



## *CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA*

The Miami Springs Education Advisory Board met at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order at 6:29 p.m.

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

The following were present:

Vice Chair Dr. Mara Zapata  
Alyssa Cundari Roelans  
Dr. Ilia Molina  
Kim Werner

Also Present:

Assistant City Clerk Elora R. Sakal

#### **1. Approval of Minutes: September 16, 2014**

Board member Werner moved to approve the minutes as written and Board member Molina seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on voice vote.

#### **2. Introduction of New Members**

Board members Alyssa Cundari Roelans and Dr. Ilia Molina introduced themselves to the Board and explained their education background.

#### **3. Nominations for Chair/Vice Chair**

Board member Werner moved to nominate Dr. Zapata to serve as Chair of the Board. The motion was seconded by Board member Cundari Roelans and carried 4-0 on voice vote.

Chair Zapata moved to nominate Kim Werner to serve as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Board member Cundari Roelans and carried 4-0 on voice vote.

### **II. Education Compact**

#### **1. School Reports**

- a. Opening of 2014-2015 Academic year, school programs, enrollment status, student(s) recognitions, and school data etc.

- b. Updates on current teacher quality and 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)

Miami Springs Senior High School Principal Ed Smith reported the following on behalf of all schools in the Miami Springs feeder pattern:

- Miami Springs Elementary
  - This year's target is to increase student proficiency levels in all areas
  - Data Chats are scheduled throughout the year
  - A Title III grant was received to provide funding tutoring for ESOL students
  - The school was selected as a Cambridge School and continues to be funded as a Title I school
  - Students will try out for the Superintendent's Honors Music Festival Course and Spring Orchestra
  - Students Jose Ramirez and Maria Matos were recognized in the Middle/Elementary Math Bonanza
  - The school continues to maintain quality teachers at 100%
  - Local business partners include Pollo Tropical, Carolina Ale House and other independently owned companies; the school partners with Box Tops, Office Depot and Target
  - The P.T.A. provides refreshments for Staff and incentives for students in the AR program; P.T.A is fundraising to reduce the cost of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade end of year activities
  - Current school enrollment is 459
- Springview Elementary
  - 2 playgrounds are scheduled for replacement in April
  - Data Chats with teachers were conducted earlier this year
  - Reading and Math data surpasses District averages
  - Students are working in i-Ready in reading and math and were the winners of the Reflex Math contest for grades 2-5
  - After school tutoring is hosted for selected students in grades 3-5 in the areas of reading, math and science
  - The school hosted instructional rounds for principals from other schools to observe selected grade levels and share best practices
  - P.T.S.A. hosted a "Superman in My Life" breakfast for P-K and Kindergarten students and their fathers
  - Current enrollment is 408 students
- Miami Springs Middle School
  - Girls and Boys softball teams are headed to District playoffs
  - Two students were nominated for the Wide World of Sports ESPN football competition
  - Showcase Night was held to inform parents and students from the feeder pattern elementary schools about the academic offerings at the school
  - The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Magnet Fair was held and students had the opportunity to speak with representatives from 15 of the high school District magnet programs
  - Before and After School Tutoring continues for reading, math, science, algebra and geometry

- Miami Springs Middle School (continued)
  - 60 students participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Cambridge Academy; program applications are available on the school website and were provided to feeder pattern elementary schools
  - Enrollment is 1,320 students
- Miami Springs Senior High School
  - District support is offered by Curriculum Support Specialists in the areas of Language Arts and reading
  - Interventions have been scheduled to target the lowest 25% Level 2 and 3 students as well as ELL students
  - A Title III grant was received to assist ELL students with tutoring; tutoring is offered Monday through Thursday in Language Arts, Reading and Mathematics; Two Saturday tutoring sessions were held for Math, Language Arts, Social Studies and Science with over 250 students in attendance
  - The NASCAR 1080 Team placed first in the Homestead Speedway competition and qualified for the national competition to be held in Houston, Texas in May
  - Enrollment is 1,724 students; the Hospitality and Tourism magnet includes 130 students; the i-Tech program doubled in size
  - i-Tech Academy female students were named "Best in State" from among 308 schools across the south that entered the Verizon Innovative App Challenge and will compete to become one of three high schools that will be named "Best of the South Region"
  - 60 junior students participated in the annual college road trip to visit Florida universities
  - All sports teams have completed their seasons with winning records
  - Current enrollment is 1,649 students

Principal Smith responded to the Board's questions regarding the Cambridge Academy program and the student transition from Miami Springs Middle School to the High School program. He clarified that there are no plans to end the school band program.

