



***CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA***

The Miami Springs Education Advisory Board met at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

The following were present: Vice Chair Dr. Mara Zapata  
Caridad Hidalgo  
Michael G. Hunter  
Kim Werner

Absent: Chair Dr. John Salomon

Also Present: Board Secretary Elora R. Sakal

**1. Approval of the Minutes: April 16, 2013**

Minutes of the April 16, 2013 meeting were approved as written on a motion by Board member Hidalgo. The motion was seconded by Board member Hunter and was carried unanimously on voice vote.

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Lubby Navarro, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, commented that the legislative session ended on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Legislature this year had proposed an increase to Florida's largest portion of the budget which was recommended by the Governor last year and the Legislature adhered to his request which was to increase education funding in Florida by over \$1 billion. The increase that was approved this year was \$1.05 billion which is \$404 per full FTE or 6.34%.

Ms. Navarro reported on the following:

- Sparsity supplements increased by \$10MM.
- Safe Schools remained at level funded.
- School safety is now being looked into at the Federal level.
- Millage compression adjustment maintained at statewide average.
- School recognition was level funding.

- Teacher lead was increased by \$13.4 billion from \$31.8MM to \$45.2MM.
- Instructional materials were increased by \$5.6MM.
- Transportation was increased by \$2.4MM.
- New World School of the Arts was increased by approximately \$500,000.
- The Governor and the Legislature appropriated \$480MM for teacher salaries.
- Dual enrollment agreements with Miami Dade College and Florida International University.
- Funding for Virtual College classes were put into the formula which increased the funding available for school districts.
- Flexibility was provided on instructional materials for technology including devices and software.
- End of course exams that are pass or fail require certain EOC's with the exception of Algebra I to count 30%.
- Policies of Core Enrollment with a limit of two classes was maintained.
- Parent Trigger bill died in the Florida Senate for the second year in a row with a tie vote.
- Charter School use of facilities funds were starved off; looking at new ways to fund Charter Schools.
- A set aside of 15% for Title I funds to be used for supplemental educational services was defeated by Legislature and allowed School Districts to have those funds and make their own determinations.
- House Bill 113 was passed which makes it a felony to distribute pornographic materials on school sites.
- Senate Bill 52 which pertains to texting while operating a motor vehicle will now be penalized in the State of Florida.
- Senate Bill 1076 which provides for major educational reform for high school graduations has passed.
- The Office of Early Learning has now been put under the Department of Education to align Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade at some point.

Ms. Navarro commented that next week on Tuesday, after the passage of the bond, the Superintendent will be making a presentation at South Hialeah Elementary at 6:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Zapata asked how soon the virtual entities will begin and Ms. Navarro replied that they are currently preparing for it.

Vice Chair Zapata asked if the children would choose the term of the track with regard to Senate Bill 1076 reform for high school graduation and Ms. Navarro responded that the bill has very specific recommendations through counseling and parent information. It has specific language but she believes that it will be through counseling at the schools in terms of aligning and selecting a track.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibilities once this bill is passed.

Board member Hunter asked if there are other things that can be distilled into words that a Principal might tell the student body or the parents and that because of these changes this is how their lives are going to be different in their respective school.

Ms. Navarro replied that in order to be able to move the opportunity for students to have additional resources, funding is needed.

Board member Hunter asked if a student were to ask the Principal for more resources who will be in charge of providing that information and Ms. Navarro responded that it is a combination of different factors. She has never been to a budget allocation meeting but she believes that it is a combination of the district allocation to the school based on the enrollment and a conversation with the Principal.

Board member Hunter suggested that in the future, if high level changes are going to be made then it should be translated down to what the average senior or 6<sup>th</sup> grader is going to receive or not receive. He would not mind that translation occurring at this level so that the Board can pass it on to the community.

Ms. Navarro stated that Miami-Dade County Schools will have additional resources based on the funding that is presented to the Board for budget approval. Schools across the State will have more funding and their teachers will be paid more. There have been policy changes for the students that are going to have positive impacts on their learning environment.

