

MAST at Homestead – an elite senior high school with advanced programs in the fields of biomedical, pharmaceutical services and physical therapy.

The Medical Academy for Science and Technology (MAST) at Homestead will be temporarily housed at the Gateway Environmental K-8 Learning Center and will serve 9th through 12th grade students. The school will be permanently housed in the original Baptist Hospital building located in downtown Homestead.

Mr. Gregory Zawyer was introduced and recognized as the principal of the school.

Coral Gables K-8 Preparatory Academy – an expansion of Coral Way Elementary School to a middle school configuration.

Through this expansion, available seats will be open for choice. Advanced classes as well as electives in Spanish and physical education will be offered. Students will learn in a technology-rich environment and will have the opportunity to earn high school credits.

Ms. Graciela Cerra was introduced and recognized as the principal of the school.

Next, the Expansion and Implementation of Innovative Programs District-wide was presented.

Ms. Fornell acknowledged the presence of Ms. Aida Marrero, Principal, Blue Lakes Elementary School, for the wonderful work she and her staff have accomplished with the opening of the first Center for Students with Autism in 2009-2010.

As a result of the program's success, two additional centers will be unveiled for the 2010-11 school year, one at Gratigny Elementary School and the other at Redondo Elementary School.

The program's focus will be on communication needs for other elementary-level students with autism, utilizing state-of-the-art technology and research-based practices; model classrooms established as part of the Professional Development demonstration site; and a comprehensive parent education and support program for families.

The principals of the schools were introduced and recognized as follows: Dr. Aaron Enteen, Gratigny Elementary and Dr. Rene Baly, Redondo Elementary.

Next, Ms. Fornell recognized the Superintendent as the principal of the Primary Learning Center (PLC) at the Annex, as well as the new iPrep Academy.

It was then announced that for the 2010-11 school year, the PLC would be expanded to include two additional pre-

kindergarten classes, two kindergarten classes, and one first grade class.

ITEM A-1 CONT'D.

In 2011-2012, the expansion would continue with two Pre-K classes, two kindergarten classes, two first-grade classes, and one second-grade class. Eventually, in 2012-2013, there will be a total of eight classrooms for Pre-K through 2.

As a result of a partnership with Miami Dade College, North Campus, the district will be opening two STEM Academies, a Mathematics Academy at Miami Carol City Senior High School and a Biotechnology/Forensic Science Academy at Norland Senior High School.

Students in these schools will have dual enrollment opportunities through Miami Dade College, and they will be able to partake in the forensic labs in the new science complex located at the college.

The principals of both schools were introduced and recognized. Mr. Nelson Izquierdo is the principal at Miami Carol City Senior High; and Dr. Derick McKoy is the principal at Norland Senior High.

The Secondary Student Success Center, a program of choice, will be opening in the north, central, and south areas to accommodate approximately 100 over-age middle school students.

The 6th-12th grade high school program will be geared toward helping students meet their age-appropriate grade level through a combination of teacher-directed and online instruction, with concentrated counseling services, expanded community involvement, and parent-focused support. It will be a 3-year, 18-credit career preparation program. Dual enrollment will be offered through adult vocational centers, with programs leading to internships and industry certification.

The Dr. Michael M. Krop Annex will be utilized for a dual purpose, a high school credit recovery program and a high school course acceleration program.

The credit recovery program will be computer-based and will target at-risk students 16 years or older. The learning environment will consist of independent student learning, a flexible schedule and individualized assistance provided by onsite instructors.

The high school course acceleration program will be offered to students who have limited or no access to computers and who would like to accelerate through the virtual high school. A lab will be available to the students with online course content via the Florida Virtual School. The learning environment will include independent student learning, a flexible schedule and Florida Virtual School instructors.

Dr. Matthew Welker was introduced and recognized as the principal of Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School.

The website address and telephone number to the Department of School Choice and Parental Options were provided for parents to obtain additional information.

Mr. Carvalho concluded the presentation by explaining the basis for this transformation.

Members of the Board spoke in support of the programs, during which time they thanked the principals for their appearance and for their service to the district.

Dr. Pérez raised the following issues to which Ms. Fornell responded:

[Mr. Diaz de la Portilla assumed his seat at the dais during this portion of the meeting.]

- Would the over-age students be housed at a school?

Yes, and the Board will be notified once the sites are finalized.

- Was the Secondary Student Success Center concept research-based? Has it been done elsewhere and proven to be successful?

Research has revealed that over-age students do not perform well when they are retained at this grade level. Currently, the district has over 5,000 middle school students who are 15 years or older. Thus, this graduation option is considered an appropriate one to meet the needs of these students.

- Will the students take the FCAT?

Yes, the FCAT will be conducted through the Outreach Program.

- Is this being conducted as a pilot program?

Yes, and consequently there will only be three centers with no more than 100 students.

Dr. Holloway emphasized the need for programs such as the Secondary Student Success Center, the STEM Academy, and the Dr. Michael M. Krop Annex effort in the north area.

Ms. Garfinkle, Student Advisor, spoke in support of the programs. She indicated that she would be reporting back to her peers about the new schools/programs and opportunities.

➤ Inequity in the FEFP: Getting vs. Giving

INEQUITY IN THE
FEFP: GETTING
VS. GIVING

The Superintendent informed the Board and its audience that the intent of this report is to depict what certain counties provide in terms of economic investment to the state versus what they receive in terms of student funding investment from the state. It

was noted that the data collected for this presentation was provided by the Florida Department of Education and the State of Florida.

ITEM A-1 CONT'D.

Mr. Carvalho relinquished the floor to Dr. Richard Hinds, Chief Financial Officer, who gave the report via a PowerPoint presentation. [A verbatim recording of this presentation is on file in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary.]

A line graph was used to illustrate statewide “what each county gives per FTE versus what each county gets per FTE.”

Of the 67 counties, Hillsborough, Broward, Palm Beach, Orange, Duval, Pinellas, Polk and Miami-Dade counties were used as comparison districts over a seven-year period.

Of the comparison districts, the graph revealed that Miami-Dade County, over the years, maintained its statewide rank in the amount it has given in property tax funds per student, however, showed a decline in its statewide rank in the amount it has received in operating revenue.

A chart depicting the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) Equality showed that Miami-Dade County received the least in total funds per unweighted Full-time Equivalent (FTE), when compared to the other seven districts.

It was noted that aside from the adverse economic conditions, the phasing out of the “District Cost Differential (DCD)” and phasing in of the “Millage Compression” along with state holdbacks have contributed to the district’s decline in receiving funds.

In conclusion, the Superintendent and Dr. Hinds shared the opinion that the district would remain at a disadvantage, unless new solutions were devised to counteract this trend.

Mr. Alan Rigerman, and Ms. Karen Aronowitz, United Teachers of Dade, appeared before the Board to address the Superintendent’s A-1 reports.

SPEAKERS

The Superintendent’s report on “Inequity in the FEFP” generated a debate among members of the Board and staff about the state’s education finance programs, past and present, and their impact on school districts.

Among the suggestions made by the Board for changes were the need for a plan to acquire additional state funding, an effective and efficient use of state funds received, a review of strategies, and the election of delegation leaders who are effective, with an aggressive approach.

Dr. Hinds articulated to the Board that it was the administration’s intent to work on devising a solution to this dilemma.

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