



**CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA**

The Miami Springs Education Advisory Board met at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

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

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

Absent: Caridad Hidalgo

Also Present: Administrative Assistant Allene Paz

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of the January 21, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

Board member Werner moved to approve. Board member Hunter seconded the motion, which carried 4-0 on voice vote.

\*\*\*\*\*

Raul Perez, Director, Capital Improvement Office, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, provided an update on the GOB Bond Program as it relates to the four schools in Miami Springs. The two components of the program are the technology update to all schools and the renovations and repairs to existing schools. The technology goal is to have every classroom in the County equipped with the same capabilities.

Contracts were awarded to architects and contractors for 47 projects, including Miami Springs Elementary that has a budget of \$1.546MM. This project includes air conditioning and heating replacement, restroom and plumbing renovations, exterior door and window replacement, interior floor and ceiling replacement, new playground and fire alarm system, and portable removal. Construction is scheduled to begin early next year.

Miami Springs Middle School has a budget of \$5.355MM, including the replacement of one existing building, air conditioning and heating repair/replacement, roofing replacement, restroom and plumbing renovations, exterior door and window replacement, interior floor and ceiling replacement, portable demolition, fire alarm installation and painting and beautification. Construction will begin in year three of the program.

Springview Elementary has a budget of \$4.005MM, including replacement of three buildings, air conditioning heating/repair, electrical upgrade, restroom and plumbing renovation, window replacement, floor and ceiling replacement, playground replacement, fire alarm installation and portable demolition. Construction will begin in year three of the program.

Miami Springs Senior High is in year four of the program; the current budget is \$12.964MM, including air conditioning/heating replacement, roofing replacement, exterior wall finish and repair, door and hardware replacement and portable demolition. Some funding has been moved to this year for the portable demolition and exterior painting.

Mr. Perez said that more information is available on the website at [www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net).

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Youth Advisory Council**

Vice Chair Zapata stated that a group of young people will represent the schools on the Youth Advisory Council. There is one student who will graduate from Miami Springs Senior High that would be a mentor to the students as the next academic year begins.

Cesar Castillo, Chairman/District 6 Youth Commissioner for Miami-Dade County addressed the Board members to explain the importance of the Youth Advisory Council and allowing young people the opportunity to have their voices heard. He invited everyone to attend the next meeting on Thursday, March 20th with all 27 Youth Commissioners.

Mr. Castillo explained the various initiatives of the Youth Commission, including the Violence Intervention Program.

Vice Chair Zapata stated that Cesar would lead the effort for the remainder of the academic year and Joshua Kluthe would be his successor, while Cesar is invited to continue providing guidance to the Youth Council. The City resolution allows for one member from each school.

Introductions were made by Michael Dominguez representing Blessed Trinity Catholic School, Natalia Suarez from Springview Elementary and Avery Tallman from All Angels Academy.

Vice Chair Zapata said that the Youth Council would meet every other month in the Council Chambers one hour before the Education Advisory Board meetings. The resolution provides for a meeting every three months, but that does not coincide with the Education Advisory Board meetings. She said that one member of the Education Advisory Board and one staff member from City Hall should be present for the meetings. She emphasized the importance of allowing the younger students to have a voice.

Vice Chair Zapata moved to recommend that the Youth Advisory Council meetings be held before the Education Advisory Board meetings. Board member Hunter seconded the motion.

Board member Werner asked about the supervision of the Youth Council and Vice Chair Zapata volunteered to be present one hour before the Education Advisory Board meeting to provide the supervision.

The motion carried 4-0 on voice vote.

\*\*\*\*\*

**II. Education Compact**

- 1. Student Achievement
  - School Reports

Naomi Simon, Assistant Principal of Miami Springs Elementary reported on student achievement, the winter assessment scores, teacher quality and retention, business partnerships, grants, and the planning stages for the implementation of the Cambridge program. Activities include STEM opportunities for the students, several extracurricular activities and PTA fundraising. Enrollment is 527 students.

Ms. Simon answered questions from the Board members regarding STEM activities and the test data analysis.

Olga Siddons, Counselor for Springview Elementary reported on the Curtiss Mansion summer camp program, Cloud Nine program, the Fairchild Challenge, teacher retention, career day, test scores and afterschool tutoring.

AIE Charter School teacher Nevenka Huertas reported there are 350 students in K-8 grade. FCAT tutoring is held before and after school and on Saturday. Activities include a Miami-Heat pep rally, PTO fundraisers, field trips, and a meditation program. Laptops were purchased through grant funds and they are holding after school computer programs.

Vicky Rodriguez, Assistant Principal of Miami Springs Middle School recognized the girls' and boys' softball teams for their achievements and reported on various student activities, programs and student academic achievements. Articulation was completed with the High School and feeder pattern elementary schools and applications are open for the Cambridge Academy within the feeder pattern schools. Current enrollment is 1,452 students and the projection is 1,438 for next year.

Al Torossian, Assistant Principal for Miami Springs Senior High School reported on the results of the winter interim assessments, ELL parent night, Saturday tutoring and reading sessions. ACT and SAT tutoring will begin after Spring Break; there are 1,720 students and attendance is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> for all the major high schools in the County. He reported on the college road trip to the various state universities, the Miami-Dade College honors program and the NASCAR 1080 STEM program.

Mr. Torossian announced that the demolition of the portables commenced and the removal should be completed within the next 30-45 days. The exterior painting of the school should be finished within the next 60-90 days.

Mr. Torossian reported on the Athletic Hall of Fame that will take place at the Miami Springs Country Club on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.

All Angels Academy Academic Dean Terry Alexander stated that the school has 110 students. Students participated in the Miami-Dade County History Fair and seven students advanced to the State competition.

## 2. Parental Involvement

- PTA reports (discussed during School Reports)

## III. New Business

### 1. District and School District meeting opportunities for community

Board member Hunter stated that the proposal is for a District representative in charge of policy to come and give the parents a chance to ask questions at a Town Hall meeting. He would like the parents to have the opportunity to voice their concerns about the school operations.

Chair Salomon said that if the Town Hall meeting were to have representation from the District and the City in order to answer questions it would involve contacting the District and the Region, as well as a recommendation to the City Council to give their approval.

Board member Werner felt that the proposal could be implemented based on the City Manager and City Council having been very amenable to the suggestions of the Board in the past.

Chair Salomon asked what would be the timeframe for holding the Town Hall meeting and Mr. Hunter responded that it could be at the beginning of the next school year, after lining up the individuals and notification to the schools and the press.

Chair Salomon asked where the Town Hall meeting would be held and Ms. Werner replied that the City has many great venues, including the Rebeca Sosa Theatre.

Vice Chair Zapata asked how this is different than the parents going to the School Board to address their concern and what they feel will be accomplished.

Mr. Hunter felt that this would allow the District representative to reach out to the community instead of the parents having to go to the School Board and speak in a public format with limited time.

Vice Chair Zapata was of the opinion that the District already reaches out to the community by providing representation to the Education Advisory Board, although she does understand the difference in Mr. Hunter's proposal.

Chair Salomon asked Mr. Hunter to type a draft of what the Town Hall meeting would entail and to bring it to the next meeting for further consideration.

2. Possibility of schools partnering with social media provider or social networking services

Chair Salomon stated the idea is to disseminate information to the community members. He asked the Board members to comment on the item.

Board member Hunter feels that information is free and available through the educational social media, twitter or google.

Chair Salomon called the Office of Community Engagement and spoke with the District Director about the possibilities of the school partnering with social media providers. He would not want to subject the students to any risk. Miami-Dade County has an acceptable use policy in place; the Superintendent has a twitter account, as well as Miami-Dade County Public Schools. He felt that the questions to answer are who would be responsibility for hosting a social media venue; what kind of information would be disseminated; who will be allowed to use it and if student pictures would be posted that would require release forms.

Board member Hunter explained that he uses social media in a very passive mode. He requires his students to have one account or another and he invites parents to join. This allows advance notice of tests, study means, and homework assignments. He was of the opinion that a social media site does not put anyone at risk as long as it simply providing information and does not involve active conversation.

Chair Salomon suggested inviting the District Director of the Office of Community Engagement to attend the next Education Advisory Board meeting to provide more information.

Board member Werner would like to know how much the City's website is utilized and the number of hits it receives. If the number is significant, this would be a means of providing information without having to create another means.

Vice Chair Zapata said that the education compact delineates the use of the City's website to provide information to the community. She said that some students might not have access to social media accounts.

Board member Hunter commented that he is not making a suggestion to partner with a social media provider.

**IV. Unfinished Business:**

1. Bond update (previously discussed at the beginning of the meeting)
2. No Place for Hate

Board member Werner presented an update on No Place for Hate and the activities taking place in the City of Miami Beach, which she feels can be done in Miami Springs.

Ms. Werner contacted the Anti-Defamation League and the representative offered to meet with the Education Advisory Board to address how the community can obtain funding for all the schools. She is very excited about the idea and will be meeting with City grant writer Carol Foster to talk about the possibilities for funding. She is hoping that the public schools will support the initiative because being designated a Community of Respect is a very desirable status for the community.

Lubby Navarro commented on the opportunity for the City being designated a Community of Respect. She encouraged the Board to look for funding.

### 3. Miami Springs Historical Society

Jim Watson provided an update on the status of the relocation of the Miami Springs Historical Museum, the renovation of the building at 501 East Drive and the various activities of the Miami Springs Historical Society. The Society hopes to work directly with Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

### 4. Intergenerational Art Show

Chair Salomon reached out to local artist Joan Cavalier, through Councilman Petralanda, to implement a proposal for an Intergenerational Art Show. Senior Citizens will showcase their artwork, along with the school students' artwork. He drafted a list that includes liaisons appointed by the City Council and the District. The show would include artwork from each school and from the senior citizens. The event could be hosted at the Curtiss Mansion or the Rebeca Sosa Theatre in the next school year. The idea is to have interaction between the senior citizens and the students, as outlined in the education compact.

Board member Werner commented that it is a great proposal that would provide interaction between the students and the elderly.

### 5. MIA jobs for MS Senior High students

Chair Salomon said that a previous motion was passed to the City Council regarding this item and they requested additional information. He spoke to Councilman Petralanda who suggested visiting the Director of Miami International Airport regarding possible job internships.

Board member Hunter suggested that the Director of the Tourism Academy at the High School should be involved in the meeting.

Ms. Navarro recommended the involvement of County Commission Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa in the process since she could bring in the Aviation Department.

## V. Report From School District

Lubby Navarro, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, reported that Superintendent Carvalho was named National Superintendent. The District was recognized by the College Board for student performance in advanced placement exams across the nation.

Ms. Navarro gave an update on the Legislative Session. She explained that accountability is the major item they are following, in addition to the budget, class size and dual enrollment. The State Education Board will assess school grades and meet in August to set the cut scores after students are tested, which is a major change in accountability. School grades are very important to the schools and the entire community.

Board member Hunter expressed his concern about Value Added Model (VAM) scores.

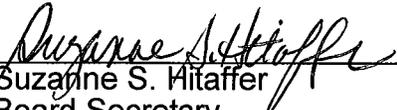
Ms. Navarro said that now is the time to contact the Legislators since they are in the middle of budget process. The Governor's budget that was released in January falls short in supporting K-12 compared to the budget for the last two years. The State has a responsibility to support education in a uniform manner for every student and in the last ten years the burden has been pushed onto the taxpayers in the community. She said that because of the Value Adjustment Board process the tax roll has not been certified, which cuts the amount of funds distributed to the District.

VI. Suggestions for Next Agenda: None

VII. Adjournment

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Suzanne S. Mitaffer  
Board Secretary

Adopted by the Board on  
this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.

---

Dr. John Salomon, Chair

Approved as written at meeting of: May 20, 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.  
\*\*\*\*\*