



## **MINUTES OF THE CITY OF MIRAMAR EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD**

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The Monthly meeting of the Miramar Education Advisory Board (EAB) was called to order on February 12, 2024, at 6:38 p.m., in the conference room at the Multi-Service Complex, Miramar, Florida 33025.

### **2. ROLL CALL**

The following members of the EAB were present:

Teneshia Taylor, Chairperson  
Dr. Elinor Milian, Vice Chairperson  
Tanisha Cunningham  
Kimberly Hall  
Dr. Lois Saunders  
Christina Spouse  
Italia Thurston (Late)

The following members of the EAB were absent:

Sylvia Grandberry  
Natalie Williams

A quorum was declared.

Also present:

Armando Arana, Coordinator, Governmental Affairs.  
Broward County Public Schools  
Mary Baccus, Staff  
Janeille Brathwaite, staff

### **3. Recording of Meeting (Acknowledgement)**

Chairperson Taylor noted the meetings were both recorded and live streamed, reminding everyone wishing to speak of the need for them to first state their name, so they could be accurately identified in the minutes.

#### **4. Membership Status**

#### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2023**

Ms. Baccus stated any board members with changes to the minutes should email them to her, and she would make the corrections. Any dialog highlighted in red needed to be addressed; they indicated what was being said was either unclear, or the speaker could not be identified, hence the importance of stating one's name before speaking.

Chairperson Taylor referred to page 12, she thought the words to be filled in at the eighth paragraph should be "... bringing the checks to the cashier."

Ms. Hall referred to page seven, in the conversations regarding students, someone gave an example of a hearing-impaired student; that dialog was said by Ms. Taylor, not her.

Chairperson Taylor asked about an item on page eight, specifically, the QR codes for the flyers, asking if the links were given.

Ms. Baccus pointed to copies of the flyers provided to the board.

Dr. Saunders sought clarification on page four, at the last heading where it stated, "Vice Chairperson Milian thought the board should get placed on the May agenda if scholarships awardees were required to attend." She asked if the students receiving awards should attend that Commission meeting.

Ms. Baccus explained whatever was said on the recording was what was typed in the minutes.

Vice Chairperson Milian clarified the discussion was about the scholarship presentation being placed on the City Commission meeting agenda; the agenda for those meetings were prepared several weeks in advance, so the board wished the Commission to be aware the EAB would be making the award presentation at that month's meeting.

**Ms. Cunningham made a motion to approve the regular board meeting minutes of November 13, 2023, as corrected; the motion was seconded by Vice Chairperson Milian. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **6. PRESENTATIONS (If Any):**

Armando Arana, Coordinator, Governmental Affairs with Broward County Public Schools (BCPS), gave the board a presentation as follows:

- Dr. Peter Licata was the new BCPS superintendent; he was appointed on July 11, 2023
- There were 31 cities in Broward, and BCPS was trying to get to as many cities as possible; he was the City's BCPS liaison.
- He believed Katrina Davenport was his contact person for the City of Miramar, and he hoped she passed along information he gave her to the board.
- He was present to update the board, as well as address any questions and concerns board members had.
- The BCPS approved its 2024/2025 calendar; August 12, would be the first day of school; winter break was December 23 through January 3; spring break was March 24 to 28; last day of was June 3; the calendar included ten teacher planning days, holidays, and contingencies for up to three severe weather makeup days.
- Dr. Licata visited many schools in the district, and he already reduced central office staff with the elimination of over 50 positions, as the priority of his focus was on the teachers and the schools; this was where resources should be directed.
- There would likely to be more cuts of unnecessary, or redundant administrative positions.
- The 2024 Caliber Awards; the Teacher of the Year was from Pompano Beach High School; the Principal of the Year was from Cypress Bay High School; the Assistant Principal of the Year was from Rickards Middle School; and the School-Related Employee of the Year was from Liberty Elementary; one of the finalists was from Miramar High School; Oliver Gilbert was a guest attendee
- A few School Board meetings ago, there was a debate about school uniforms; the School Board decided to direct School Board administrators to survey the parents.
- Some meetings ago, there was a unanimous vote that voted down the proposal to create a new police force; the idea was not completely discard, but right now was not the appropriate time to have that discussion; better data, and statistics were needed to allow for a more

thorough discussion.

