

**21st CENTURY SCHOOLS BOND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 27, 2020 ZOOM**

The 21st Century Schools Bond Advisory Committee (Committee) met on October 27, 2020 Via Zoom. Chair Roberto Martinez called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members

Mr. Roberto Martinez, Chair
Dr. Jaap Donath
Rev. Guillermo Revuelta, Th. Ph.D
Dr. Sean Foreman
Mr. Francis Ragoo
Mr. Anthony Dawsey
Mr. William T. Fair
Mr. Juan Del Busto

Mr. Alfred Billings
Mr. Jack Lowell
Mr. Allen Rubin
Mr. Erick Wendelken
Mr. Frank Silva
Mr. Roger Cuevas
Ms. Sharon Watson

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members

Mr. Jaime G. Torrens
Mr. Raul Perez
Mr. Ron Steiger
Ms. Maria T. Gonzalez
Mr. Felix Jimenez
Ms. Cindy Lerner

Committee Alternates

Miami-Dade County Public School Attendees

Dr. Lawrence Feldman,
Board Member
Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho
Ms. Iraida Mendez-Cartaya
Ms. Tabitha Fazzino
Ms. Valtena G. Brown
Mr. Carl Nicoleau
Mr. Victor Alonso
Ms. Jennifer Andreu
Mr. Jeff James

Mr. Tony Vu
Mr. Jerold Blumstein
Ms. Francys Vallecillo
Mr. Erick Laventure
Ms. Jenny Murillo
Mr. Jon Goodman
Mr. Ron Field
Mr. David Guerra
Mr. Neil Singh
Mr. Richard Yanez

Other Attendees

Recording Secretary
Ms. Denise Castillo

Mr. Roberto Martinez called the meeting to order and welcomed the Committee. Mr. Martinez took attendance, confirmed that everyone received the agenda, meeting minutes and PowerPoint prior to the meeting and acknowledging a quorum, Mr. Roberto Martinez asked for a motion to approve the June 16, 2020 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Juan Del Busto, seconded by Dr. Jaap Donath and passed unanimously.

Mr. Raul Perez opened with a brief review of the agenda for the 21st Century Schools BOND Advisory Committee Meeting. Mr. Perez provided an update on the status of GOB projects, years 1 through 5 and accelerated scope projects.

Mr. Perez continued going over the status of the GOB projects including; safety upgrades, HVAC, playgrounds, remodeling/renovation, portable removals and others that fall into other categories like painting, water intrusion and minor repairs. Mr. Perez continued to go over the breakdown of the projects that have been completed and the GOB

expenditures. Mr. Perez went over the quarterly GOB expenditures by cost categories, by vendors and by schools.

Mr. Lowell stated that he has heard that the construction prices have been going down and asked Mr. Perez if that has been his experience? Mr. Perez expressed that it has been his experience and expressed that in the past few months through the pandemic, there have been several projects out for BID that have come back below the budget amount.

Dr. Foreman inquired if there are still technology expenditures or if the funds for technology have been capped out? Mr. Perez stated that \$100 million was placed in technology and currently there is still \$5 million remaining to be used towards technology.

Mr. Perez continued going over the GOB Expenditures and Contracted. Mr. Perez expressed there was a new slide added to reflect the expenditures through September 30, 2020.

Mr. Del Busto asked Mr. Perez if he had the percentage of projects that have been completed through September 30, 2020 since the expenditures were reflecting through September 30th? Mr. Perez stated that he did not have that but that previously it was at 68% complete and now it would be around 71% completed.

Mr. Perez continued with the sample quarterly expenditure reports and expressed that those reports are included in the annual report. Mr. Martinez asked Mr. Perez why roofing is separate from construction. Mr. Torrens explained that the roofing aspect is managed by the maintenance department who can expedite that work.

Mr. Lowell asked Mr. Perez if there are currently any disputes or bankruptcies with any of the contracts. Mr. Perez expressed that currently there are no bankruptcies but there are a few contractors that have attorneys involved but there is currently no litigation.

Mr. Superintendent Carvalho spoke about the updates for the GOB projects and the expenditures. Mr. Carvalho spoke about the audit and seventh annual report. Mr. Carvalho went over the reopening of schools with the distance learning.

Mr. Lowell stated that Mr. Carvalho has done an excellent job in the reopening of school and asked if Mr. Carvalho expects the COVID cases to go up and if there are currently any serious cases? Mr. Carvalho stated that there is no widespread in Miami-Dade County of COVID but that we are an extension of the community and children will bring it to the school but what has not been seen is the spreading as the result of schooling.

