

Dr. Perez raised questions about the manner in which this item was being brought to the Board. She wanted to know if staff should have brought this item; and Mr. Barrera responded, and the Superintendent added to the response.

Members of the Board continued to discuss the manner in which this item was brought before the Board for discussion.

Ms. Hantman explained that at Committee she asked whether the CPH was considering building on land owned or leased to them by Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and she received an answer from staff of; yes, that the CPH was considering building a transitional housing on the property now being used as a parking lot. Continuing, she raised questions regarding the amount of years left on the lease – 35 years. She then wanted to know who was the legal owner of the buildings to be constructed on land owned and leased by Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Ms. Rico said that she will get back to the Board with a response. And lastly, she asked who would own the buildings after the lease expires in 35 years.

Mr. Barrera felt that the responses to the questions raised by Ms. Hantman should be included in the report, detailing exactly if there is construction of buildings on the property, and the agreements that were made with regards to who is the owner of the facilities at conclusion.

Upon vote being taken, the recommendation carried 7-0. [It is noted for the record that Mr. Diaz de la Portilla and Ms. Rivas Logan were away from the dais and unavailable to vote on this proposal.]

Agenda Item **A-1** was moved to the floor for discussion at this time.

**MOVED AGENDA ITEM
A-1 TO THE FLOOR**

A-1 - SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO THE BOARD ON SELECTED TOPICS

**110,930
HEARD THE SUPERIN-
TENDENT'S INFORMA-
TIONAL REPORTS**

- **Ready Schools Presentation**

Ms. Dunbar introduced this item to the Board. She said that in September 2006 the Board authorized the engagement into a Ready Schools partnership. Dr. Clarence Jones, K-8 Division came forward to present the updates on the process on this partnership, and the collaboration with three distinguished partners; who also joined in on the presentation. Dr. Jones recapped for the Board, the following topics:

- What is "Ready Schools Miami?"
- Who are the partners?
- What are the outcomes for children?
- How are the outcomes accomplished?

At this time, Dr. Jones introduced three of the District's partners who aided in the presentation to share the initiatives of this effort; Mr. Greg Taylor, the Kellogg Foundation; Mr. Don Pemberton, University of Florida's College of Education; and Mr. Dave Lawrence, Early Childhood Initiative Foundation.

Ms. Dunbar added to the presentation as she recapped on “Where are we now? Where are we going?”

AGENDA ITEM A-1 –
CONTINUED

Dr. Perez took this time to thank the Kellogg Foundation, the University, and Mr. Lawrence for all of their work; in particular the Kellogg Foundation and the University for the Master’s Degrees that are very exciting. She then raised questions to staff about the number of teachers receiving the Master’s Degrees. In response, she was told that it was starting with 100 teachers at this time, and it was planned to add an equal number as this moves forward. This was a four-year commitment. Dr. Perez then wanted to know if the Pre-K’s were going to be housed in the schools. Mr. Lawrence responded yes, and then explained the dynamics of this program. Dr. Perez continued to raise questions regarding this item, which were responded to.

Dr. Holloway raised questions to staff regarding the onsite/online Master’s Training Program. He wanted to know if it was possible that this would be an incentive for most teachers in these schools to participate, Mr. Pemberton replied with the goals of their efforts.

Dr. Stinson felt that this was an excellent opportunity for teachers to be in a Master’s program that talked about best practice. He said that he was delighted of the entry requirement of passing the GRE. Further, he applauded those who engineered this kind of departure from “the strict traditional Master’s program” that he knew. In closing, he said that the way this was presented sounded very exciting and helpful to the cohort of people who will step up to the plate and take advantage of such an opportunity.

Ms. Rivas Logan raised various questions to staff for clarification about the program. Mr. Pemberton responded to those questions. In closing, she asked that staff provide her with the schools that were involved in this, and the schools that were expected to be involved in this for next year.

Mr. Diaz de la Portilla thanked Ms. Rivas Logan for the questions she asked. He said that on slide five there was an access to health services for children component, he asked that staff elaborate on that more, Dr. Jones responded; and to elucidate, Mr. Lawrence continued to explain. Mr. Diaz de la Portilla continued to raise questions. Staff and other representatives responded to the questions.

Members of the Board continued to raise questions and discuss this item at length.

[A verbatim recording of this discussion is on file in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary.]

- Diploma Options Presentation

Dr. Crew introduced this item to the Board, and then called forward Ms. Gisela Feild who provided the Board with a brief presentation on the issue of high school graduation rates, and what that trend data looks like. During a PowerPoint presentation, she first recapped the Graduation Rates (district and state) between the fiscal years of 1998-99 and 2006-07. Added to Ms. Feild’s report, Ms.

Dunbar provided a recap of the Differentiated High School Diploma Plan. She called David Moore, Principal of Miami MacArthur South; and Dr. Doug Rodriguez; to provide the Board with the Proposed Additional District Diploma considerations.

