



CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA

The **Miami Springs Education Advisory Board** met at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1) Call to Order/Roll Call

The following were present:

Chair Dr. Mara Zapata
Alyssa Cundari Roelans
Dr. Iliia Molina
*Steve Owens - arrived at 7:09 p.m.

Absent:

Constantino Hernandez

Also Present:

Deputy City Clerk Elora R. Sakal

2) Approval of Minutes: May 12, 2015 Regular Meeting

Minutes of the May 12, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

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

3) Education Compact:

1. School Reports

- a. Update on school testing, programs, enrollment status, student(s) recognitions, and school data etc.**
- b. Updates on current 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**

2. Parental Involvement

- a. PTA reports**

Principal Ed Smith from Miami Springs Senior High School reported for the public schools in Miami Springs.

Springview Elementary:

- Smooth school opening and open house
- Enrollment has increased by 40 students from last school year
- iReady diagnostic is being administered
- School has two new playgrounds however they have not been turned over to the school yet as the work is still in progress to comply with inspections

Miami Springs Elementary:

- Implementing the Cambridge in 1st grade fully and utilizing the strategies in K-3
- The extended foreign language program is offered in grades K-3rd
- Enrollment is 449 students
- Currently administering the diagnostic iReady assessment in reading and mathematics to the FLKRS assessment for Kindergarten
- Maintained high quality teachers; 100%
- Involved with local business partnerships such as Pollo Tropical, Carolina Ale House and independently owned companies
- Partnered with Box Tops, Office Depot, and Target
- The Rotary Club hosted a presentation to all 3rd graders and presented them with a dictionary
- Collaborated with interns and students in the need of field service through Miami Dade College
- PTSA provided refreshments for staff opening of school meeting
- Currently holding a book fair to raise funds for the Media Center

Miami Springs Middle School:

- Received an enrichment grant for \$8,304 for before and after school tutoring
- Christ Fellowship donated the opening of school breakfast
- Volunteers assisted with the school landscaping
- Social Studies teachers put together a program to remember those who perished on September 11th 2001. Students, teachers, faculty, and distinguished guests attended the ceremony in the courtyard. Spectators were able to listen to a presentation about Patriot Day and pay their respects.
- Increased from 96% passing grade to 97% passing grade on the Biology EOC exam
- Cambridge Academy is working throughout all grade levels
- iPrep math program is working at capacity
- Accelerated courses are being offered in physical science, biology, algebra and geometry
- All students in the 7th grade Civics and 8th grade U.S. History are using tablets for daily instruction
- Open House will be on September 17th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- Offering all sports this year
- Soccer and Cross Country for boys and girls are currently in progress
- Enrollment is 1,204 students
- Tutoring before and after school through a Title 3 grant for ELL students will begin in October
- Administering the iReady diagnostic testing for both Math and Language Arts
- Morning and Afternoon posts for personnel without homeroom classroom responsibilities are currently 5 full-time security monitors and 2 part-time security monitors
- There are 58 instructional staff members
- The general PTSA meeting will be held on September 17th at 5:30 p.m.
- The first ESAC meeting for the 2015 school year will be held on Thursday, September 17th at 8:00 a.m.
- The Title 1 meeting will be held on September 24th at 9:30 a.m.

Miami Springs Senior High School:

- Current enrollment is 1,685; up 48 students from 2014-15 school year
- School was granted the 8 period day for electives
- Physics class was brought back, hired a business teacher and brought back Dance class
- Purchased close to \$30,000 of television production equipment that will be used to podcast the news and events at school
- 40 students will be participating in a 3rd annual college road trip in November which is paid for through Title 1 and fundraising
- Sports that are currently taking place are football, girls and boys Cross Country, girls and boys bowling, and boys Golf
- School was recently acknowledged as "America's Beating the Odds High School" which takes into account whether low income students perform as well as their high income peers. 21,000 high schools were considered and only 500 were ranked and Miami Springs was ranked at #162.

Board member Cundari-Roelans asked if the enrollment was up or down at Miami Springs Elementary and Miami Springs Middle and the Principals replied that enrollment was down.

Ms. Ricardo gave the report for AIE Charter School.

AIE Charter School:

- Enrollment is 444 students
- 95 students are ESOL students levels 1-4
- Currently going through the accreditation process

- Currently identifying the tier 2 students that need additional time in reading and language arts
- Almost finished assessing K-8th grade students for iReady diagnostics in math and reading
- Planning to hold a professional learning community where teachers will get together in groups and go through the accreditation and ensure that they are analyzing data and helping teachers to identify those lower students
- Open house will be on September 17th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Currently implementing the Values Matter initiative
- Will be offering more high school courses to the middle school students such as algebra 1, Spanish and science
- Implementing the iExcel program
- Continue to have the Rosetta Stone program so students continue to be exposed to Spanish

Chair Dr. Zapata commented that she enjoys hearing how well the schools in Miami Springs are doing because it was not always like this at one point. The schools are doing a tremendous job. She thanked Principal Emmanuel for inviting her to the September 11th event at the Middle School. It was extremely meaningful and she was impressed on how the children were dressed and carried themselves during the ceremony.

4) M-DCPS District Update

1. Report From School District

- b. Current district initiatives impacting schools**
- c. Upcoming legislation efforts**

Eva Reguiera, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Grants Administration at Miami-Dade County Public Schools stated that there was an early sine die from the House side and so many of the bills that were moving died which is a good thing and a bad thing because there were a lot of bills that the District was not necessarily in agreement with. The number one thing the District is always looking for is increased funding in education. Funding in the State of Florida for student education is 49th in the Country. The District has just over \$7,100 per student allocated for funding and the national average is \$12,000 per student.

Ms. Regueira commented that the State Board of Education released a budget that was not much higher than the budget for this year. In addition to that, there was a heavy reliance on local funding as oppose to State funding and when the State coffers are growing and there is more money coming into the State the District expects for there to be a growth in the budget proposal for the State. She said that the Board will see a lot of talk on accountability and the FSA and the validity of the FSA. The independents review of the FSA said that there exam was valid but the District's Superintendent as well as many Superintendents across the State do not agree with the study.

Ms. Regueira stated that the Board will see a new program that was just approved at the school board meeting is a bi-lingual certificate for students and the District is trying to get a State endorsed bi-lingual certificate because there are other school districts across the State of Florida that already offer that certification on a student's graduation diploma. There are three bills that are already in bill draft, one of which is the Value Adjustment Board. Senator Flores and Representative Avila have filed again the same Value Adjustment Board bill that the District has last year. It is to help make sure that the property appraiser finishes their appraisal within the year and to meet the tax roll certification so that the District receives the money that corresponds to the students in the year in which they need it. That can represent a loss in income anywhere from \$40MM to \$70MM per year depending on the year and the value of the properties in contention.

Ms. Regueira said that another bill that is in bill draft is the School Facilities Building Code. Charter schools as well as every other building that a child is in throughout the day, adheres to the Florida Building Code but Public Schools have to adhere to ESREF which is the school building code. The final bill that is in draft is also part of the building code. Last February, the District received a cease and desist letter from the Florida Department of Health for the "Learn to Swim" program because the District has portable pools that go to neediest schools in the community to help children learn to swim.

Ms. Regueira continued explaining that these portable pools go to those schools along with certified instructors to teach kids how to swim. The issue is that the State of Florida is viewing those pools as public pools as opposed to private pools so the District had to shut down the portable pools but they are in the process of trying to amend the letter and consider those pools as private pools so that the District does not have to adhere to all of the Public School requirements.

Ms. Regueira highlighted on the following:

- Value Matters Initiative. Every month each school is focusing on a different value.
- There is now Wi-Fi in all of Dade County buses.
- iAttend is an attendance initiative which will be launched on Friday at Jose De Diago Middle School
- The District would like to partner with Miami Springs on internships whether they be within the municipality or within businesses of the municipality

Dr. Cruz-Sanchez explained what the Values Matter Initiative entailed. Chair Dr. Zapata expressed her concern with this initiative because there are different things happening at different schools and different values have to be emphasized at different times. Dr. Cruz-Sanchez explained that it gives a focus to ensure that a specific value is discussed through a particular time of the school year but it does not stop a discussion on others that may arise. Counselors have the flexibility to discuss any values, but one particular value will be discussed in every Dade County Public School in one particular month.

Chair Dr. Zapata commented that it is better than nothing but she is concerned that there is not enough depth because there is no funding. Dr. Cruz-Sanchez stated that there are personnel that are certified in Counseling and Administrators have also gone through training.

Chair Dr. Zapata asked if she can view the curriculum that is provided to the students for this initiative and Ms. Regueira replied that she will provide that to the Board.

