

**21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS BOND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 9, 2021 AUDITORIUM/ZOOM**

The 21st Century Schools Bond Advisory Committee (Committee) met on March 9th, 2021 in the Auditorium. Chair Roberto Martinez called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members

Mr. Roberto Martinez, Chair
Mr. Willard T. Fair (Zoom)
Dr. Jaap Donath (Zoom)
Rev. Guillermo Revuelta, Th. Ph.D
Ms. Carol Graham Wyllie
Mayor Anthony Defillipo (Zoom)
Ms. Gepsie Metellus (Zoom)
Mr. Francis Ragoo (Zoom)

Mr. Juan Del Busto
Mr. Alfred Billings
Mr. Jack Lowell
Mr. Alan Rubin (Zoom)
Dr. Sean Foreman
Mr. Frank Silva (Zoom)
Mr. Roger Cuevas
Ms. Julie Williamson

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members

Mr. Jaime Torrens
Mr. Raul Perez
Ms. Maria T. Gonzalez
Mr. Ron Steiger
Mr. Felix Jimenez
Mr. Jose Bueno

Committee Alternates

Mr. Christopher Norwood
Mr. Gregory Zawyer (Zoom)
Ms. Serena Paramore (Zoom)

Miami-Dade County Public School Attendees

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member
Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho
Ms. Nathaly Simon
Ms. Margarita Betancourt
Ms. Sharon Watson
Mr. Tom Knigge
Ms. Maria Izquierdo

Ms. Jennifer Andreu
Ms. Jenny Murillo
Mr. Jeff James
Mr. Jon Goodman
Mr. Jerold Blumstein
Ms. Amarylys Diaz

Other Attendees

Recording Secretary

Ms. Denise Castillo

Mr. Roberto Martinez called the meeting to order and welcomed the Committee. Acknowledging there is no quorum, Mr. Martinez asked Mr. Raul Perez to start the meeting.

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 asked Mr. Perez if he wanted to find an expenditure for a particular school, where would he look for that information.

Mr. Perez explained that in the last committee, the seventh annual report was approved and within that report there is a breakdown showing the expenditures by schools.

Mr. Lowell stated that he was looking at Coral Gables Senior High School and wanted to know if it was accumulated expenditures. Mr. Perez confirmed that it was accumulated. Mr. Lowell pointed out that in the annual report it was showing \$11M-\$12M, Mr. Perez stated that is a correct amount since Coral Gables Senior High School is being completed in phases and currently, the first phase is being completed.

Mr. Rubin stated that in the last meeting he had asked why the technology expenditures had gone down in September 2020 from \$95M to \$94M in December 2020 and now there back up to \$95M in February 2021. Mr. Perez explained that it has to do with the end of the year accrual.

Mr. Lowell stated that he was looking at the seventh annual report and noticed two entries for Coral Gables Senior High School. Mr. Lowell wanted to know how to read the two different figures. Mr. Perez stated that he would have to go back and look at the report to get him that answer. Mr. Perez did express that, to his understanding, the amounts are accumulated and stated that the annual report is only based on GOB Funds. He expressed that some of the projects have funds from additional sources and confirmed that Coral Gables Senior High School is one of those schools.

Mr. Perez continued to go over the expenditures and contracted amounts. Mr. Perez continued to the GOB Program Fund Reallocations and went over the F-21 item that will be going to the Board in March 2021. Mr. Martinez asked if the amount reallocation was due to the current projects coming in under budget. Mr. Perez explained that it was because projects came in under budget. Mr. Perez continued to go over the categories that had funds that were going to be reallocated. He went over the projects that would receive reallocation funds.

Mr. Martinez asked for a motion to approve the reallocation. A motion was made by Mr. Jack Lowell, seconded by Mr. Alfred Billings and passed unanimously.

Mr. Perez continued with the presentation and started going over the GOB Completed Projects. He expressed that within the past year they were able to accelerate several GOB projects since they had full access to all the schools. Mr. Perez showed some examples of projects that have been completed.

Mr. Superintendent Carvalho stated it is a time to be proud of the work that has been done under very tough conditions but following the highest level of rules in construction management. Mr. Superintendent Carvalho stated that they made a promise to the community and that he is stunted that \$900M of expenditures has been transacted because of the General Obligation Bond implementation. All projects with the exception of 96, have been completed. Mr. Superintendent Carvalho stated that he intends to take

a number of recommendations to the Board that will fold into the process that has guided the General Obligations Bond with hundreds of millions in capital revenue available to us. Mr. Superintendent Carvalho stated that we need to start looking at not just the roughly \$300M that we have going into the Bond, but at what he is calling the GOB Plus. It is \$300M from the Bond but then adding an additional \$300M-\$400M that in the near future will be collected. Mr. Superintendent Carvalho stated that instead of what is done every time with the 5-year capital program that is updated annually, why not develop the GOB Plus masterpiece for the remaining part of those dollars to utilize in the same process and the same type of oversight to ensure the same type of results.

