

Following the Board member announcements, discussion issues and new business, the Superintendent's Informational Reports were presented.

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

114,200  
HEARD SUPT.'S  
INFORMATIONAL  
REPORTS

- Posse Foundation Scholarship Presentation

POSSE  
FOUNDATION  
SCHOLARSHIPS

Superintendent Carvalho reported that since its partnership with the District last year, the foundation has identified its first cohort of students – recent graduates of Miami-Dade County Public Schools – who will be attending Ivy League schools. The floor was then relinquished to Mr. John Schuster, Public Relations, for further commentary.

During his commentary, Mr. Schuster, announced the presence of Ms. Larissa Ramos, Director of Posse Miami, and Mr. George Okrah, Program Director of The Posse Foundation, Inc., the two individuals who were instrumental in cementing the partnership between the school district and the foundation.

It was then announced that the foundation will be sending three posses of Miami-Dade County Public Schools graduates to universities and colleges this fall with four-year, full tuition scholarships. The students were called forward to be recognized.

**Posse #1**

The following 10 students will be attending Hamilton College:

*Sabrina Debrosse*, New World School of the Arts  
*Marcela Delgado*, Westland Hialeah Senior High School  
*Franton Green*, Miami Lakes Educational Center  
*Amareux Rodriguez*, Southwest Miami Senior High School  
*Myles Hodges*, Homestead Senior High School  
*Felipe Garcia*, Coral Gables Senior High School  
*Morgan Markman*, Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School  
*Jessica Moulite*, North Miami Beach Senior High School  
*Daniel Mesa*, School for Advanced Studies – Wolfson Campus  
*Tashane Campbell*, Miami Norland Senior High School

**Posse #2**

The following 11 students will be attending Mount Holyoke College:

*Ana Cesar* – South Miami Senior High School  
*Samantha Campagna*, *Jacqueline Oberlander* – Coral Gables Senior High School  
*Michelle Espinosa* – Coral Reef Senior High School  
*Crystal Reed*, *Candy Gonzalez*, *Summiya Tasnim* – MAST Academy  
*Jazmine Locke* – Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School  
*Vivian Mauri* – Young Women's Preparatory Academy  
*Gabriela Concha-Fernandez*, *Scarlett Montenegro* – G. Holmes Braddock Senior High

**Posse #3**

The following 10 students will be attending the University of Pennsylvania:

*Greg Almonord*, New World School of the Arts  
*Catalina Arango*, School for Advanced Studies – South Campus  
*Joseph Vick*, School for Advanced Studies - Homestead  
*Nicole Cone*, Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School  
*Isabella Dominguez*, Coral Gables Senior High School  
*Alejandra Munoz*, John A. Ferguson Senior High School  
*Afuah Frimpong*, Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior High School  
*Freddy Ordonez*, Miami Senior High School  
*David Vargas*, Miami Senior High School  
*Odette Ponce*, Miami Coral Park Senior High School

POSSE  
 FOUNDATION  
 SCHOLARSHIPS  
 CONT'D.

In closing, the foundation was recognized for its commitment and vision in enriching the lives of its participants and for its partnership with the District in fulfilling its mission.

On behalf of the School Board, the Chair extended congratulations to the students for their acceptance to these prestigious institutions.

- Superintendent Carvalho recognized Ms. Mindy Gould, who recently completed her two-year term as president of the Miami-Dade County Council of PTA/PTSA.

RECOGNIZED  
 MS. MINDY GOULD

As a sign of appreciation, Ms. Gould was presented with a plaque on behalf of the District. Joining the Superintendent at the podium for this presentation were the Board Chair and the Board Vice Chair.

Ms. Mindy Gould, PTA/PTSA President, appeared before the Board to address the recognition.

Following, Ms. Iraida Mendez-Cartaya, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration, and Community Services introduced the new leadership of the PTA/PTSA for Miami-Dade, as follows:

Ms. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert, President  
 Ms. Dannie McMillon, Vice President for Advocacy  
 Ms. Sandra West, Vice President of Regions and Local Units  
 Ms. Sandy Baker-Hoover, Vice President of Education  
 Ms. Taja Elbert, Vice President of Organization  
 Ms. Gisela Eckler, Treasurer  
 Ms. Isabelle Exume, Recording Secretary  
 Ms. Raquel Seales, Region I Coordinator  
 Ms. Waldy Blanco, Region II Coordinator  
 Ms. Sharon Graham-Watson, Region III Coordinator  
 Mr. Enrique Escallon, Region IV Coordinator  
 Ms. Terri Trivizas, Region V Coordinator  
 Ms. Julie Palm, Parliamentarian

- National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Scores

NAEP SCORES

Ms. Gisela Feild, Administrative Director, Assessment, Research and Data Analysis, through a slide presentation, gave an analysis of the recently released NAEP scores. [A verbatim recording of this presentation is on file in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary.]