- The BCPS's main focus was taking look at the whole district, and the federal funding for the COVID pandemic ended in 2024, and simultaneously, with all the voucher programs, the BCPS took a big hit financially, so it was necessary to redefine the public school system.
- They created a two-person department that included a chief strategist; the person who used to be the EAB liaison from the City of Fort Lauderdale was now the BCPS chief strategist in charge of the program. This was a phase they would undergo that would move rather quickly.
- The first step was to have town hall meetings with breakout sessions, and moderators for each session; the sessions would involve parents, different members of the community; they would discuss such topics as: why the district needed to change; how the district would approach the redefining process; get feedback and ideas.
- The media pushed the concept that it was only enrollment that was being evaluated; this was not the case; there were a number of factors that included enrollment and a competitive analysis of enrollment of surrounding schools, non-district schools, neighborhood demographics, facility conditions, school performances, and their operational costs, and the survey data.
- In the last ten years, pre-K through 12 enrollments decreased; approximately 24,000 students in the district represented a loss of about \$207 million annually.
- Even with the path the BCPS was currently on, a further decrease in enrollment was projected to further decline.
- BCPS has about 50,000 empty seats across the district
- At some point there would be a layer of governing bodies, not just the School Board, but the County, municipalities; it would be a collaborative effort; there would be no unilateral decisions.
- Board members were encouraged to pass the information being presented along to stakeholders.
- There was briefing to city officials the previous week, and Mayor Messam attended, along with other city officials and city managers; they were able to speak with Dr. Licata
- The next meeting would be at J P Taravella on February 15, 2034; the next week it would be on February 22, 2024, at Charles Flannagan High Schools; EAB members were encouraged to attend and help promote the meeting.
- Other redefining options being considered included: having full choice school; change the grade level configuration; change the school boundaries; close or merge some schools; lease or sell school properties; some advocated selling the properties of closed schools, and with that

funding, negotiate affordable housing led by the County.

- The BCPS was fully invested in this process, and it was likely to consume them over the next two years, as by the 2025/2026 school year, this had to be in place.
- The BCPS was reinvesting in its mission to enhance programs for students, increase teachers' and staff's salaries, improve facilities, and expand community services.
- They had a short-term timeline that went from February to June 2024; in February they were doing community conversations, then bring those results to a School Board workshop, then take the matters to a School Board vote in June to facilitate planning the implementation.
- The School Board met on Tuesdays, and board members were welcome to attend to voice their concerns, ask questions, etc., which they could also do through him.
- A few weeks ago, a delegation of federal officials, including U.S. Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona, and the U.S. Secretary of Cybersecurity and Infrastructure visited the site of the shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas (MSD) High School, along with other elected officials.
- Dr. Licata was focusing on the security part, and how the federal government could increase support on this front; he was having federal officials come to Broward County to revisit various topics.
- BCPS recently reached an agreement with the teacher's union; the agreement provided an increase of base salaries for eligible employees, teachers: teachers on the grandfathered salary schedule 3.65 percent increase; teachers on the pay performance schedule based on an evaluation was a 4.56 percent increase; and 3.42 percent increase for teachers rated effective, as opposed to highly effective; for new teachers, there was an increase in starting salaries that would be \$50,266.00
- There would be a considerable amount of activities in the current school year; a list of 2024 priorities was provided that would be copied and handed out to the board members; the BCPS was working on with the federal and state representatives
- A BCPS delegation recently went to Tallahassee in mid-January that included a bus load of children on the 2024 Rally the Tally initiative; one student from Miramar High School was among the 42 students who attended from 18 high school; the students were prepared for the event over several weeks, and they presented the BCPS legislative priorities, and held conversations with the senators, and various legislators; the School Board members were in attendance; they kept pushing for policies that were beneficial to the schools, students and teachers, and for funding
- He would keep the board posted on what was happening in Tallahassee, as they were in week six of nine