Mr. Jack Lowell stated that we have reopened our schools successfully when in other parts of the country there are schools that are still closed and asked what was done differently. Mr. Superintendent Carvalho stated that Miami-Dade cannot take full credit but regardless of the challenges, it helped that it was planned early to shutdown schools quickly as the first phase and switch students to online learning. The second phase was serious, we took advantage of the summer months and even the end of last school year, to prepare for the reopening of schools. In terms of protocols, involving all that you know about social distancing, architecture of the school, utilizing non-traditional spaces in the school because of social distancing and the manuals that were produced, some of those materials sanctioned through the Board. This put us in such a position that, by the time October came around, we had done enough that close to 50% of the parents felt it was safe to send their children to school. We were never in a position to say, "This is a gamble". We had good plans and each week we are bringing children back in due to academics. Now we are at a hopeful phase because now there are producers of the vaccine like Johnson and Johnson, Pfizer and Moderna. Just in the matter of two weeks the threshold for educators 65 years or older, now to 50 and now based on federal guidance and state guidance, any age for educators. The new announcement is 16 years of age or older with a medical condition are eligible for the vaccine. Soon enough it will be individuals 16 and older without any medical conditions. Based on what is being said by the scientists and public health experts, things should go back to a new normal by mid-summer if people continue to do what they are doing, self-regulations and behave and people continue to get vaccinated, we may reach a level of immunization in our community.

Ms. Gepsie Metellus asked Mr. Superintendent Carvalho how they would fair with the most recent round of stimulus dollars. Mr. Superintendent Carvalho stated that we would fair very well.

Ms. Carol Graham Wylie asked Mr. Superintendent Carvalho about the learning gap. Mr. Superintendent Carvalho stated that out of everything that has come out of Covid, the learning gap is his biggest concern because it is really difficult to deal with the academic regression. We know what the impact has been, and we have seen a great percent of students getting A's and B's but we have seen a greater percent of students getting D's and F's but that is because of the level of disengagement. He indicated that the percentage of students that are one to two years behind, is 7%-17% higher than it was last year prior to the pandemic. We anticipated this regression and began strategic summer sessions as soon as the school year ended. This school year we have a

multitiered system support that is driven by the academic needs of each child, each school, and each classroom. We are going to offer probably the most robust summer school program. The summer school experience will vary depending on the need of each student.

Mr. Francis Rago stated that he thought we had a quorum to vote for the minutes, but Mr. Raul Perez explained that in house there was only 10 Committee Members participating and stated that we could not count the Committee Members attending via zoom. Mr. Martinez explained that for the purpose of the quorum, we could only count the members that are physically there.

Mr. Perez continued the presentation and went over the GOB Accelerated Progress during COVID-19 and the business opportunities since March 2020. Mr. Perez asked that we alter the agenda to have Ms. Izquierdo present her Blueprint Envisioning Plan before OEO due to her having another obligation after the meeting.

Ms. Marie Izquierdo stated that it would be a focus group activity instead of an update. Ms. Izquierdo explained that they are currently in the midst of a broad community outreach exercise where they are collecting data from the stakeholders, both internally and externally. There are a lot of simultaneous activities occurring and Ms. Izquierdo stated this was the second focus group. She explained that they would be launching a new website strategicplan.dadeschools.net but it currently hosts the old strategic plan of 2020 and if interested, in seeing all the data related to the new strategic plan, it can be seen at strategicplan.dadeschools.net under close out report. Currently 30-minute exercises are being completed along with strategic focus groups that will involve about 46 and will be happening with groups of as big as 20 over the course of the next month. Ms. Izquierdo explained that she wanted to use the next 30 minutes to learn what the Committee Members believe makes the District successful and hear their ideas on what the District should be addressing in the next 5 years. Ms. Izquierdo explained that she had two people assisting her in collecting data and that as she asked the questions, she would not be writing things down, but that Ms. Laura Tenant would be writing all the responses down for her and that Ms. Desiree Llopiz would be managing the zoom responses. Ms. Izquierdo explained it would be a series of questions and started by asking the first question. Ms. Izquierdo continued to go through the questions and the responses were written down. Once Ms. Izquierdo finished asking the questions, she thanked everyone for their participation and explained she would not be the one writing the strategic plan. She explained that would be a collective effort through the leadership of the Superintendent and our School Board after they have a chance to reflect on what they were able to achieve in the last 5 years, the desire state that they envision for our school district 5 years from now and the input of all the committee members that are going through processes such as these.

Ms. Andreu from the Office of Economic Opportunity started with the infographic and moved onto the GOB Prime Expenditures summary. Ms. Andreu reviewed the certified firms and stated that the prequalified firms have stayed the same as the previous meeting. Ms. Andreu also reviewed the contractor pre-qualification dashboard, compliance update

regarding certifications and goals established for firms. Ms. Andreu reviewed slides regarding compliance and upcoming events.

Mr. Perez introduced the final item on the agenda and Mr. Martinez explained that the GOB Committee Member agenda input was to encourage Committee Members to reach out to staff on any suggested topics that they would like to see during future Committee meetings.

Mr. Jack Lowell expressed that he would like to see more done with trade schools to create more opportunities and training for the trades in our community. Mr. Perez expressed that he believes there is currently a program in place with Mr. Carl Nicoleau and that he could possibly have Mr. Nicoleau do a mini presentation.

Mr. Francis Rago asked how they could have a quorum if they have to practice social distancing and cannot count the participants via zoom. Mr. Martinez explained that he believed it was a legal issue but that he would talk to Mr. Perez or Mr. Torrens about that.

Mr. Del Busto stated that it is a state requirement because they have the same issue with the Audit & Budget Committee Meeting where there has to be a physical quorum.

Mr. Martinez expressed that he felt it should be included in the executive emergency order that the Governor has but that he is not sure. Mr. Del Busto stated that was in place but was removed in November.

Ms. Metellus asked if there would be an updated list of schools that could be adopted. Mr. Perez expressed they have many lists and a list of schools that could be updated could be provided.

Having exhausted all the agenda topics, the Chair Mr. Roberto Martinez, reminded the Committee that the next meeting would be held on June 15, 2021.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:01 p.m.

Approved:



Mr. Roberto Martinez, Chair

Date: 6/15/21