2. Parental Involvement
  - a. PTA/PTSA Reports: Discussed under School Reports

### III. M-DCPS District Update

1. Report from School District
  - a. School support in preparation for new state assessment
  - b. Current district initiatives impacting schools
  - c. Upcoming legislation efforts

Ms. Eva M. Regueira, District Supervisor, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, presented an update on the legislative efforts in Tallahassee. The Governor is recommending an increase in education funding by \$2MM. Proposed Senate Bill 7046 relates to low performing schools and would allow extra student tutoring. An amendment to the Bill was proposed that would allow charter schools to share the capital outlay millage, which the District opposes since charter schools are not the property of the public; they are private property.

Ms. Regueira explained that House Bill 19 would allow the Superintendent and the School Board to make decisions on how unmarked officials carry guns at schools, which the District opposes.

Accountability is another issue and the District is pushing for at least one year of no school grades due to testing inconsistencies, etc. The District is trying to make class size a school-by-school average and create a plan so that the assessed penalties would come back to the respective districts and be utilized to address class size. Proposed Senate Bill 972 is a key bill that addresses the Value Adjustment Board process.

Ms. Regueira addressed questions and the reasoning behind Schools of Choice and how it relates to class size.

Principal Vera Hirsh from AIE Charter School presented the school report at this time. Enrollment is 408 students in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and is expected to increase to 450 students next year and the addition of a third kindergarten class. She continued to report on the school curriculum, tutoring, fundraising programs, music program and technology improvements. She announced that the school has hired a counselor.

#### IV. EAB Supported Initiatives

##### 1. City Involvement

- a. Youth Civic Engagement through established Youth Advisory Council
- b. No Place for Hate – Anti-Bullying efforts in M.S. schools
- c. Internship Initiative (for High School Students)
- d. Intergenerational Program

Chair Zapata reported on the status and importance of the Youth Advisory Council. She will be meeting with the school principals to discuss the possibility of the students meeting at the various school sites on a rotating basis. The students would report back to the Education Advisory Board and request their assistance as necessary.

Vice Chair Werner presented an update on the “No Place for Hate” anti-bullying efforts in the community. She announced that the Anti-Defamation League has tentatively approved 7:00 or 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> for the “Community of Respect – No Place for Hate” celebration at the Rebeca Sosa Theatre.

Chair Zapata asked the new Board members to consider taking on the responsibility of overseeing the Internship Initiative or Intergenerational programs. Board member Molina offered to work on the Intergenerational Program and Board member Cundari Roelans will work on the Internship Initiative.

##### 2. Communication Update

- a. City to disseminate educational information
- b. School student broadcast to include community updates with support

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of disseminating educational information on the City’s website and in the River Cities Gazette to address parental concerns and the positive achievements in the local schools.

Chair Zapata suggested that the various school announcements could include information about the community.

V. Unfinished Business

1. MIA jobs for MS Senior High students

The item was tabled.

VI. Suggestions for Next Agenda

Board member Werner moved to schedule the next meeting for Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Board member Molina seconded the motion which was carried 4-0 on voice vote.

VII. Adjourn

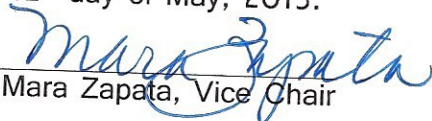
There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Elora R. Sakal  
Assistant City Clerk

Adopted by the Board on  
this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.

  
Dr. Mara Zapata, Vice Chair

(Transcription provided by Deputy City Clerk S. Hitafer)

Words ~~-stricken through-~~ have been deleted. Underscored words represent changes. All other words remain unchanged.

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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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