- There were 2024 elections taking place; March 19 was the presidential primary preference election; August 20 was the primary election; and November 5 was the General Election
- The BCPS was working with the Supervisor of Election's Office, as there was a State mandate that said any public facility that the Division of Elections deemed able to serve as a precinct, they could use it, which included schools that were public facilities; it had been months of work with them, going through a logistical process to set that up
- They were planning to use three schools districtwide as precincts on those three election dates, of which eight were in Miramar, approximately nine percent of all the schools selected: Coconut Palm, Coral Cove, Dolphin Bay, Miramar Elementary, Sea Castle, Silver Lakes, New Renaissance Middle, and Miramar High School
- If the board were aware of any issues with those schools on those election dates, please let him know; he was the liaison with the Supervisor of Elections
- For school breaks, this time around they had 5A, 5B, and 5C schools for Miramar; in comparing 2022, districtwide, there were six traditional schools that improved to a grade A, and one of those six was Coral Cove; seven traditional schools improved to a B; 17 traditional schools improved their grade by at least one letter grade; BCPS improved two F schools to one; two schools showed the most significant improvement
- Graduation rate increased in the current school year from 87.2 to 88.7 percent; this was above the state average, which was about 85 percent.
- The graduation rate for BCPS traditional high schools rose up to 95.5 percent; six schools in the district were at 100 percent; 34 schools achieved 90 percent or higher.
- Everglades High School: 98.6 percent, or 432 of 438 students graduated.
- Miramar High School: 94.4 percent, or 437 of 463 students graduated.
- Everglades High School's graduation would take place on June 5, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. at Nova Southeastern University
- Miramar High School's graduation would take place on June 10, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. at Nova Southeastern University
- Graduation details were sent out to students and parents.
- The BCPS recently videotaped the School Duel that would air sometime in May 2024; it was a game show, trivia program in which high school students competed; on January 18 it was Everglades High School vs. Western High School
- The Broward County Hispanic Bar Association's (BCHBA) Bilingual Conference took place on January 16, in which over 130 Broward Schools participated.
- The 2024 Youth Policy Summit would take place on April 4 and 5; there

would be a panel discussion on the fourth, and an expo on the fifth.

- On February 14 there was an Observance for Service & Love in commemoration for the MSD tragedy, so it was early release; on February 15, the conversations would continue.
- On February 24, 2024, there was a Financial Wellness Workshop Series at Piper High School
- The Career & Technical Education (CTE) Teacher of the Year Awards would take place on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 7:00 p.m. at the DoubleTree, Sunrise, Florida, for High School and Middle School.
- All the calendar of events were sent out via emails and newsletters to schools, parents, etc.

Chairperson Taylor thanked Mr. Arana for the BCPS report; this was the first report the board received in a long time; it was a very complete, informative, and much appreciated update.

Dr. Lois Saunders asked if, with the School District cuts, it appeared that Dr. Licata was trying to cut the top-heavy staff and relocating them to school sites where more teachers were needed.

Mr. Arana affirmed this was the case. As there were many redundant positions with people doing the same functions. The end goal was to increase the resources at the school, teacher, and student levels.

Dr. Lois Saunders understood, but there were a concern people might be losing their job, rather than being sent back into the school system, particularly at a time when there was a critical shortage of teachers.

Mr. Arana said he would have to get back to the board with that information. Regarding employment, teacher shortage, etc., one of the initiatives the BCPS's legislative team was working on in Tallahassee was related to some of the State's prohibitive requirements to become certified as school bus drivers that were preventing many people from getting the job. These were some of the issues BCPS identified, and were aggressively working on to change, and they were getting some good traction; for example, they believed their efforts for the school bus driver requirements would pass, so it would alleviate, and generate more opportunity for persons wishing to become school bus drivers.

Dr. Lois Saunders asked if BCPS were able to identify the reason for the decline in student enrollment.

Mr. Arana heard it was a conglomerate of issues; that is, there was the voucher charter school competition created in the education market; the district went

through a rough patch that adversely affected enrollment; and people moving out of the district due to the high cost of living in the County, as well as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. He would email some data to City staff for dissemination to the board, showing the board a chart of K-12 enrollment statistics dating from 2004. The BCPS created a type of newsletter publication to keep everyone informed, and that would be migrated to a type of Mailchimp newsletter that would be easier to read, with a link that could be opened on a cell phone, etc.; their goal was to enhance communication in a variety of ways.

Chairperson Taylor inquired about the listening sessions, as Mr. Arana mentioned the strategist who would be working with Dr. Licata.

Mr. Arana stated the strategist working with Dr. Licata was a staff liaison from the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Chairperson Taylor wished to confirm it would be in person consultations.

Mr. Arana answered yes. He asked board members to share the calendar of activities and events with their network of persons.