Members of the Board discussed and raised several questions to staff regarding this issue, which were responded to, as follows:

- What was the decision to not to have tracks based on the research? [Dr. Perez]
- Where were the counselors who will provide college information services to the students going to come from? [Dr. Perez]
- At what grade will the discussions begin? [Dr. Stinson]
- When do students make up their minds as to which of the diploma options were right for them to pursue? [Dr. Stinson]
- What percentage of the graduating, now, goes to college? [Dr. Stinson]
- The Professional Career Diploma option needed a lot more amplifying, so people really understand that these were students who were highly motivated. [Dr. Stinson]
- Do you have to pass the FCAT to receive one of the diplomas? [Dr. Karp]
- What is the student to counselor ratio currently in the high schools? [Ms. Rivas Logan]
- Does the state or do the colleges recognize these diplomas? [Ms. Rivas Logan]
- Felt that this was a great effort to move toward higher standards, which the District desperately needs. [Ms. Greer]
- Is there in the thinking about differentiated diplomas, some thinking about an emphasis on a vocational diploma, and what that would mean; so that children could graduate into higher level positions in some of the desperately needed job categories in this community? [Ms. Greer]
- How will the Professional Career Diploma be made available at all high schools? [Dr. Holloway]

Members of the Board continued to discuss this item at length.

[A verbatim recording of this discussion is on file in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary.]

- DADS Club Presentation

Dr. Crew again briefly introduced this item to the Board. He said that the DADS Club, in many ways, has been a much talked about,

but historically very difficult to have gotten started program; and that program is the bedrock of some of the work that was now in the process of being done. Continuing, he said that The 5000 Role Models' work was kind of a high water mark for what it could and should look like, and what a system should be doing more of, if in fact it wanted to wrap its hands around a most fragile and unfortunately highly underleveraged student population – that being minority boys. He continued his lead in on this item. Further, he said that the conversation being held in this portion of the presentation was a conversation of necessity. In closing, he stated the following:

“As always with this sort of thing there is a tension about what was, in terms of the 5000 Role Models, and how was that program structured, and then how are we talking about structuring the DADS Club; and where are the linkages, how could there be greater parity, where are the openings for a jointness of effort, and so on. That body of work that we still have yet to do is in answering some of those questions.”

Continuing, he explained what today's presentation on the DADS Club represented.

Dr. Kriner Cash came forward to provide the Board a recap of the proposed DADS Club. He presented the purpose of DADS Club, the evidence of need, the delivery of the program, outcomes for students and staff, the process, the cost, and the impact on students, community, and Return on Investment (ROI).

Dr. Karp raised questions to staff about whether there was a piece here where it was trying to get fathers involved in their children's lives. Dr. Cash responded that there is a social wraparound for this program, and a big part is working in conjunction with the Parent Academy and other social agencies to get biological fathers re-involved in their child's life, but it also has a large component – the Mentoring Component, and Character and Civic Literacy component have proxy dads. To get dads involved, Dr. Karp suggested that activities that they like doing be done.

Continuing, Dr. Karp said that there are national programs that were shown to be effective in doing things like this. He wanted to know if the District wanted to consider doing something that was already done and successful, rather than doing this from scratch. Dr. Cash continued to respond to Dr. Karp's questions. Dr. Karp then voiced his concerns with this item.

At this time, Dr. Crew explained the concepts of this proposed program. He said that this was not intended to be funded with general fund money at all. The intent was to present this to the Board in concept, and then assuming it gets the approval of the Board, then they will go out and seek grants, philanthropic dollars, and other soft money as a way of being able to go forward with this. This is not in any way, shape, or form going to be anything that comes at the expense of the general fund.

●—————~~Update on District Benchmarks~~

The following speakers appeared before the Board to address this item:

Ms. Helen Williams, The Rilya Wilson Advocacy Project, Inc.; Ms. Karen Aronowitz, United Teachers of Dade; Mr. Alan Rigerman, Ms. Susan Kairalla, Ms. Tangela Sears, Ms. Queen Brown, Dr. David Moore, Mr. Marion Rogers, Mr. Carlos J. Martinez, Mr. Charles Hurley, Mr. Adolfo Costa, Mr. Chi Ali, Ms. Dannie McMillon, Mr. Dante Starks, and Senator Frederica S. Wilson.

AGENDA ITEM A-1 –
CONTINUED

Members of the Board continued to discuss this issue at length

[A verbatim recording of this discussion is on file in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary.]

Regularly-Scheduled Public Hearing

REGULARLY-
SCHEDULED PUBLIC
HEARING

Ms. Karen Aronowitz and Mr. Fedrick Ingram, United Teachers of Dade, appeared before the Board to address educational issues.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Mr. Alan Rigerman appeared before the Board to speak to the topic re: “Schools – what works – for ‘Black Kids’: Leonard Pitts, Jr., *Miami Herald*; what works for ALL KIDS: Alan Rigerman.”

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Ms. Helen Williams, The Rilya Wilson Advocacy Project, Inc., appeared to speak on the topic re: “Hear ye, hear ye.”

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Mr. Patrick Collins appeared before the Board to speak on the topic re: “Accountability.”

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Mr. Frederick Bryant appeared before the Board to speak on the topic re: “In reference to not being able to be employed because I’m being discriminated by the Board.”

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Ms. Sharon Frazier-Stephens appeared before the Board to speak on the topic re: “What is the status on building Miami Norland new school?”

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

The Board voted to allow Ms. Susan Loreda, Ms. Mariam Orta, Mr. Pablo Orta, and Mr. Angel Saone the opportunity to appear before it to address Autism Spectrum Disorder.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

The Board voted to allow Ms. Marta Zayas the opportunity to appear before it to address the closing of some schools.