Discussion ensued regarding what can be done to inform the parents of the student accomplishments and changes that are being made throughout their schools.

Board member Werner said that she was looking at the School Board agenda for tomorrow and noticed that there will be discussion about certain electives that will no longer be offered and she asked Ms. Navarro if she knew what electives they were and Ms. Navarro replied that she was uncertain.

Ms. Navarro distributed invitations to the Board for the Dialogue by Design and she hopes to see everyone there.

## II. Education Compact

### 1. Student Achievement

- a. Report on school programs, students, etc.
  - School Reports
- b. Teacher quality & retention
- c. Business partnerships; private sector support of schools
- d. Pursuit/status of collaborative grants to support academic needs
- e. External experiential activities for students (mentorship/Internship)
- f. Miami Springs Schools data

Principal Mayte Dovale of Springview Elementary reported the following:

- Teacher retention is good since a lot of the teachers live in the community and take pride in teaching the local students.
- School allocations will remain the same. She reminded the Board that this is the preliminary budget and that she is basing it off of the full-time equivalent (FTE) that the school had this year.

To answer Board member Hunter's question with regard to the budget next year, Ms. Dovale said that she meets and presents information to the Budget Director at the Regional Center. Meetings will take place this week and she is scheduled to go on Friday.

- Jazzercise instructor Tatiana Knight will be hosting an after school program to show students some Jazzercise moves to stay fit and talk about healthy living.
- Field Day is this week and students are incorporating activities that they have learned throughout the school year.
- Students participated in the Fairchild Challenge.
- A beautification day will be held in honor of Martha Gomez who was the previous Media Center Specialist that passed away of breast cancer. They hope to dedicate the garden next year during the opening of school.
- The school won 2<sup>nd</sup> place District-wide for the green schools challenge. In addition, they won an award for 2% energy savings and were among the top six in the District.
- Ms. Duque's breakfast club students were presented with a green careers award from the green schools challenge.
- Reading Under the Stars took place last week and there was a wonderful representation of parents and students.
- Students met the author of "The Adventures of Cat Girl" who read the book to the students.
- Teacher appreciation was celebrated this month with massages, baseball caps, picnic lunches, snacks and goodies.
- She and the Superintendent will attend a press conference that will take place at Holmes Braddock Senior High School to kick off the partnership between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Cambridge International.
- Springview Elementary will be a Cambridge School next year and she hopes to gather more information to share at the next meeting.

Miami Springs Elementary School Assistant Principal Naomi Simon reported the following:

- Principal Hutchings will be attending the budget conference tomorrow.
- Retention is good throughout the school.
- The Jazzercise program at the school went very well.
- Career Day will be held tomorrow and there are quite a few presenters.
- The school partners with Papa Johns, McDonalds, Roman's Pizza and some churches; one partner came to the school and did a general cleaning on May 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Teachers participate in mini-grants through the Education Fund; some have received grants and they are recognized at Parrot Jungle.
- The school's grant writing committee is working on the possibility of a technology grant for next year.
- The students in the art and a music programs generally participate in a number of extra-curricular activities throughout the district.
- The gifted program has enriching activities for the students at the school and this year they planted an organic garden.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade SAT scores were somewhat comparable to last year although there was a drop in some of the reading scores.
- Student, Maribel Alfonso, won the Springs' parfait promotion and she will be receiving an iPad.
- The end of the year celebrations are in place.
- The school capacity is at 90% and enrollment is 543 students.
- There is a new PTA Board and President that has been elected for the next school year and the new board will be meeting with the old board sometime next week.
- Class size remains the same.
- Papa John's Night is on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and everyone can support the school by ordering from Papa John's.

- Summer School will be hosted this year at the school for all eight nearby schools.
- Student Council elections were held today and results should be announced tomorrow.

