

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS BOND ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – November 29, 2016**

The 21st Century Schools Bond Advisory Committee (Committee) met on November 29, 2016 in Conference Room 916 of the School Board Administration Building. Chairman Martinez called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Committee Members

Mr. Roberto Martinez	Mr. T. Willard Fair
Ms. Cindy Lerner	Dr. Sean Foreman
Mr. Anthony Dawsey	Mr. Alfred Billings
Mr. Juan Del Busto	Rev. Guillermo Revuelta
Dr. Jaap Donath	Mr. Alvin Gainey
Mr. Frank Silva	Ms. Carol Graham Wyllie

**Ex-Officio Non-Voting
Members**

Mr. Jaime G. Torrens
Mr. Jose Montes de Oca
Ms. Judith Marte
Ms. Mary Cagle

Miami-Dade County Public School Attendees

Dr. Lawrence Feldman, Board Chair	Mr. Jeff James
Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho	Mr. Leo Fernandez
Mr. Carl Nicoleau	Mr. Jerold Blumstein Mr. Trevor Williams
Ms. Tabitha Fazzino	Mr. Thomas Knigge
Ms. Ana Rijo-Conde	Mr. Pierre Funderburk
Mr. Raul F. Perez	Mr. Ronda Vangates

Other Attendees

Mr. Glen White

Recording Secretary

Ms. Erika Duarte

Mr. Martinez welcomed the Committee and called the meeting to order. He recognized Dr. Lawrence Feldman, Board Chair and then proceeded to introduce Mr. Jaime Torrens, Chief Facilities Officer.

Mr. Torrens provided an Update on Years 1 through 4 of the Project Rollout as follows:

Year 1:

- 66 of 68 projects completed
- The two projects still in construction are:
 - field at Miami Norland Senior High; and
 - Auburndale Elementary

Year 2:

- 80% of projects under \$1 million have been completed; this work was performed by Small and Micro Business Enterprise (SMBE) firms, which are now successfully competing for larger projects after building capacity with the program

Ms. Cagle suggested that a visual aid be provided to the community, maybe in the form of a graph, showing the accomplishments of the aforementioned S/MBE firms. She felt it would be good publicity for the program to demonstrate, in detail, the accomplishments of these small firms who have increased their bonding capacity as a result of the District's initiatives. Ms. Cagle added that it would help validate all the hard work of the team by sharing these milestones. Mr. Torrens agreed that it was a great idea.

Mr. Martinez inquired when Year 1 began. Mr. Torrens reminded the Committee that Year 1 technically started in July of 2012 but the Bond was not passed until November of that year. The District was very aggressive in the Bond Program's initiation considering funding wasn't acquired until late spring of 2013.

Mr. Del Busto pointed out that it seemed like a large number of Year 2 projects were still incomplete and asked Mr. Torrens if the goal was to have all Year 2 projects completed in Year 2. Mr. Torrens stated that the goal was to begin in the year funded; although, the size and complexity of each project dictates its duration.

Year 3:

- Work shifted from smaller to larger projects with greater percentage of projects over \$2M
- 54 projects:
 - Of those under \$2 million: 13 in construction, 2 completed
 - Of those over \$2 million: 10 in construction, remainder in bidding, design or awaiting commissioning (all require individual solicitations/RFQs to select architects and CMs)

Year 4:

- 50 projects, plus accelerated projects which consist mostly of air conditioning replacements, roofing, playgrounds in elementary schools, etc.
 - Of the 238 accelerated projects: 172 completed, 23 in construction and balance in design or bidding
 - Projects under \$2 million have all been assigned to architects and contractors and are in design
 - Of the 39 projects over \$2 million, 4 are in design, with the balance to be advertised in bundled solicitations starting in 2017

Mr. Martinez paused to acknowledge that the Superintendent was present. .

Mr. Torrens called the Committee's attention to the next segment of the GOB Update dealing with Project Delivery. He explained that three projects originally slated to utilize the CM delivery method were now being proposed for Hard Bid. This change resulted primarily from a thorough review of the project's final scope and the fact they consisted mostly of new construction which lends itself well to a hard bid method. This is expected

to yield a better price for the District. Mr. Torren's expressed confidence in the cadre of available qualified firms.

Mr. Del Busto inquired if we grade the contractors for quality and timeliness, and what criteria are used. Mr. Torrens confirmed that all contractors and architects are evaluated on a quarterly basis. They are graded by project managers, principals and other parties who come into contact with them during the course of their project. If a steady decline in performance is found, M-DCPS addresses it with the contractor or architect and if the decline persists, they can potentially be replaced and/or no longer be able to participate in the program.

Mr. Torrens then reported on expenditures and encumbrances noting that to date, expenditures have reached the \$400 million mark, \$323 million of which was for facilities. Together with encumbrances, work in progress has surpassed \$500 million. Mr. Torrens felt it was important to emphasize this milestone, seeing that it is almost half way through the \$1.2B program. Mr. Foreman asked if these amounts considered both completed and ongoing projects and Mr. Torrens confirmed that it includes both. He then asked Mr. Raul Pérez, Assistant Superintendent of Construction Management for the total number of projects completed to date and Mr. Pérez stated that approximately 112 projects have been completed.

