



# **Broward County Public Schools**

## **Parent/Community Involvement Task Force**

### **Meeting Minutes**

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**McFATTER TECHNICAL CENTER**

**CULINARY ARTS BUILDING - BISTRO**

**APRIL 28, 2014 / 5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM**

Present Members: Mary Fertig (Chair), Janet Bravo, Jodi Klein, Colleen LaPlant, Andrea Mathieu, Gloria Moschella, Laurie Rich Levinson, Cathie Starkey

Guests: Errol Evans (Assistant Principal, Attucks Middle), Patricia Hague (Principal, Plantation Middle), Christine Semisch (OSPA Director – Middle School), Wanda Robinson (Parents, Business & Community Partnerships)

- **Call to order**

Ms. Fertig called the meeting to order.

- **Introduction of guests**

The guests introduced themselves. Ms. Hague and Mr. Evans represented the principals in a new initiative to facilitate the coordination of services (for our schools) from non-profit organizations.

- **By-laws**

The District's approved by-laws template was distributed. Ms. Bravo will meet with Ms. Fertig on Thursday, May 29, starting at 10:00 a.m. in Ms. Fertig's office to develop a draft set of by-laws for the Task Force. The draft will be presented to the members for review in an upcoming meeting.

- **Task Force composition**

The current list of Task Force members was distributed, along with the roles that are open. Each Board member may appoint a representative for the Task Force. Additional roles include union representatives, community representatives, a PTA representative and more. Ms. Fertig and Ms. Rich Levinson will review the list and update.

- **Non-Profit Forum review**

Ms. Fertig and Mr. Sussman narrated a PowerPoint presentation on the March 6, 2014 Non-Profit Forum. A hard copy of the slides was distributed to each member. (Mr. Sussman will also email this PowerPoint to each member.)

Topics from the PowerPoint included:

- Discussion questions
- An achievement (source of pride) from each organization
- Positive experiences working with the District
- Barriers to success
- Ideas for building relationships to improve service delivery

Ms. Fertig said there were incredible suggestions from the non-profit participants.

Ms. Mathieu stated many at her table at the forum recommended a non-profit concierge for the District, to expedite service delivery.

Funding for transportation was discussed. Ms. Rich Levinson stated it is difficult to decide who would receive funding from the District because all non-profits need and want help in this area.

Ms. Bravo called for the District to value these recommendations, the first step to ensure implementation.

Ms. Rich Levinson acknowledged the principals participating in tonight's discussion, emphasizing the non-profit recommendations *are* being valued. She reminded the group of an important point for non-profits to remember: They should ask how they can help the schools and what the schools' needs are.

Ms. Robinson suggested a database be created so principals can see the scope of available services.

Ms. Fertig stated the District has no single process to bring in non-profits. She recommended compiling a list of those non-profits already vetted through the Superintendent's Screening Committee (a function in Ms. Robinson's office) and comparing it to the actual agencies currently serving schools.

Mr. Evans stated the Non-Profit Forum was a great start. He asked members to note the District is trying to be fiscally conservative, so monetary costs to the District (i.e., for transportation funding) are not feasible at this time. Grants may help in this area.

Ms. LaPlant shared that the forum was an amazing experience. She said most of the organizations had a very positive view of the District, and they also learned from each other (including an exchange of business cards).

Ms. Rich Levinson said there was a more positive culture at this year's Non-Profit Forum than at the one two years ago. She stated the place to start is the database – we need to compile the information on which services schools are using currently. The Children's Services Council has their own publication, but we need to know what is already in place in our schools.

Ms. Hague announced the new group with Ms. Semisch will be working on the Non-Profit issues.

Ms. Moschella stated the 211 organization deals more with crisis services than educational services. She recommended a forum to address principals' needs from non-profits, in addition to a book of resources. Ms. Rich Levinson agreed -- one resource fair for the non-profits.

Mr. Evans stated that Sherry Brown (from the Community Foundation of Broward organization) has a template for middle schools and has tremendously aided his school.

Mr. Evans and Ms. Hague will discuss with principals the current non-profits they are utilizing.

Ms. Hague stated that 189 principals responded to a survey regarding non-profits, including how they tie-in to school improvement goals. She distributed the Non-Profits Principal Committee Report (dated April 28, 2014).

Ms. Fertig reviewed three priorities to address non-profit services:

1. Develop a list of already-approved non-profits and compare it to the list of those actually providing services in schools. Ms. Starkey will assist in this effort.
2. Hold an event (resource fair) for early fall, a venue to exchange information.
3. Create a database – to match people and provide good information.

Ms. Fertig asked the members to read the Non-Profit notes she distributed and send Mr. Sussman (copy Ms. Fertig) suggestions for what they think is important as well as ideas for implementation.

Ms. Klein said we must go from being data gatherers to implementers. Ms. Rich Levinson reminded members of the reason the Parent Task Force has been extended -- to ensure implementation of the recommendations.

Ms. Moschella suggested a volunteer help coordinate non-profit services; Ms. Rich Levinson stated the District does indeed have staff for this -- but the work needs to be aligned.

Ms. Mathieu recommended looking at what other districts are doing (i.e. their databases, their web portals) and agreed to do just that. She will share her findings with the group.

- **Forums for the fall**

The group would like to hold the following forums in the fall: (1) High School, (2) Middle School, and (3) Business. Ms. Rich Levinson suggested the Business Forum be planned in conjunction with Partners In Education (PIE) staff.

Ms. Fertig and Mr. Sussman will review potential dates and email the members options to choose.

- **Next Task Force meeting**

Monday, June 9, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm at McFatter (Bistro). Topics will include by-laws and non-profit recommendations...as well as the approval of previous meeting minutes.

- **Adjournment**

Ms. Fertig adjourned the meeting.