Assistant Principal Chantal Harris from Miami Springs Middle School reported the following:

- FCAT testing was completed today and a few students will need to take make-up tests.
- EOC testing has been completed.
- CELLA scores have been released and are being analyzed.
- FCAT writes scores will be out next week. They will then find out how the 8<sup>th</sup> graders did with their scores.
- A Grad Dance and Grad Venture at Universal Studios was held last week.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup> at Miami Springs Senior High School.
- The Mega Dance for all students will be held on May 30<sup>th</sup> and it is being sponsored by the PTA; tickets are on sale for \$10 per student.
- There were several activities for the teachers during teacher appreciation week including, facials, gifts, and desert day.
- iPrep Math is coming up and construction has begun this week. Three classes have been demolished and will be converted into labs.
- The school will have the Cambridge Program and Mr. Perez will have more information at the next meeting.
- Summer school will be held this year and Mr. Perez will have more information on this item next time.
- The school receives grant information and it is disseminated to the teachers.

To answer Board member Hunter's question, Ms. Harris commented that iPrep Math is a program that is geared to advanced math and those students will be housed in one specific area. Details are still being worked out as far as the student selection.

Discussion ensued regarding iPrep and what is involved in the program.

Ms. Hirsh, from AIE Charter School reported on the following:

- This year there are approximately 300 students.
- Students were selected for the kindergarten and 6<sup>th</sup> grade based on a lottery.
- Activities include Field Day, many field trips as well as an honor roll breakfast.
- A playground was built last year through a grant the school received. Parents raised \$10,000 and were awarded \$150,000 worth of playground equipment and picnic tables.
- The school raised \$11,000 and applied for a Doctor Pepper Snapple grant to provide a canopy over the playground and they were awarded the grant. It will be installed hopefully by August of this year.
- A Charter School Program grant was received in the amount of \$350,000. The first payment of \$175,000 was spent on mostly technology such as stand-alone computers and interactive television screens and whiteboards.
- The school has wrap around Wi-Fi.
- Representatives from Rosetta Stone spent two days at the school videotaping students for a You-Tube video.

Ms. Hirsh thanked Board member Werner for visiting the school.

Dr. Kosnitsky from Miami Springs Senior High reported the following:

- Numbers are solid for teacher quality and retention.
- Enrollment dropped during the second half of the school year.
- The school became a part of the health information project. Eleventh grade students will be trained to teach curriculum to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade students in various areas of student services.

Dr. Kosnitsky suggested that the Board consider offering school data as part of their discussion in September, November and January as it ties into the schools interim data.

- The PTA Board will remain the same and Mr. Shultz has been re-elected to serve as President.
- iPegs were done this week.
- iTech will hopefully begin on May 31<sup>st</sup> or June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Make-ups for the ELC geometry were completed.
- The Prom was held at the Hotel Inter-Continental.
- Grad Bash went very well and the students behaved excellently. He explained there was a problem with the bus transportation.
- The Hospitality Program is holding a special ceremony for the seniors at St. Thomas University.
- Silver Knight Awards will be held at the James L. Knight Center tomorrow.

Board member Hunter asked about the teacher turnover and Dr. Kosnitsky said that teachers love the school and do not want to leave unless they are promoted or retiring.

Dr. Kosnitsky said that he is not sure about his future and he is seeking another school, while he enjoyed his time at Miami Springs.

Board member Hunter commented that he would prefer to hire someone within the system that has been trained.

2. Parental Involvement  
a. PTA reports

There were no PTA representatives present.

3. City Involvement  
a. Internship Initiative (for High School Students)

Vice Chair Zapata stated that in terms of internship initiatives for the High School, the Education Advisory Board is looking at the Chamber of Commerce in the City of Miami Springs, which would be separate from the school internship initiatives.

b. Intergenerational Program

Vice Chair Zapata said that Chair Salomon spoke about the Intergenerational Program at the last meeting and she does not have an update on this topic.

- c. Youth Civic Engagement through established Youth Advisory Council
  - YAC update

Vice Chair Zapata stated that there were names submitted from all of the schools, except for All Angels Academy. There will be two new students representing the Youth Advisory Council when the new school year begins which are Alana Martinez-Fort and Andria Rabade. The students will be invited to four or five Education Advisory Board meetings during the year to discuss different activities they are engaged in related to civic involvement.

Jose Maldonado, student of Miami Springs Senior High School, stated that the High School needs a good Physics teacher for the next generation of students. He spoke about the iChoose project that he would like to implement throughout the schools in Miami-Dade County during the 2013-2014 school year beginning with Miami Springs Middle School. There would be a different plan for schools depending on the grade levels. Topics include teen depression, eating disorders, self-harm, etc. and it is very important to change the tone for the lower grade levels.

Jose Maldonado asked if there are any resources available from the City of Miami Springs to help with the iChoose project. He is very passionate about the project because he inspired 90% of the students at his school and he would like to do the same throughout the County.

Vice Chair Zapata asked Jose if there is a faculty member who works with him at the school and Jose said that he works with the Activities Director.

Vice Chair Zapata explained that the Activities Director could communicate with the School District in terms of what they will support. She is glad to hear that Jose will be working within the schools in Miami Springs because it is important for high schools students to work with the middle school students to provide education services.

Luis Garce, Miami Springs Senior High School, stated they are passionate about bullying because it has an effect on students academically; it creates problems in the classroom and they want to show kids that they can be safe in the learning environment. He is involved with a community organization that is holding a fundraiser on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Funds could be used to publish an iChoose booklet that includes confidential stories from students about bullying. He continued to present his ideas for various activities and fundraisers in order to spread the word about bullying.

Vice Chair Zapata said that she would like to meet with the faculty person who is working with the iChoose program in order to get an idea of what resources are available and to make sure that they have the proper contacts with the District; the material must be approved by the District. The Education Advisory Board will support the program in the community and she offered to contact the school to set an appointment with Activities Director.

Board member Hunter commented that analog bullying had been going on for centuries. He asked if digital bullying is an issue at the school in any shape or form and Jose replied that he could not recall a specific event in Miami Springs, but he would like to focus on that topic.

Vice Chair Zapata said that digital bullying should be open for discussion so that students can share stories. She knows that on-line bullying is prevalent in the City and it is difficult to determine who is responsible. As a parent of children who are now young adults, she knows that it is already a problem and students should have a voice through the project to talk about what is happening.

Board member Werner extended her support as a board member and an employee of Miami-Dade County Public Schools. She would like to be sure that the program is Board approved and she suggested that one program could be developed for everyone, with the help of the City, and it could take place at the Rebeca Sosa Theatre for the students and their parents.

Mr. Kosnitsky noted that Jose and Luis will be alumni in two weeks since they are graduating and they will be members of the community, not students at the High School.

Board member Hunter asked if the materials had been passed along to High School juniors that will become seniors next year and Jose responded that Student Government elections would be held next week and he would be meeting with the new officers.

4. District Involvement in the Community
  - a. "Healthy Living Plan"
  - b. Promotion "green" policies
  - c. Promotion of "drug-free" policies
  - d. Community beautification involving students
  
5. Communication
  - a. City to disseminate educational information
    - e.g. education page on website
  - b. City and District collaboration on legislative agendas
  - c. Regular briefings-EAB meetings
  - d. School student broadcast to include community updates with support from city

*(There was no discussion on Items # 4 or # 5 above)*

### III. New Business

#### 1. iCare Presentation

Board member Werner said that regarding the specific goals of the iCare program for each of the schools, her idea is to be an iCare community. She suggested that because the High School and the Middle School will have new Principals next year that the item could be tabled until the Board meets again in the fall and the Board members agreed.

#### 2. Integrated Science and Asian Culture Academy, Inc. (Academica)

There was no discussion regarding this item.

#### 3. Suggestions for next agenda

Board member Hunter commented that 180 days constitutes a school year, while the students learn for 150 days and the remaining 30 days are for student testing since test scores have become part of the school grade. The amount of material that the students are being asked to learn has not decreased over the last 25 to 30 years and most likely it has increased. Nothing has been done to address the possibility of increasing the number of days that teachers can teach and now interim testing is required to see if students are ready for the final testing.

Board member Hunter suggested discussing the possibility of the City Council or City Administration making a request to the School Board to consider adjusting the process to allow more days for student instruction, as opposed to fewer days, which continues to happen with the expanded testing.

Vice Chair Zapata asked if Mr. Hunter wanted to discuss expanding the school year and he responded either to expand the school year or compress the test schedule.

Vice Chair Zapata said that she understood Mr. Hunter's point; it is an accountability piece and no one likes it in terms of the current structure, but it is a reality and the decisions are made way above the District and the State, although the Board could discuss it.

Board member Hunter commented that the discussion would be a "grass roots" type of commentary to get the point across that if students are being asked to learn more they should have time to learn as opposed to more time for testing. He expressed his concern regarding the high school level education.

Vice Chair Zapata feels that the common core would bring back the art of teaching and promote student thinking, while focusing on testing has stifled teacher and student thinking and now common core will serve in some way to bring it back to a more student centered format.

Board member Hunter said that it might be the intent, but as long as testing is the focus of the school grade, then teaching will be geared to the test.

Vice Chair Zapata does not feel that input from the Education Advisory Board will solve the problem mentioned by Mr. Hunter. She would like the Board to accomplish support of the schools and the District initiatives as opposed to a venting session over what everyone knows is wrong with the system. She knows that the accountability piece is not perfect, but it is a reality and she is not opposed to the discussion, but she does not want a long discussion over something that is not going to yield results.

Vice Chair Zapata suggested that there could be a "grass roots" effort as a community outside of the Education Advisory Board since it is not the purpose of the board.

Board member Hunter added that it is a travesty that Miami Springs Senior High School has had five Principals in the last nine years. He would like to know who at the District does not like Miami Springs High and is responsible for making this happen. A business or school cannot operate effectively when the person in charge is retained for only for one or two years. He is registering his complaint and perhaps this is a topic for discussion next year because the District is "short changing" the High School in Miami Springs by turning over the Principal on a regular basis.

Board member Werner stated that she tends to agree with Mr. Hunter. She has seen great potential in iCare and she would like to continue the conversation briefly about iCare and hopes that each school can provide the Education Advisory Board with their iCare plans to show how it is serving the City of Miami Springs. She reiterated her desire to table the discussion because there will be two new Principals next year, and this makes her sad. She is heartbroken to be losing Principal Perez and she wishes Principal Rodriguez well in her promotion, although she hears good things about Principal Smith.

Board member Werner continued expressing her support of the iCare program and stressed the importance of retaining the school principals and administrators in order to be able to develop relationships in the community.

Vice Chair Zapata explained that this occurrence is not isolated to Miami Springs because it happens District-wide. She noted that there is a forum at Miami-Dade County Public School Board meetings when people can sign up and speak about issues and this is the platform to voice opinions and get a response. The Education Advisory Board is not the platform to discuss items that cannot progress.

Board member Hunter was of the opinion that if the Board does not take a position or indicate their preference no progress can be made.

Vice Chair Zapata agreed that the Board could indicate a preference but it should be indicated to people who are going to be able to respond and that is not the purpose of the Education Advisory Board. She will look into this further before the next meeting and if she is wrong the Board can certainly discuss the issue.

Lubby Navarro spoke from the audience on behalf of the District. She assured the Education Advisory Board that the new principals would introduce themselves to the Mayor and Council in order to begin building a new relationship.

