

**21st CENTURY SCHOOLS BOND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 17, 2023 ROOM 916**

The 21st Century Schools Bond Advisory Committee (Committee) met on January 17, 2023 in Room 916. Chair Roberto Martinez called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Committee Members

Mr. Roberto Martinez, Chair
Mr. Frank Silva
Ms. Carol Graham Wyllie
Mr. Francis Ragoo
Ms. Julie Williamson
Mr. Juan Del Busto
Mr. Jack Lowell

Mr. Alfred Billings
Dr. George Koonce
Dr. Sean Foreman
Mr. Roger Cuevas
Ms. Maria Norton
Ms. Gepsie Metellus

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members

Mr. Raul Perez
Mr. Felix Jimenez

Committee Alternates

Miami-Dade County Public School Attendees

Mr. Ron Steiger
Ms. Margarita Betancourt
Mr. Thomas Knigge
Ms. Selin Pichs
Mr. Jeff James

Ms. Jennifer Andreu
Mr. Rick Yanez
Mr. Archie Moore
Ms. Juana Murillo

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 started by providing an update on the status of GOB projects, years 1 through 5 and accelerated scope projects. Mr. Jack Lowell asked what the estimated timeframe was for all the projects to be completed and Mr. Perez expressed that they should all be completed by 2025. Mr. Lowell asked what the School Board has in mind for the Committee. Mr. Perez expressed that was an excellent question and explained that he would have to consult with the Superintendent but that there has been conversation about possibly having another GOB but if not, the Committee would probably sunset. Mr. Juan Del Busto asked if the projects in year 3 are running late. Mr. Del Busto expressed he would have thought that year 3 and year 4 projects would have been completed. Mr. Perez explained that there were a few projects in year 3 that had initial issues regarding how to move forward with them which caused the projects to be reevaluated. Mr. Del Busto asked if that was well documented for the public to see. Mr. Perez explained that has to be done. Ms. Gepsie Metellus expressed that she had heard that there were delays due to Covid as well and wanted to confirm if that had caused delays too. Mr. Perez expressed that it did affect those projects which are in construction at the moment and also affected cost, supplies and staffing of all the other projects that are in construction. Ms. Metellus stated that all that should be documented as well.

Mr. Perez continued to give the GOB project update for years 1 through 5 and accelerated scope projects. Mr. Perez discussed the GOB expenditures and contracted numbers.

Mr. Martinez asked Mr. Perez how he organizes himself with all the projects that are going on. Mr. Perez explained that he has an office called Capital Improvement and that office has an Assistant Superintendent of Construction Management who oversees 3 Facilities Directors that are divided within each of the Regions covering Central, North and South. The Directors have a team of Project Managers under them and they manage all of the Capital projects that are assigned, from planning all the way to close-out. Mr. Lowell asked if that team is handling both the Capital Improvement projects too. Mr. Perez confirmed that they are handling both. Mr. Sean Foreman asked if the current Bond projects have a sign saying that it is a Bond project. Mr. Perez confirmed that they do have specific signage for Non-GOB and for GOB projects.

Mr. Perez continued to go over the GOB project update and the accelerated complementary projects. Mr. Martinez asked Mr. Perez if there were 15 portable removals left and Mr. Perez stated that is correct. There are 15 schools left with portables. Mr. Martinez asked if the portables are to be totally demolished and Mr. Perez confirmed that they are. Mr. Martinez asked what would happen if there is another hurricane Andrew and had to do something quickly. Mr. Perez explained that the District has modular vendors and some of those provide modular type portables. Mr. Martinez asked if they were getting strained from the immigrants that were coming in. Mr. Perez explained that there was not a strain as of yet because there are a lot of schools that are under enrolled, but there could be a few pockets affected here and there. Mr. Perez expressed that of concern is not having enough teachers.

Mr. Perez proceeded to go over the expenditures and contracted amounts, and the quarterly expenditure slides. Mr. Perez went over the annual report and discussed the procedures. Mr. Del Busto asked if the technology funds are just to improve the technology. Mr. Perez confirmed that those funds are only for technology improvement. Mr. Martinez asked Mr. Perez how much funds are left untapped. Mr. Perez stated he would be preparing a slide for the next presentation because there was more than \$1.2 billion in GOB. Mr. Perez stated that he has been working with the Capital Budget and Treasury Office to get that information. Mr. Perez was provided with the total of \$1,335,479,788 due to the sale of the bonds. Due to the bond premium, they received an addition of \$119.7 million. Mr. Perez explained that after the sale, the money was moved to the bank, and it gained another \$19.9 million in interest.

