

**21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS BOND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 15, 2021 AUDITORIUM/ZOOM**

The 21st Century Schools Bond Advisory Committee (Committee) met on June 15th, 2021 in the Auditorium. Interim Chair Jack Lowell called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Committee Members

Mr. Jack Lowell, Interim Chair
Rev. Guillermo Revuelta, Th. Ph.D
Ms. Carol Graham Wyllie
Ms. Julie Williamson
Mr. Francis Ragoo
Ms. Sharon Watson

Mr. Alfred Billings
Mr. Alan Rubin
Mr. Sean Foreman
Mr. Frank Silva
Mr. Anthony Dawsey
Mr. George Koonce

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members

Mr. Jaime Torrens
Mr. Raul Perez
Mr. Ron Steiger
Mr. Felix Jimenez

Committee Alternates

Miami-Dade County Public School Attendees

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall,
Board Member (Zoom)
Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho
Ms. Nathaly Simon
Ms. Francys Vallecillo
Mr. Thomas Knigge
Mr. Rick Yanez
Ms. Armie Beruvides
Dr. Nancy Lawther

Ms. Jennifer Andreu
Ms. Jenny Murillo
Mr. Jeff James
Mr. Jon Goodman
Ms. Denise Mincey-Mills
Ms. Amarylys Diaz
Ms. Zahirah Calloway
Ms. Sherry Williams
Mr. Dave Miller, Jr.

Other Attendees

Recording Secretary

Ms. Denise Castillo

Acknowledging that both the Chair and Vice Chair were not in attendance, there was a motion passed by Frank Silva and 2nd by Rev. Guillermo Revuelta to have Mr. Jack Lowell as Interim Chair.

Mr. Jack Lowell called the meeting to order and welcomed the Committee. Acknowledging there is no quorum, Mr. Lowell 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, and portable removals. 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, by schools and contracted amounts.

Mr. Perez acknowledged to Mr. Lowell that there was now a quorum. Mr. Lowell stated they would need to vote on both the January and March meeting minutes. Mr. Rev. Guillermo Reveuelta motioned for the January 19th meeting minutes, and it was 2nd by Mr. Anthony Dawsey. There was a motion made by Mr. Sean Foreman for the March 9th meeting minutes and it was 2nd by Ms. Carol Graham Wylie.

Mr. Perez spoke about the audit and introduced Interim Chief Auditor, Mr. Jon Goodman. Mr. Goodman discussed the audit and the different test conducted each year. Mr. Goodman went over the objectives, audit opinions and the staff response.

Mr. Lowell asked Mr. Goodman if they currently have exceptions on the audit report. Mr. Goodman explained there was currently one recommendation because they wanted clarification from staff but that was not considered an exception.

Mr. Perez introduced Ms. Jennifer Andreu to provide the OEO update. 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 mentioned at 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. Lowell acknowledged Mr. Superintendent Carvalho.

Mr. Superintendent Carvalho stated while many entities in our community still struggle with completing their first disparity study, we take pride in the fact that we did our first disparity study around 2013 and he said that the Committee members would be receiving information on the second disparity study shortly. The first disparity study dealt with construction, architectural projects, and engineering. Mr. Carvalho expressed that the District is very pleased with what was observed five years later and explained all the different areas of the disparity report.

Mr. Carvalho voiced his pleasure with what was completed during the 2020 school year and stated that it was a very difficult year for teachers, principals, parents, students and support staff, but the school year ended with being able to fully open. Mr. Carvalho expressed they are looking forward to welcoming all students for the 2021 school year, but two virtual programs would remain. Mr. Carvalho spoke about the GO Bond and how they were able to accelerate dozens of projects over the summer. Mr. Carvalho thanked the Committee for its leadership and the work it has provided.

Mr. Perez introduced Miller 3 to go over the 2020 Comprehensive Disparity Study.

Mr. Dave Miller from Miller 3 introduced himself and started to discuss the outline of the presentation and gave an overview of the Disparity Study. Mr. Miller introduced Ms. Williams to discuss the Legal Framework for Race and Gender Conscious Programs and Disparity Studies.

Ms. Sherry Williams went over the Legal Framework and the importance of conducting a Disparity Study. Ms. Williams also discussed the Approach and Methodology of Disparity Studies.

Mr. Lowell stated that the 11th Court found that Miami-Dade County was discriminatory and did not have public policies in place. Ms. Williams explained that the courts have established a standard that is tough to meet in the 11th Circuit, but thankfully Miller 3's methodology is very consistent with what they are looking for.