The Superintendent spoke of the students' outstanding performance as evidenced in the Nation's Report Card. He stated that the results were reflective of the quality of teaching and learning that was taking place. It was noted that this was the first time ever that this district's urban students performed as well as suburban students across America.

NAEP SCORES  
CONT'D.

The Superintendent commended the students, teachers, principals and support staff for their efforts in producing these results.

A brief discussion then ensued with the Chair, the Superintendent and staff about the decision to voluntarily participate as a district in this assessment.

Mr. Carvalho explained that although a number of districts are invited to participate, not all decide to do so. Considering this, a challenge appeared for the district to compare itself with the rest of the nation.

Dr. Stinson commended the Superintendent and his staff for facing the challenge.

Dr. Feldman asked that the NAEP math and reading information for fourth and eighth grades be condensed to one sheet for distribution to the school principals. Mr. Carvalho acknowledged the request.

- Credit Rating Update

CREDIT RATING  
UPDATE

The Superintendent provided the Board with an update on the District's credit rating, which was illustrated through a slide presentation. As follows are the remarks made by the Superintendent:

"On June 4, 2010, Moody's Investors Service revised the outlook on the district's bonds from negative to stable. This revision was based on a dramatically improved financial status, since 2008, at a time when the District suffered tremendous loss of revenue. Moody's revision highlighted increased commitment to funding the unreserved fund balance, the implementation of significant expense controls, and the commitment to preserving educational programs.

Following the ratings improvements, the district sold \$124 million of COPs under the federal stimulus error provisions. The district was able to achieve \$39 million in present value savings when compared to traditional tax exempt debt, as a result of better marketing and a better credit rating. The ratings improvements supported a favorable condition of the successful sale. Of the sales that have taken place, this district's has been the highest performing in the state.

At the same time that M-DCPS came out of negative outlook into stable outlook, the state, as a whole, went into negative outlook.

Moody's is confident that the district will prudently resolve future challenges, based on the performance over the past 18 months. This upward revision of the rating outlook by Moody's signifies a positive step on behalf of the district."

CREDIT RATING  
UPDATE CONT'D.

Concluding, the Superintendent extended his appreciation to the Board for the leadership it has given in this regard.

The Chair stated that it was gratifying to know that the District is considered stable by a rating agency such as Moody's. He then congratulated the Superintendent and his staff for their support in reaching this financial plateau.

- Update on the Delays of the Release of State Accountability Data

UPDATE ON  
RELEASE OF  
STATE ACCOUNT-  
ABILITY DATA

In his report to the Board on this topic, Superintendent Carvalho stated that the delay in the FCAT scores this year has impacted the district's ability to schedule appropriately and make determinations regarding the appropriate placement of students, including decisions for summer school, all of which are on hold. As a result, there would be added costs to the district because some of the 10-month employees will most likely have to be brought back to make the decisions regarding the appropriate placement of these students. There are also concerns regarding the validity and reliability of the data that will be released.

The State Board of Education has posed a number of tough questions to the entities responsible for Pearson Assessment, and it has been discussed that they are on a hook for providing compensation back to the state. As reported in the *Miami Herald*, M-DCPS advocated directly with members of the State Board of Education for direct compensation to Miami-Dade for the cost that will be incurred, and which Pearson has agreed to pay. \$2.3 million has been requested for damages specific to the district.

The tentative date of release for the FCAT is now June 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Superintendent then spoke of the FCAT Writing Exam and the decision the state has taken in the reading of those prompts/answers.

Dr. Stinson shared his views on the comments of assurance made by the Commissioner of Education with regard to the validity and reliability of the test scores, which was reported in the *Miami Herald* article.

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Following, the Board convened the Regularly-Scheduled Public Hearing at 5:29 p.m. [A verbatim recording of the public hearing is on file in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary.]

CONVENED  
PUBLIC HEARING

In addition to speaking on their public hearing topics, the following persons were also allotted the time to address Agenda Item A-1: