

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
January 15, 2014 and June 19, 2013

Data Presentation

verbatim recording of the report and printout of this slideshow presentation are on file with the official records of this meeting.]

Superintendent Carvalho announced that the award ceremony will take place on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School located at 1410 NE 215th Street, Miami, Florida.

Dr. Perez raised concern about the omission of the Hispanic AP exams.

Dr. Feldman suggested that congratulatory letters be sent to the teachers and lead teachers of the AP courses.

➤ **Release of High School Letter Grades**

Superintendent Carvalho said that there are no "F" rated schools for the current school year. He also said that 86% of the District's high schools are rated grade letters "A" or "B".

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Following the Superintendent's presentation of his priority items, the Board convened the Regularly-Scheduled Public Hearing at 4:25 p.m. [A verbatim recording of the public hearing is on file in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary.]

REGULARLY-SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Thomas Gammon appeared before the School Board to speak on the topic, "Educational Issues."

[The Vice Chair passed the gavel to the Chair during this portion of the meeting.]

Ms. Helen B. Williams, The Rilya Wilson Advocacy Project, appeared before the School Board to speak on the topic, "The violation of the United Teachers of Dade Contract."

Ms. Janice Hill appeared before the School Board to speak on the topic, "Employment, Circuit Court Case, PDF Files."

In response to the speaker's comments, Mr. Harvey gave a brief history of Ms. Hill's case and advised the Board that Ms. Hill was afforded due process.

Ms. Carolina Cuadra appeared before the School Board to speak on the topic, "Addressing the Miami-Dade County Public School Board in reference to violating my rights as a U.S. Citizen and former employee."

Ms. Hantman

Dr. Pérez, a recent graduate of St. Thomas University's School of Law, was recognized and commended for this outstanding achievement and for her dedication and commitment to excellence.

Members of the Board recognized the various accomplishments of the school year and extended well wishes to all for a resiful summer.

A-1 SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO THE BOARD ON SELECTED TOPICS (Cont'd)

➤ **Report on 2012-13 FCAT Scores**

Following opening remarks, Superintendent Carvalho introduced Ms. Gisela Feild, director of Assessment, Research and Data Analysis, and Dr. Pablo Ortiz, assistant superintendent of the Education Transformation Office, to present this report. [An audio recording of the presentation of this report and printouts of the PowerPoint presentations are on file in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary.]

Ms. Feild reported on recently released data that would be used in the district's school grading. The following is an outline to Ms. Feild's report:

- 2012 and 2013 FCAT 2.0 Writing (Grades 4, 8, 10)
- FCAT 2.0 Reading, 2012 to 2013, Percent Scoring 3-5 (Grades 3-10)
- FCAT 2.0 Mathematics, 2012 to 2013, Percent Scoring 3-5 (Grades 3-8)
- Florida and Miami-Dade - Reading (Grades 3-10) and Mathematics (Grades 3-7)
- Science: FCAT 2.0 Compared to FCAT SSS, Percent Scoring 3-5 (Grades 5, 8)
- 2012 and 2013 End of Course (EOC) – Algebra (Grades 7-12)
- 2013 End of Course – Biology (Grades 8-12)
- 2013 End of Course – Geometry (Grades 8-12)

Overall, Ms. Field expressed that the data indicates that the district has shown great increases and improvement across the board. Not only did the district improve when compared to itself, but in some occurrences the district outpaced the state and reduced the gap. Nonetheless, due to changes in the state's law on accountability this year, the district's school letter grades would be negatively impacted. It was noted that last year there were 19 changes and this year there are over 12 changes.

The following highlights some of the changes that are the most critical and will have the biggest impact on the school district:

- Changes for School Grades for 2012-2013
 - FCAT Writing Standard raised to 3.5
 - Inclusion of new standards for science on grades 5 and 8
 - Reading 25% Trigger re-instated
 - Adequate Progress – Low 25% re-instated

Ms. Hantman

Dr. Pérez, a recent graduate of St. Thomas University's School of Law, was recognized and commended for this outstanding achievement and for her dedication and commitment to excellence.

Members of the Board recognized the various accomplishments of the school year and extended well wishes to all for a resful summer.