Mr. Martinez recognized Mr. Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools, who wished the Committee a happy holiday and apologized for not being able to remain for the duration of the meeting. He began by expressing how proud he is of the bond rollout and the District's ability to overcome obstacles and deliver projects on time and under budget in some instances allowing us the opportunity to re-allocate funding when necessary. Mr. Carvalho also stated that part of the legacy we want to leave behind is our efforts at augmenting economic opportunity for underserved economic partners in our community.

Mr. Carvalho concluded by sharing some highlights and accolades received by M-DCPS. He noted that on the new S.A.T. administered throughout the nation, Miami Dade County Public Schools experienced a 13 to 16 percent increase, although the State of Florida as a whole experienced a 1 to 3 percent decline in scores. He also commended Ms. Judy Marte who won National C.F.O. of the year, and the Chief Academic Officer who was named the best technology C.A.O. in the country. Mr. Carvalho expressed his gratitude to the audience for their commitment to this Committee. Lastly, he commended the District's indispensable partner, Ms. Mary Cagle, Inspector General, for affording us the ability to have our process scrutinized by her and her staff, which is crucial in the success of our initiatives.

Mr. Torrens next focused on the approval of the Third Annual Report. He reminded the Committee that the Report was distributed in August, but that the Committee was unable to vote on its approval during previous meeting due to a lack of a quorum. He briefly provided an overview of the sections within the report and. Mr. Torrens asked if Mr. Leo Fernandez, M-DCPS Treasurer, could speak briefly on the last bond issuance.

Mr. Fernandez stated that the last interest rate received was the lowest interest rate ever obtained by the District, saving the tax payers approximately \$30 million.

As Mr. Torrens outlined program insights, he pointed out the most critical challenge facing the program is the rise of construction costs. A few strategies implemented to address this issue include the bundling of similar projects for selection committees, grouping similar projects for hard bidding and using prototypical designs when possible. All these initiatives have proven to be cost and time effective. He also stressed the importance of local business participation of as well as small and micro firms, and emphasized how crucial their participation has been to the program. Mr. Torrens briefly described the success of the District's Pilot program for the selection process, which provides incentives to prime contractors and architects who diversify their project teams. Last week, for the first time, the Board graduated D2 Construction, a Micro firm who could only perform work up to a value of \$200,000, to the million-dollar category. This firm represents follow through on the promise of opportunity for small firms. They went from having a single employee in 2003 to currently having 15 employees. Mr. Torrens then briefly summarized recent commissioning items approved by the Board which listed large projects and their rather substantial sub-consultant/sub-contracting utilization goals.

Mr. Fair expressed how fantastic the District's successes have been and feels we should share them with the public. Mr. Martinez suggested he reach out to M-DCPS staff to discuss drafting something for public dissemination, outlining our achievements. Ms. Tabitha Fazzino, District Compliance Officer, advised she would be happy to work with Mr. Willard. Ms. Wyllie also agreed and suggested we produce a press release or a piece for the newspaper. Mr. Martinez also agreed and felt that successfully implementing best practices is a worthy cause to publicize. Ms. Lerner thinks the initiatives in question are award winning, locally and nationally, and noted that the Greater Miami Chamber recognizes these types of achievements. She added that they are soliciting nominations at this time.

Mr. Martinez asked if the Committee had any questions or corrections regarding the Third Annual Report. He reiterated that the report spans from April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016, overlapping Years 3 and 4 of the Bond Program. No additional comments were made.

Mr. Martinez requested a motion to approve the Third Annual Report. The motion was made by Mr. Alfred Billings, seconded by Ms. Cindy Lerner, and passed unanimously.

Mr. Martinez requested a motion to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2016 meeting. The motion was made by Mr. T. Willard Fair, seconded by Mr. Sean Foreman and passed unanimously.

Mr. Foreman inquired about the Adopt a School Program and whether there should be follow up with the school by the Committee. Mr. Torrens stated they the Committee

members would be more than welcome to make return visits and encouraged them to do so. He advised the Committee to reach out to Mr. Raul Perez to schedule any walk through visits.

Ms. Fazzino announced to the Committee her change in role as the new District Compliance Officer. She introduced the new OEO Director, Ms. Ronda Vangates, and Mr. Jeff James who served as the interim OEO Director. She commended the great job he did and stated he will resume his role as Assistant School Board Attorney.

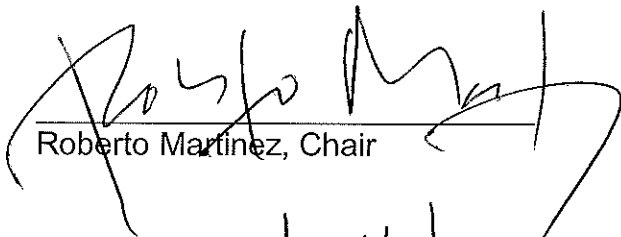
Dr. Feldman articulated how important the work of the Bond is, not only for aesthetic reasons, but for the improvement of student and staff morale. He commended the team on all their hard work and the comradery among District employees.

Mr. Foreman inquired how many years of projects are included in the program. Mr. Torrens responded that all GOB work is anticipated to conclude in the Year 2020, approximately seven years after initial funding was received.

Mr. Martinez concluded by informing the Committee of the next meeting on December 6 at the Virginia Key M.A.S.T. He stated it is only a walk through and a quorum is not required.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Martinez adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Approved:



Roberto Martinez, Chair

Date:

3/14/17

