

7) Other

8) Adjourn

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Suzanne Hitaffer
Clerk of the Board

Approved as written at meeting of: 11-20-2012

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