Board member Hunter asked Ms. Navarro if the community should be concerned if they are unhappy about the frequent turnover of Principals and if this is something the Education Advisory Board should pursue and Ms. Navarro said that unfortunately she could not answer that question.\*

\*Note: Ms. Navarro did not come to the microphone and all her comments were not recorded.

IV. Report From School Board: None

V. Report From School District: (previously discussed at the beginning of the meeting)

VI. Announcement: None

1. Cancellation of June, July and August meetings

There was no discussion regarding this item.

VII. Adjournment

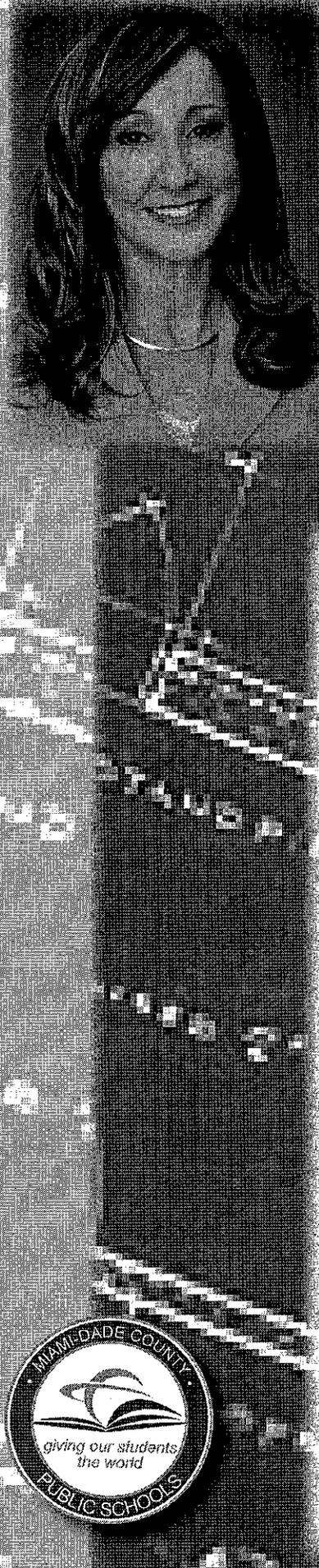
There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Suzanne Hitaffer  
Clerk of the Board

Transcription assistance provided by Elora R. Sakal.  
Approved as written at meeting of: 09-17-2013

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**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.**  
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**Susie V. Castillo**  
**Miami-Dade County School Board Member, District 5**

# Dialogue by Design

**Join me to discuss our plans  
for 21st Century School  
bond projects**

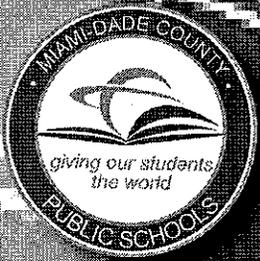
**Wednesday, May 29, 2013  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

**South Hialeah Elementary School  
265 East 5th Street • Hialeah, FL 33010**

**RSVP via email to: [District5@dadeschools.net](mailto:District5@dadeschools.net)  
by Friday, May 24  
In partnership with  
Miami-Dade County Council of PTAs/PTSAs**

**For information about District 5, visit my website  
at [District5.dadeschools.net](http://District5.dadeschools.net) or contact my office at 305-995-1334**

**For information about Bond Projects in District 5, visit  
[bondsforschools.dadeschools.net](http://bondsforschools.dadeschools.net)**



# Dialogue by Design

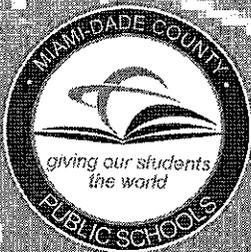
Join us to discuss our plans  
for 21st Century School  
bond projects

Wednesday, May 29, 2013

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

South Hialeah Elementary School

265 East 5th Street • Hialeah, FL 33010



RSVP to  
[asmartinez@dadeschools.net](mailto:asmartinez@dadeschools.net)  
by Friday, May 24

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