Mr. Miller explained the process of Statistical Findings. Mr. Lowell asked for the source of the data. Mr. Miller explained that RWA is District data and Info USA, DUN & Bradstreet and the census is from aggregate information.

Mr. Miller continued to explain the Statistical Findings and the process. Mr. Lowell inquired about the timeline for the charts. Mr. Miller explained that it was for fiscal years 2012-2018. Mr. Miller started to review the Disparity Findings and Capacity Findings.

Mr. Lowell asked if the study only covered up until 2018 and Mr. Miller confirmed that it did. Ms. Williams started to discuss the Organizational Findings. She stated there were four key findings that impacted the ability of minorities and women to do business. The four findings were as follows:

- Limited Transparency
- M/WBE Goal Attainment vs. Inclusive Procurement
- Capacity Building
- Impact of Pre-Qualification and M/WBE and SDBE Certification

Ms. Williams stated that the M/WBE availability is low in some areas and stated that staff understands the impact that has on M/WBE goal setting. Ms. Williams reviewed the Anecdotal and Survey Findings explaining they had one focus group and three public hearings scheduled but they had a lot of no shows. Ms. Williams went over the perception and experiences of the interviewees.

Mr. Lowell stated that he wanted to make sure that he understood the timeline correctly and asked if the recommendations were given to the staff in 2018, if they had been enacted. Ms. Williams stated the recommendations cannot be enacted until the School Board adopts the study. Mr. Lowell confirmed that the timeline was 2012-2018 and asked if they were contracted for a follow up. Ms. Williams explained that they were not contracted for a follow up and that it would be up to the OEO staff to continue with the findings and recommendations.

Mr. Miller explained that they brought the recommendations to the Board in 2019. They were brought back in August/September 2019 to have the comprehensive study look back at activities over the five-year period. Mr. Miller stated they would have liked to deliver the information a lot sooner but due to COVID it had been postponed.

Mr. Lowell asked how could they know that the recommendations are being acted on. Ms. Williams explained that once the recommendations are submitted to the Board and the Board accepts the recommendations and findings, the management team, primarily

through OEO, will put together an action regarding what recommendations they are implementing with a timeline for reporting the outcomes.

Mr. Lowell expressed that it really concerns him that there is no action. Ms. Williams replied that she would have to let Jennifer respond to that but requested she be allowed to get through the recommendations prior to going over the questions. Ms. Williams continued explaining the Race Neutral Findings and the Recommendations.

Mr. Lowell asked Ms. Williams when the presentation would be presented to the School Board. Ms. Williams explained that there would be a presentation for the Committee on June 16th and the Disparity Study would be submitted during the summer. Mr. Lowell asked when it would be presented at the Board meeting. Ms. Jennifer Andreu explained that the same presentation would be shared with the School Board at the Financial Services Meeting on June 16th. Ms. Andreu explained that they plan on bringing policy 6320.02 for initial reading, which would incorporate many of the recommendations discussed today, in a policy change revision in August, and a final reading in October to finalize 6320.02 to then start implementing all of the policy changes.


Mr. Ragoo asked Ms. Andreu if the utilization of the study was limited to the Bond or if it went beyond. Ms. Andreu explained that it was a comprehensive study which went beyond the Bond and covers all procurement that is done at the District from 2013-2018.

Ms. Williamson asked how the contractors' staff are tracked or if there is a certain way to determine what category they fall under. Ms. Andreu explained that the tracking is based on the owner of the company. Ms. Williamson did not understand that methodology, and Mr. Lowell stated there are business owners that register a company under a spouse's name. Ms. Williams stated that there are two analyses that could be done, one is the procurement and contracting, which is the one they completed, and the other one is the workforce analysis that will take into account every employee.

Mr. Lowell explained that the leadership for these issues, which have been ongoing in this Community since he first arrived 35 years ago, starts with the leadership of the School Board. If there are no elected representatives to address these issues, there will be no change. Mr. Lowell continued to state that the good news is that the Superintendent believes in fairness and has people working for him, like Ms. Andreu, that are making a difference. But change comes very slowly particularly if it is due to racism in the system; it will be a very long process to get it fixed.

Having exhausted all the agenda topics, Interim Chair Mr. Jack Lowell, with no further business to conduct, adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Approved:



Mr. Roberto Martinez, Chair
Date: 9/14/21

Mr. Jack Lowell
Date: _____