A-1 SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO THE BOARD ON SELECTED TOPICS (Cont'd)

➤ **Report on 2012-13 FCAT Scores**

Following opening remarks, Superintendent Carvalho introduced Ms. Gisela Feild, director of Assessment, Research and Data Analysis, and Dr. Pablo Ortiz, assistant superintendent of the Education Transformation Office, to present this report. [An audio recording of the presentation of this report and printouts of the PowerPoint presentations are on file in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary.]

Ms. Feild reported on recently released data that would be used in the district's school grading. The following is an outline to Ms. Feild's report:

- 2012 and 2013 FCAT 2.0 Writing (Grades 4, 8, 10)
- FCAT 2.0 Reading, 2012 to 2013, Percent Scoring 3-5 (Grades 3-10)
- FCAT 2.0 Mathematics, 2012 to 2013, Percent Scoring 3-5 (Grades 3-8)
- Florida and Miami-Dade - Reading (Grades 3-10) and Mathematics (Grades 3-7)
- Science: FCAT 2.0 Compared to FCAT SSS, Percent Scoring 3-5 (Grades 5, 8)
- 2012 and 2013 End of Course (EOC) – Algebra (Grades 7-12)
- 2013 End of Course – Biology (Grades 8-12)
- 2013 End of Course – Geometry (Grades 8-12)

Overall, Ms. Field expressed that the data indicates that the district has shown great increases and improvement across the board. Not only did the district improve when compared to itself, but in some occurrences the district outpaced the state and reduced the gap. Nonetheless, due to changes in the state's law on accountability this year, the district's school letter grades would be negatively impacted. It was noted that last year there were 19 changes and this year there are over 12 changes.

The following highlights some of the changes that are the most critical and will have the biggest impact on the school district:

- Changes for School Grades for 2012-2013
 - FCAT Writing Standard raised to 3.5
 - Inclusion of new standards for science on grades 5 and 8
 - Reading 25% Trigger re-instated
 - Adequate Progress – Low 25% re-instated

back to the State Board of Education before school grades are released.

In closing, the Superintendent reiterated his recommendations on the following issues: (1) *the FCAT Writing standards being raised to 3.5*, to consider both performance percentages and average the two; (2) *the changing variables in the accountability system*, to create a safety net by mitigating the drop in school letter grades and limiting it to one; and (3) *the state's decision to classify, grade and impose the same accountability requirements on English learners and special needs students*, to re-evaluate. [An audio recording of the Superintendent's remarks is on file in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary.]

An extensive discussion ensued among members of the Board, the Superintendent and staff on this report. Some points of discussion follow:

- The McKay Scholarship; the stigma associated with "F" school letter grades and the impact, particularly on English learners and special needs students; and the legal rights of parents. [Ms. Regalado]
- The Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards' legal concerns on the same issues. [Dr. Feldman]
- Facilitating student improvement in the areas of biology and geometry. [Dr. Pérez, Ms. Feild, Ms. Fornell, Mr. Carvalho]
- Addressing communities and their stakeholders about the changes in the state's accountability system and its impact on school letter grading, particularly at the elementary and middle school levels. [Dr. Holloway, Mr. Curbelo, Dr. Bendross-Mindingall, Ms. Castillo, Mr. Carvalho]
- The various layers of support provided by the Education Transformation Office, particularly with regards to staff development. [Dr. Bendross-Mindingall, Dr. Ortiz, Mr. Carvalho]
- The quality of teacher training programs in colleges and universities. [Dr. Karp, Mr. Carvalho]
- Explaining the decrease in performance in Grade 8 Math due to students participating in Algebra EOC in place of FACT Math. [Dr. Karp, Ms. Feild, Mr. Carvalho]

➤ **District Recognized for Information Technology**

Superintendent Carvalho announced that the District's IT department is a recipient of the 21st Century Achievement Award by Computerworld magazine for its *Learn Ideas, Navigate Knowledge (LINK)* program and was honored in the Philanthropy Award category. Computerworld recognizes organizations that create and use information technology to promote and advance public welfare, benefit society and change the world for the better.

In addition, the Council of Great City Schools' Distinguished Service Award was presented to Ms. Debra Karcher, Chief Information Officer, who was recognized for her service, professionalism and support of public education.

[The Chair presides at this point of the meeting.]