Chairperson Taylor asked when the board should look out for a decision on the BCPS list of legislative priorities.

Mr. Arana replied from the beginning of March going forward, as March 8<sup>th</sup> was the end of session, and the ultimate time was when the Governor signed or vetoed bills. For the current session, the BCPS added funding for mental health, and the Senate side was pushing art.

**7. EAB PURPOSE STATEMENT: NONE**

**8. OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**A. Scholarship Fund Committee**

Chairperson Taylor began with the scholarship timeline that was shared with the board members by staff in November 2023: the press release was scheduled to go out on February 14, 2024, and she would share the new link for the donation application with staff to disseminate among the board members; the scholarship application officially opened on February 16, and the closing date was April 19, 2024; the fundraising goal was \$4,000.00, which broke down to \$500.00 per board member; fundraising monies were due April 22, 2024. At the last board

meeting, the scholarship applications review committee was selected, and the deadline to review applications was April 28, 2024, and student awardees would be notified by May 6, 2024. She needed to email Ms. Baccus the scholarship application link to send to board members to ensure it worked; she tested the link, and it worked. All the matters discussed at the November 2023 meeting, and the subcommittee meeting were updated on the application form. Ms. Taylor mentioned an issue with the addresses for cutting the checks for the scholarship fund; going forward in the current cycle, staff needed to get the W-9s to ensure checks were being sent to the right address; for a 2023 awardee going to Nova Southeastern University, despite being provided with the address, the check was never received, and the check had to be reissued. The board voted to send out an automated response to prevent this issue recurring. She showed the board a scholarship flyer provided by Marketing staff for board approval.

Ms. Baccus believed the last page of the flyer was where the board made corrections to the original flyer, asking if the board needed more flyers to hand out.

Chairperson Taylor answered yes. She asked staff to make more copies of the donor letter, and the scholarship sponsorship packet. At the subcommittee meeting, Ms. Sprouse and she discussed the scholarship fund, and the reception both prior to, and after the November 2023 board meeting; both subcommittee meetings went well. She said out of that meeting, they created an activity card, and a draft donor letter, and the scholarship fund packet; there was some back and forth between Ms. Grandberry, the board, and she regarding putting together a sponsorship package so, going forward, they had a template for raising money from individuals, and businesses. Out of those discussions, she pulled together the current sponsorship package that was very straightforward, and consisted of three tiers: gold, silver, and bronze, and the benefits donors at each level would receive. When the board approved the documents, they could be printed on City letterhead for dissemination by the board.

Vice Chairperson Milian thanked the scholarship subcommittee for the materials being brought forward for the board's consideration, and approval. As long as she served on the EAB, she was always looking for donor material to disseminate to businesses to get their sponsorship. Regarding putting the donor letter on City letterhead, she wondered if the donor link should be included, or should interested donors be asked to contact board members to make a donation.

Chairperson Taylor thought the donor link should be included on the donor letter; adding the link, possibly a QR code, was a good addition to the letter.

Vice Chairperson Milian observed it would keep it standardized, with one central email address, etc.

- A board consensus was given to proceed with the packet and adding the donor link and QR code to the donor letter.

Chairperson Taylor mentioned the discussion on the reception; at present, it seemed the board wished to host its own awards reception. The discussion on the 30<sup>th</sup> was about the details: food, location, etc. She reviewed the outcome of the discussions: reception date: May 15, 2024, after the award presentation at the City Commission meeting on that date, between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Possible reception locations were Miramar Cultural Center (MCC) foyer, or the Miramar Police Department (PD) community room; Ms. Thurston and she were assigned to the task of firming up a reception venue. Food and beverage sponsors: there was an estimated attendance of about 25 to 30 people, and Ms. Cunningham indicated she would work on contacting Publix, Presidente, etc., a local grocer for food that could include a veggie and/or fruit platter, a wings platter, etc., as well as plates, utensils, napkins, etc. She asked about the board's status as a 501(c)(3).

Ms. Baccus responded the board could use the City of Miramar's 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization E.D.G.E., as the board was under the City of Miramar.

Chairperson Taylor questioned if scholarship donations were tax exempt.

Ms. Brathwaite recalled researching information when Ms. Taylore emailed her that question; the answer she received from the City's finance staff was no.

