

Pinellas County (FL) Schools
District Monitoring and Advisory Committee Minutes
November 10, 2016
District Office

Members in Attendance: Valerie Brimm, Lawrence Clermont, Lynne Tucker, Ron White, Thomas Bradwell, Rick Bose

Others in Attendance: Janet Clark – School Board Member, Mike Gandolfo – PCTA President, David Koperski – School Board Attorney, Paula Texel – Assistant Supt, Human Resources Services

Meeting was called to order at 6:07 P.M. It was determined that we had a quorum.

Order of Agenda

Welcome - Introductions were made. It was requested that we have a recorder at the meetings. Ms. Texel will take care of this request for future meetings. It was determined that Dr. Brimm would record minutes for the meeting tonight due to the group not having elected a secretary at this time.

Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the 10/13/16 meeting were posted online and also sent to all members earlier in the week. Ms. Texel asked for the group to review the minutes as she did her best to type up the minutes from the notes she had received from that meeting. Ms. Texel added the following to the minutes:

- The names of others who were in attendance (P. O’Shea, M. Gandolfo, D. Koperski)
- Further information regarding the discussion held on elections. Group feels that bios of those who are interested in serving as an officer should be written and reviewed by the group and then elections held.

Ms. Tucker moved to approve the amended minutes. Mr. Bradwell seconded the motion. Amended minutes were approved 6-0.

Election of Officers – Group discussed the process for holding the election and felt that waiting until all organizations (see next section) were represented before voting would be best. The Duties of Officers are listed in Board Policy 2130 – District Monitoring and Advisory Committee (DMAC), Article V, which was handed out at the first DMAC meeting. Any member wishing to run for office needs to send a brief bio to Ms. Texel no later than December 15th. She will send that information out with the agenda for the January 12 meeting, where elections will be held. We should hear from NAACP-South by December 2nd so if any of their members would like to run for office they can send information to Ms. Texel by the 12/15 deadline as well.

David Koperski briefly discussed the role of the officers:

- Chairperson – Facilitating the meeting and communicating with Ms. Texel regarding DMAC
- Vice-chairperson – Facilitate meeting in the absence of the chairperson
- Secretary – Keep accurate minutes of the DMAC meetings

Ms. Texel reminded the group that one officer must be from NAACP-North, one from PCCPTA, and one from either PCTA, PASA or School Board. It was also noted that the offices are termed Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary.

Inquiries regarding joining DMAC - The group would like to send a formal invitation to NAACP-South to join DMAC. Ms. Texel will send this invite along with notification that they would need to select or appoint 2 member to serve on DMAC as well as a copy of our bylaws/policy. She will contact

Maria Scruggs and share that we would like a response by December 2nd. The League of Women Voters (North County) sent a request to join DMAC. David shared with us the original court order that has DMAC consisting of 7 organizations (all that are represented now plus NAACP-South). However, it is our right to add groups. Discussion was held regarding this. Group understood the need to be able to have a quorum at each meeting and that by adding groups it would possibly make that more difficult. It was also shared that there would be a concern if too many organizations requested to join DMAC, how would we determine which groups we would allow to join. It was decided we would go ahead with inviting the NAACP-South as they were former members. Ms. Texel will send a communication to the League of Women Voters (North County) letting them know our decision. Group stated that anyone is welcome to the meetings.

2016/2017 Meeting Dates, Locations and Times – One change was made to the calendar of meetings due to the training we will have in December. The changes below were suggested.

- December 8, 2016 School District Administration Building (room TBD)
- May 11, 2017 CAP Center (401 East Martin Luther King Dr., Tarpon Springs 34689)

Mr. Bradwell made a motion to swap the 12/8 and 5/11 meeting locations. Dr. Brimm seconded the motion. Passed 6-0 to have the 12/8 meeting at Administration Building and the 5/11 meeting at the CAP Center.

Mr. Bose mentioned that he was securing the conference room at Gibbs HS for the January meeting but if there were more people in attendance we could move to a larger room at the school. He asked how many would be in attendance and Ms. Texel shared that looking at the previous two meeting rosters we would have no more than 15. However, the meetings are public meetings which could increase the numbers. Discussion was held regarding the need to send out notifications for our DMAC meetings. Ms. Tucker shared that there is a need to re-energize the committee, the information doesn't get pushed out to the community, and not everyone has access to the web in order to look up meeting dates and locations. The group also suggested posting the meeting notifications in local newspapers such as the Weekly Challenger, St. Pete Bulletin and others. It was also suggested we maintain documentation of the notification.

Someone asked if the public is allowed to speak at our meetings and Mr. Koperski shared that yes, anyone has the right to speak at our meetings. We need to determine if we allow public to speak at the start of the meeting or at the end. If we are discussing something at our meeting that we want input on from the public it would make better sense to allow public to speak at the start of the meeting.

Upcoming Training – Mr. Koperski will contact the plaintiffs for training dates. If there is no response, he will train the DMAC committee on December 8th at 5:00pm. The regularly scheduled meeting will follow the training. Dr. Brimm suggested we bring food to the next meeting. Several members said they would bring something to share. Although Mr. Koperski will share most of the information we need to hear at the training he felt we all must be made aware of the Sunshine Law, which includes the following:

- Public notice must be made of the meeting
- Minutes must be recorded
- Allow public to attend and speak
- Members may not have private discussions regarding items that might come up in front of you for action. Please do not speak about public education as that is what we are here to discuss each month.
- Public Records Act – all information shared are a matter of public record
- Bradley versus the Crowley Cases

The group discussed this information and it was suggested that if two members from the same organization on DMAC are working on sub committees within their organization it may be wise to split those duties so as not to put following the Sunshine Law in jeopardy.

Mr. Koperski also shared that we should all become familiar with the MOUs and the court order.

Open Agenda –

1. Ms. Tucker provided the group with a two page document of data requests broken up into various categories such as Facilities, Special Education and Student Achievement. She asked how the group could get this type of data to review. Mr. Koperski shared that any requests for data would be given to Ms. Texel, who would then gather the data and send it to the members prior to the next meeting where it would then be discussed. Ms. Texel would request that the staff member who handles the data that was requested be in attendance at that meeting to answer any questions from the committee.
2. Mr. Bose shared several concerns and requested several pieces of data.
 - o Concern regarding the EOC exam for US History. He questioned why some American Government classes were taught in 9th grade and other in 12th. What is the district's data on teaching American Government as a prerequisite to US History? Including demographics.
 - o What does the data say on block vs. traditional schedules? Specifically how this effects minority students.
 - o Who is in charge of the district's plan to hire more minority teachers? Requesting a breakdown of staff and administrators at fundamentals and magnets schools by race and gender. What are the retention strategies we are using to make sure minority teachers are staying in the teaching field.
3. Ms. Texel shared that her department is working on a Minority Recruitment & Retention plan. Dr. Brimm and Ms. Texel shared that the district currently has in draft a Bridging the Gap plan that addresses many of the items Ms. Tucker and Mr. Bose mentioned. The plan has 6 goals: Graduation Rate, Student Achievement, Advanced Coursework, Student Discipline, ESE Identification, and Minority Hiring. It was suggested that we bring this plan to DMAC to share and then we can determine which pieces of data are still needed or wanted to discuss further. The committee was in agreement with this. Ms. Texel will prepare for this to be presented at the December meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.