Mr. Carvalho stated that this would be the last meeting Dr. Feldman would be attending. Mr. Martinez asked if Dr. Feldman would like to say something to the group. Dr. Feldman thanked Mr. Carvalho and everyone for allowing him to serve as a board member.

Mr. Perez continued to discuss the internal audit update and went over the previous findings. Mr. Perez reviewed the different objectives and the status of the objectives.

Mr. Perez expressed that the three objectives that had been partially implemented are now fully implemented. Ms. Gonzalez requested to go back to slide 15 which shows the objectives and the status. She explained that this audit was based on an audit that her office conducted in February 2020 and that three of the findings were fully implemented and three were partially implemented. She expressed that the administration is stating that the objectives have all been implemented but that the internal audit office has not verified the new implementations and will not verify the updates until around November. Ms. Gonzalez stated that she wanted to make sure that the committee understands that even though the administration has stated that all the objectives have been fully implemented, the internal audit office has not confirmed the implementations yet.

Mr. Martinez asked Ms. Gonzalez when she felt they would have the update available and Ms. Gonzalez stated that they should be able to give a full update by February 2021. Mr. Torrens stated that three items are pending verification by the internal audit office which include task 3.6, 3.13 and 3.9. Mr. Superintendent Carvalho stated that slide 15 is staff comment on an update of action on these findings. It is obviously up to the staff to verify if they are accurate or not.

Mr. Perez stated that the program has allowed them to renovate a few historic schools. Mr. Perez asked Mr. Victor Alonso to speak about the Historic Preservation Awards. Mr. Alonso went over D.A Dorsey Technical College and Southside ES and provided a historic background of both schools.

Mr. Feldman stated that he had just received word that today's meeting was going to be Victor's last meeting as well and thanked Victor for all his hard work and dedication.

Mr. Perez gave an update on the accelerated GOB progress during COVID-19 and explained that projects have been expedited since the school sites were more accessible without students nor staff on campus. Mr. Perez went over the projects that had been commissioned and the projects that have been awarded during COVID-19.

Mr. Rago asked about a status update on North County and Norland Senior for the restroom project. Mr. Perez expressed that North County is in construction and one of the remodeled wings was opened in October. There is still more construction going at North County that should be completed by spring of 2021. Norland Senior restroom project has been completed.

Mr. Perez discussed the seventh annual report and stated that the report needs approval.

Mr. Lowell asked how the committee would be able to get a hard copy of the report. Mr. Torrens stated that typically a hard copy is sent after it has been approved and the letter from the chair is included but that a hard copy could be sent out if they would like a hard copy now. Mr. Martinez stated that it had been distributed about a week prior but that he wanted to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to review it. Mr. Martinez has requested that the approval of the Seventh Annual report be postponed until the next meeting.

Mr. Ragoo asked what could be done to improve the disparity that stands out between African American expenditures to the Hispanic American? What can we do to improve it to reflect the demographics of the county?

Mr. Torrens explained that part of the answer is in Ms. Andreu's presentation and stated that Superintendent Carvalho mentioned that at the start of the GOB, the average expenditures was 1-2% which is unacceptable. In order to change that, the Office of Economic Opportunity was established because it did not exist when the Bond started. The Office of Economic Opportunity is focused on raising those numbers.

Mr. Ragoo stated the numbers look better now but asked if they numbers are at the best? What more can be done to increase the numbers?

Ms. Andreu from the Office of Economic Opportunity started with the GOB Prime Expenditures summary stating that there has been an increase of \$40 Million which brings the total for African American to \$85.4 Million. Currently there are 22 prime contractors and there are almost 100 subcontractors. Ms. Andreu stated that she meets with Mr. Perez to set goals that will help increase the pool.

Mr. Rubin asked once the \$40 million that went to African American subcontractors, how much was expended to the Hispanic American to compare apples to apples. Ms. Andreu stated that she did not have that data but that it is a large percentage since \$352 Million has been in the prime and the Sub number is equally as high. Mr. Del Busto stated that it should be measured in another way.

Ms. Andreu stated that once the disparity study is reviewed by the board and approved, the policy will be changed again. Ms. Andreu stated that they commissioned a group called Miller 3 to do a comprehensive study. Mr. Martinez has requested to have access to the studies that have been completed in the past. Ms. Andreu stated that they are on the OEO website as a link. Ms. Andreu reviewed the certified firms and stated they hit 1,200 firms. Ms. Andreu also reviewed the contractor pre-qualification dashboard, compliance update regarding certifications and goals established for firms.

Having exhausted all the agenda topics, the Chair Mr. Robert Martinez, reminded the Committee that the next meeting would be held on December 8, 2020.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:57 p.m.

Approved:


Mr. Roberto Martinez, Chair

Date: 11/19/21