Chairperson Taylor wondered if Publix would donate to the EAB, would it be tax deductible, or could the board prove that it was.

Ms. Baccus knew when the City did not pay taxes when it purchased items from Publix. If it became an issue, the board could purchase or receive donated from a local grocery store under the City's E.D.G.E. 501(c)(3). This should be applied to the donations for scholarships, so students could receive the full amount, rather than having to go to taxes if they went through the City's account.

Ms. Hall wished to know which donor letter she should be using when approaching Publix, or other local grocers for donations for the scholarship reception; she needed written confirmation.

Ms. Baccus stated Ms. Hall could probably use the same donor letter, and she would confirm if it was possible for the EAB to use the E.D.G.E. 501(c)(3) for its

fundraising activities and other donations, as other departments and boards did.

Chairperson Taylor wondered if the City's E.D.G.E. charity wished to be among the sponsor for the EAB's fundraising efforts.

Ms. Baccus said she would make inquiries, suggesting the board give her an amount that she could ask for.

Chairperson Taylor clarified it would be an in-kind donation for food and other dining accessories for the scholarship award reception.

Ms. Baccus understood, noting Ms. Taylor could make a PowerPoint presentation at an E.D.G.E. monthly meeting on Webex; they met the second Thursday of each month. The EAB could request the funds needed to purchase the items for the reception, then the board could just purchase the needed items.

Chairperson Taylor affirmed the EAB needed money for the reception, and for a photographer.

Ms. Baccus said the EAB could use the City's photographer.

Chairperson Taylor mentioned a prior conversation about distributing a City swag bag that would contain City of Miramar promotional items.

Ms. Baccus affirmed this was possible, so she would ask; she just needed to know the date on which the bags would be needed. The board could get some items from PD, and others from the Marketing Department, so there would be combination of items in the bag.

Chairperson Taylor said the board discussed printing certificates for the sponsors, as well as printing the big blank check.

Ms. Baccus said Ms. Taylor could ask Mary to print the certificates; she already asked for the big blank check, and the board could fill in the information, then remove it after the presentation; the checks could be reused each year, and she assumed the board needed three or four big blank checks.

Chairperson Taylor noted the board needed to choose a venue.

Ms. Baccus believed if the board used MCC's facilities, there would be a fee, but if the board used the community room or bigger EOC room at the PD there would be no charge; the board would just have to set up the room with decorations, etc. Ms. Taylor could make a presentation to the E.D.G.E. board in March.

Chairperson Taylor said she would send the updated documents: the updated donor letter, the scholarship fund packet, and the activity chart with the dates to City staff for circulation to the board members.

**B. School-Based Needs Committee**

Vice Chairperson Milian recapped that the subject committee collected and reviewed data from Miramar schools' School Improvement Plan (SIP); based on that data, they looked at a number of themes in the questions asked of students, parents, and school staff. They reviewed the results to determine if there were commonalities, discrepancies, and explore any actions the EAB could devise to support the schools, and the needs identified. She noted the last component of the data process was to hold a type of think tank meeting, and/or do a virtual meeting with school-site administrators, showing them the data to get their feedback on how the EAB could support their schools. The themes discussed for the current school year were continuing with college and career planning, as it tied in well with the EAB's scholarship program, trying to ensure students were exposed to college and career planning at their school sites. She said, for the present year, the committee added two more themes: making real world connections to learning and making learning purposeful and relevant for students; and digital literacy, looking at how technology and digital literacy was being taught at schools, and how the EAB could support this theme. Dr. Milian showed a slide presentation on the data resulting from the survey questions administered to gather information on each of the abovementioned themes. Regarding the real world connection theme, the survey questions were administered to elementary school-aged students and parents, and the questions were worded a little differently for each; all collective responses were neutral or positive, with no negative responses from either group; neutral responses came from two schools: New Renaissance Middle and H.D. Perry Education Center, and as those two schools had no secondary students, no data was collected, so there was nothing to compare parent responses to. She noted for the next surveyed theme was digital literacy in which teachers were asked if they structured lessons, tasks, and activities that required students to use digital tools for learning, while students were asked if lessons and materials in their school prepared them to be effective users of media and technology. The committee did a side-by-side comparison of responses from teachers and students, and the results showed a big discrepancy, with staff showing a very favorable response, but students' responses indicated they felt their school felt short in this regard. Dr. Milian said the last surveyed theme was college and career planning, for which questions were only administered to students; parents and teachers were not given the survey. Students were asked what programs they participated in at their school, to which their responses indicated there were a myriad of

extracurricular programs, but the board focused on the specific programs related to college and career planning, and students were asked to respond as to their participation in each of those activities. The questions were directed to students in grades 6 through 12, not elementary school students, and the highest rated percentage of participation was 27 percent from Whispering Pines Center, and the remaining percentages were in the teens; New Renaissance, 12 percent; H.D. Perry, 18 percent; Miramar High School, 16 percent; Everglades High School, 15 percent. The question, therefore, was why a larger number of students were not participating in college and career planning at their school. Dr. Milian summarized what was left for the committee to investigate, detailed on slide eight: Why was there such different perspectives from staff and students with regard to digital literacy in their school, and could students be receiving a digital literacy curriculum, but they did not know how to correctly identify it because they thought of it as more commonplace, and not that they were being taught anything new. She said the committee needed to investigate why more students were not claiming they participated in college and career planning; for example, could they be participating in college and career planning outside of normal school hours, hence them not responding more favorably, such as before or after school programs that helped students with scholarship applications, and career planning in general. The last notation on the slide was more of a data point the board needed to keep in mind; Broward County schools began using the Xello platform in the current school year; the platform was mandated by the Florida Department of Education requiring all K-12 school had to implement some type of college and career planning, and in response to this mandate, BCPS began using Xello. She said it was an online curriculum that helped students take character, personality tests, inquired as to their interests, and used the information to pair them with careers that fit their interests, as well as helped them identify which colleges were appropriate for those careers. Secondary school students were receiving more exposure to the Xello platform than elementary school students, but, as this was the first year the platform was being used, there could be a shift in data in the next school year showing an increase in students claiming participation in college and career planning. She welcomed the board's feedback, adding a presentation of the findings had to be prepared for the principal and assistant principals of each school site, and get their feedback of the survey results.

Chairperson Taylor asked if students could access the Xello at school only, or could they also access it at home.

Vice Chairperson Milian answered both; there were embedded lessons that were teacher led at school sites, but it was a platform that sat on students' Clever portal, allowing them to access.

Ms. Hall wished to know if students were required to complete sections on Xello or was it just up to students to go onto the platform and explore.

Mr. Arana responded he would find out and relay the answer to staff.

Vice Chairperson Milian said she did not know, but she knew the platform had teacher-led lessons that took place at school sites that students did as a group, and she assumed they did individual follow-up activities. She was unsure of the accountability for use of the platform by students.

Mr. Arana commended Dr. Milian for the subcommittee's work; it provided great information, getting both students' and parents' perspectives. He asked the number and method of surveys administered.

Vice Chairperson Milian replied that all the surveys were embedded in each school's SIP; the School District used Cognia to administer its end-of-year school culture survey disseminated to students, staff, and parents. Every school presented their particular data into their SIP, detailing their school goals for the year based on the school culture survey results. She said the tricky part for the EAB's subcommittee was individually reviewing each Miramar school's SIP.

Mr. Arana remarked the results of the subcommittees surveys would be important to the regional superintendents.

Ms. Brathwaite reminded the board that the City had outreach as a community resource on Saturday, May 4, 2024, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The EAB needed to reach out and/or have contacts, and/or do a meet and greet, and/or have resources; this was the best place to do this. This was a hiatus for the board before it began planning for the next school year. She said there was the event in October the City did for its teens.

Dr. Saunders asked if the schools had a career counselor, and did they participate in drafting the SIP.

Vice Chairperson Milian replied to Broward high schools each had a BRACE (BReward Advisors for Continuing Education) counselor to support high school seniors, as they went through the college application process; middle school students did not have a counselor specific to that.

Dr. Saunders questioned if a lot of the data included for high schools was pulled from the information the BRACE advisor of each school included in the SIP.

Vice Chairperson Milian stated the BRACE advisor did not include the

information, it was a schoolwide survey provided by the district, to which each school responded by filling in their data.

Dr. Saunders asked if BCPS had a school to career office.