Mr. Foreman asked how additional money and priorities are determined for projects. Mr. Perez explained that there is a database with information on scope that was not included in the completed projects and explained that the District is currently going through the educational plant survey that is completed every 5 years to determine the needs of the schools. Mr. Foreman asked if there have been any electricity savings from the new HVAC systems since these would require fewer service calls. Mr. Perez expressed that all the renovations have made a difference for the learning environment and have also helped with the energy savings; however, during Covid, working with the safety department and all the regulations from the feds, put a lot of strain on the buildings. Mr. Martinez asked if any of the schools have electric charging stations. Mr. Perez stated

that there is one at Terra Environmental Research Institute. Mr. Perez also expressed that there was an agreement taken to the Board with FPL to electrify the school buses. Currently The District purchased around 50 electric school buses and FPL is providing the charging stations at the transportation centers at no cost. Mr. Martinez asked if that can also be done at the schools and Mr. Perez said they could try.

Dr. George Koonce inquired about seeing the procurement numbers regarding African Americans and would like to receive the information from Jennifer Andreu from OEO. Mr. Perez stated that they would try to see if procurement could do a presentation at the next meeting to provide that information. Mr. Perez also expressed that there was a disparity study that was completed in December 2021, and it did show some need for improvement on the goods and services side.

Mr. Perez continued to discuss the expenditures by cost category and the breakdown explaining that the reports are provided to the Committee and other departments. Ms. Gepsie Metellus asked about how the Government Requirement category refers to the advertisement that must be issued through various community publications and wanted to know which publications are being used. Mr. Perez expressed that he is not sure of the publications and believes the 3 are Caribbean Weekly, Business Review and Diario Las Americas. Mr. Perez also explained that it is advertised on the procurement website which has the solicitation and the publication information. The advertisement information is also provided to Jennifer Andreu's office where it is sent out as a blast to all the firms they have in their database.

Acknowledging a quorum, Mr. Martinez asked for a motion to approve the 9th annual report. A motion was made by Mr. Roger Cuevas, seconded by Mr. Jack Lowell and passed unanimously. Mr. Martinez asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 19, 2022. A motion was made by Ms. Gepsie Metellus, seconded by Mr. Jack Lowell and passed unanimously. Mr. Martinez asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 14, 2022. A motion was made by Ms. Gepsie Metellus, seconded by Mr. Jack Lowell and passed unanimously. Mr. Martinez asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 13, 2022. A motion was made by Mr. Francis Ragoo, seconded by Mr. Jack Lowell and passed unanimously with the changes regarding information about the hiring of Principal Welker by Mr. Koonce and the parking lot flooding concern that was made by Jack Lowell.

Mr. Roger Cuevas inquired about the Adopt-A-School list and was informed that any school could be adopted. Mr. Perez expressed that there was a presentation prepared for the Adopt-A-School, but Ms. Fazzino was unable to attend the meeting and she was the presenter. Mr. Perez stated that it was moved to the March 7th agenda and a list would be provided at that time. Mr. Jack Lowell expressed that most schools have support groups that raise money and meet regularly to prioritize the items that should be worked on. Mr. Perez expressed that he could provide a list of all schools with GOB and Non-GOB projects that can be adopted.

Mr. Perez went on to discuss slide 14 recommending having the GO Bond advisory meetings twice a year instead of quarterly due to difficulty with obtaining quorum but since the Board policy requires that the meeting be held quarterly, there was no need to discuss

the slide. Mr. Martinez still asked the Committee what their thoughts were, and they agreed that the meeting should be held quarterly.

Mr. Perez introduced Ms. Jennifer Andreu to provide the OEO update. Ms. Andreu, from the Office of Economic Opportunity, started with the infographic slide 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, as well as the compliance update regarding certifications and goals established for firms. Ms. Andreu reviewed slides regarding compliance and upcoming events.


Mr. Lowell stated that he saw that Ms. Andreu had a meeting with the Office of the Mayor on December 9, 2022 and asked if that was with the Mayor and which Mayor. Ms. Andreu stated that it is Mayor Cava however that she does not personally attend but that her staff does along with Danilo Vargas who oversees these meetings.

Mr. Ragoo stated that looking at the percentage of African American it looks good but, once it is compared to the dollar amount, he stated that it's like dropping a pebble in a bucket. Mr. Ragoo expressed that there is still a long way to go with the dollar amounts. Ms. Andreu explained that in the disparity study you do not look at the community as a whole but you look at the businesses to come up with the percentage. Mr. Perez expressed that every practice that has been put into GOB projects is the same practice that is used on Capital projects. Ms. Julie Williamson asked how an African American Hispanic Women would be categorized. Ms. Andreu explained that it depends on how they majority identify themselves and how it is on the documents provided along with a signed affidavit that is notarized.

Having exhausted all the agenda topics, the Chair Mr. Roberto Martinez, reminded the Committee that the next meeting would be held on March 7, 2023.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:25 p.m.

Approved:



Mr. Roberto Martinez, Chair
Date: 6/27/23