5) E.A.B. Supported Student Initiatives

○ **Internship Initiative (for High School Students)**

Board member Cundari-Roelans commented that she has attempted to reach out to the Chamber of Commerce but has not gotten a response. She was hoping to get help from Board member Hernandez since he may have more connections being that he has been a long time resident. She stated that Ms. Regueira provided her with handbooks that would go to the business owner for this initiative.

○ **Intergenerational Program**

Board member Molina stated that she spoke with members of the Women's Club and they are interested in assisting her with this program. She also spoke with Principal Flor from Springview Elementary and they thought it would be a good idea to have women from the Club go to the school and read to the Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st grade and 2nd grade students. That will be put into place once the Women's Club holds their meeting and discusses it with their members. The goal is to start with those grade levels and take this program to all Elementary Schools.

Chair Dr. Zapata thinks it is a great idea. She would love to see it go even further in terms of having the children or students learn something about this community.

Board member Molina commented that at the last meeting she provided the teachers with curriculum ideas that relate to the history of Miami Springs and Glenn Curtiss.

Chair Dr. Zapata said that she read the minutes and it sounds like a great idea and a step in the right direction but it is leaving it in the hands of the teachers and she is afraid that it may die out because they have so many things on their plates. She commented that this can also be done with the Senior Center and Historical Society.

Discussion ensued regarding different ways to bring the history of Miami Springs into the schools.

○ **No Place for Hate – Anti-Bullying efforts in M.S. schools**

Board member Molina commented that all schools became a "No Place for Hate" as of last Spring.

Chair Dr. Zapata asked the Principals if they had any anti-defamation league curriculum and they replied that they were not provided with anything. She said that she will contact them to see what is available for the schools.

○ **Youth Advisory Council**

- **Introduction of Students**
- **Schedule of Student Meetings/Locations**

Chair Dr. Zapata commented that she visited some of the schools and hopes to visit the rest soon. She is not happy with the fact that they are restricted to one student per school. Each school will have one student that will represent the school; however there will also be four students that will serve as backup. That group of five students will meet once a month and discuss the issues at each of their levels. She provided the Principals with an outline of meeting dates (attached for the record). The dates coincide previous with the dates that the Education Advisory Board would meet so that either the representative or all of them can provide something to the Board that they have discussed.

*Board member Owens arrived at this time.

Chair Dr. Zapata said that the Board members would come up with problems, topics or issues to discuss, what action they would take and what desired change they seek to accomplish. She commented that for the students to be part of their community and go see what other youths are doing and go back with that energy is very positive for the community and that is what she is aiming for.

Discussion ensued on the involvement of staff and if there could be funds made available for the assistance of staff or for the program. Chair Dr. Zapata commented that if there is something that is related to the Youth Advisory Council that the youths want to do then that is something that as a Board they would be happy to bring up to the City Council.

Discussion ensued regarding the possible need for staff to oversee the Advisory Council. Chair Dr. Zapata suggested that the Board wait to see what the feedback is from the representative after the Advisory Council holds their first meeting.

Board member Owens introduced himself to the Board and Principals and explained his educational background. He is a math teacher at Citrus Grove Middle School. He mentioned that he is also teaching a special pilot program that the Superintendent has started called the "Youth Engagement Program" that focuses on the nine core values and community service.

Discussion ensued regarding the "Youth Engagement Program".

6) Unfinished Business

1. Set schedule for EAB meetings for this academic year.

The Board agreed that due to the school schedule, it would be best to meet on a quarterly basis. If there are issues with any of the meeting dates, it can be modified to accommodate the schedules of the schools. The Board agreed to change their meeting time to 6:00 p.m. to accommodate the Board members and Principals.

THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

7) **Adjourn**

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Elora R. Sakal
Board Secretary

Adopted by the Board on
this 15th day of March, 2016.



Dr. Mara Zapata, Chair

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

**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.**

City of Miami Springs – Educational Advisory Board - Youth Advisory Council

Schedule of School Site Student Meetings

2015-2016

September 24, 2015	January 7, 2016
October 8, 2015	February 4, 2016
November 5, 2015	March 17, 2016
December 3, 2015	April 7, 2016
May 5, 2016	

1. On the above dates the Educational Advisory Board approved member from each school will meet with his/her school's youth advisory group and gather information as follows:
 1. Problem discussed affecting students - question, idea or community project students would like to engage in with the support of the Educational Advisory Board
 2. Description of action to be taken by group or request from group for specific assistance from other youth and/or from Educational Advisory Board
 3. Desired change students seek to accomplish

Presentation from each appointed youth or representative at EAB meetings to advise board of pending issues, plan of action and request for assistance from city government if needed.