Mr. Arana said the Career, Technical, Adult, Community Education (CTACE) had a department; they had their own programs at different schools, but he saw no surveys that yielded data like that presented by Dr. Milian; he was intrigued as to what other data was out there to be gathered. The CTACE Department offered amazing programs that won national awards, but from what he was seeing, there was room for improvement in terms of career guidance, which was the point of Dr. Milian's survey results.

Vice Chairperson Milian answered correct; the Broward's CTACE was geared towards industry certifications in a myriad of career fields. However, those programs did not necessarily do inventory surveys, where they looked at students' strengths; that is, what academic areas did they really shine in, and how to take those strengths, and transfer them into a job that would earn money. She commented the reality was not all high school students would go to college, so beyond just preparing them to apply to such schools, it was important to focus on students' strengths and interests, and how they could be used to guide students to an appropriate certification program. There was a step that was missing before getting to the CTACE courses, which, hopefully, the Xello platform could facilitate, as the intent was that the software would guide students to make better career choices, so they could be employable as soon as possible, and give back to their community.

### **C. Outreach and Marketing Committee**

Ms. Cunningham remarked in the interim since the board's last meeting, she took a bunch of the flyers, and she wished to take more; she visited a number Miramar High School, and Everglades High School, and introduced herself to the office staff, and handed the flyers out. She met a student who expressed an interest in going into education, so she shared her contact information with her. Most cities had EABs, so she communicated with the EAB in Hollywood, which was currently on hiatus, with their last meeting in October 2023; Pines EAB was on an indefinite hiatus; Davie did not have a specific EAB, though they focused on youth education and safety, so their lens was a little different from Miramar's EAB. Miami Lakes had a thriving EAB that included the principals from their schools as nonvoting members, though they participated in the EAB's conversation. They held a fundraiser, whereby, the lamp posts that lined the streets within Miami Lakes had banners with pictures of students who graduated; they cost \$129.00; it earned them a significant amount of revenue. She said

Miami Lakes EAB held a dinner to which all the schools' region administrators, students, and their parents attended, and this was an opportunity for them to hear from the EAB what was happening in the schools, and awards were handed out. Ms. Cunningham sought different ideas for what the EAB could do to broaden its reach, apologizing for not visiting H.D. Perry. She shared a document outlining the meetings and activities of active School Advisory Committees in the local Broward area with the board, so they had the information; for the month of February, there was very little activities happening in Miramar schools in terms of their school advisory committees (SAC); she went on to review the scheduled meetings for Miramar schools, as illustrated in the document she distributed to the board. Dolphin Bay Elementary already held their SAC, and she would try to attend the SAC at Miramar Elementary, and the senior high schools were more amenable to her schedule. All the schools were getting into the testing mode, as there were 44 days before high stakes testing began, so it was likely there would be less meetings. She said as soon as she saw that the schools posted their March calendars, she would forward it to staff for dissemination to the board, so they had it at least a week before the next board meeting, so member could plan, accordingly, if they could attend any of the meetings.

Ms. Hall asked if when Ms. Cunningham attended the SAC meetings, was there a particular staff member she informed of her presence and let them know she represented the EAB and the City of Miramar.

Ms. Cunningham said that was her hope when she attended, noting these are public meetings, so no one had to specifically identify themselves, but it would garner support if the school knew the EAB existed, and advocated for students. SAC meetings involved discussions around the SIP, the use of funding, incentivization, etc. She said the meetings were beneficial for the EAB from the standpoint of being able gain information it could use to help the schools; most SAC meetings lasted about an hour. One goal of meeting with other EAB's was to find out what they were doing that she Miramar could do to effect change in the lives of its students, and the community. She mentioned the Cooper City EAB met on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at Cooper City's city hall, and she would reach out to their contact person to see if she could attend.

Vice Chairperson Milian commented that all School Advisory committees, had on their agendas an open discussion, so a Miramar EAB members could simply state their name, that they represented Miramar's EAB, distribute some of the flyers, and invite them to attend the EAB meeting, which was also streamed on Webex for virtual attendance.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS:**

Vice Chairperson Milian thought the board should explore having Miramar school principals as *ex officio* members on next year's EAB.

Mr. Arana suggested the EAB look at Dania Beach's EAB, as they had a similar format.

**11. OPEN DISCUSSION: NONE**

**12. ADJOURNMENT:**

Next meeting: March 11, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.



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Teneshia Taylor, Chairperson  
TT/cp

