

Using slides, Ms. Iraida Mendez-Cartaya provided the Board with an oral report of the results of the 2010 Legislative Session, much of which is delineated in the agenda item.

Next, Dr. Hinds provided the Board with financial information relative to the 2010 Legislative Session, an audio recording of which is on file in the Office of the Board Recording Secretary.

Following closing remarks from Superintendent Carvalho, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the Board tabled the E-agenda items and moved the A-agenda items to the floor for consideration at this time.

**Note:** See the continuation of the E-agenda items, to include E-76 on Page 46.

**A-1 Superintendent’s Informational Reports to the Board on Selected Topics**

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The Superintendent introduced to the Board Ms. Christina Diaz Gonzalez, who he said had written a book, entitled “The Red Umbrella.” It takes on a subject that is near and dear to our community, Operation Pedro Pan, which is a story of Cuban-American experience in the period just after the Cuban Revolution, from the perspective of a young person. She is a graduate of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and he invited her to address the Board.

Ms. Christina Diaz Gonzalez, author of “The Red Umbrella,” appeared before the Board to speak about the fictional story. Following her comments, she presented Superintendent Carvalho with a signed copy of the book, and provided members of the Board with a copy of her book as well.

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Mr. Carvalho reminded the Board that Florida competed in the Phase I Race to the Top grant application to the federal government. It had applied for anywhere between \$700 million and \$1 billion, funds that would come in to support innovation and education in the State of Florida. Unfortunately, during that first phase of the application process, the grant that was submitted to the federal government lacked one key ingredient, which was stakeholder input and involvement. It lacked the voice of teachers and school boards. Unfortunately, Florida was not funded, perhaps because of that lack of stakeholder support. Shortly after that, through Executive Order, the Governor appointed a working group and after 11 hours of arduous work, a collection of representatives from across the state, representing school boards, teacher unions, teachers represented through their statewide unions as well as union presidents, such as Karen Aronowitz, were there making a contribution. Not forgotten was the business community, and Florida chambers of commerce were there; legislators, senators, and state representatives. At the end of 11-12 hours, an agreement was reached over an MOU that not only addressed every single element which included the issue of teacher quality, accountability, performance, compensation, evaluation. It was done in a legitimate, honest, transparent way with everybody’s input. It proved

that once again, it is easier and better to reach a conclusion through negotiation rather than through imposition.

Ms. Karen Aronowitz, President, United Teachers of Dade, appeared before the Board to address this issue. She announced that she would be signing on to the Race to the Top application for the State of Florida.

Following Ms. Aronowitz's appearance, the Superintendent and the Chair joined her at the podium for an MOU signing ceremony.

During further comments, Superintendent Carvalho introduced members of the locally-formed Race to the Top Committee.

The Chair commended Mr. Carvalho for being appointed by the Governor to navigate this process with all of the stakeholders. He also congratulated Ms. Aronowitz and her executive board and staff for their support of this effort.

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In honor of Teachers Appreciation Day, Dr. Feldman expressed appreciation to one of his teachers, Ms. Glick, who was his sixth grade teacher at Treasure Island Elementary School.

For the record, and in honor of Teachers Appreciation Day, Dr. Stinson made the following statement while expressing appreciation to one of his teachers: "Let me take this opportunity to thank my 10<sup>th</sup> grade biology teacher, Dr. Robert E. Grimes, for inspiring me to go into mathematics and chemistry. He is still alive, doing well, and lives in Chicago. I visit him quite often, so we have kept in contact since I was in 10<sup>th</sup> grade." Dr. Stinson said when the minutes have been printed, he would send his teacher a copy of this recognition.

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Continuing with Agenda Item A-1, Superintendent Carvalho called upon Ms. Maria Izquierdo, Regional Executive Director with the Florida Department of Education Differentiated Accountability Region 5 Office, who provided an update on the 2009-2010 District's Educational Plan to Address School Performance. Her presentation essentially gave background information on Differentiated Accountability, its current process, and the various school categories.

Ms. Milagros R. Fornell, Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, using a slide presentation, provided the accomplishments of the 34 targeted schools under the Differentiated Accountability program. She also provided the Board with information on the Human Resources that were given to the schools in this program, the monitoring of tiered academic support, and professional development.

Next, Ms. Ellen Wright provided the Board with a presentation on the Success Academy, and community partnership where support is being provided by the private sector.

Mr. Jose L. Dotres, Regional Superintendent for Region Center II, addressed the Board with highlights of the work of the regions as it pertained to the Differentiated Accountability program.

During the discussion which followed the Superintendent's reports, Dr. Perez raised questions with staff about the new graduation requirements and the affect of same on this school district.

Ms. Helen B. Williams, The Rilya Wilson Advocacy Project, Inc., appeared before the Board to address Agenda Item A-1.

## A-2

Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools, recommended that The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, to promulgate a new School Board Rule 6Gx13-8C-1.071, Anti-Fraud.

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Ms. Helen B. Williams, The Rilya Wilson Advocacy Project, Inc., appeared before the Board to address this recommendation.

Dr. Perez said that although she is supportive of this item and is glad that the Superintendent is bringing it, she had some concerns that had been expressed by some of her my constituents about the need for this rule to go further with the establishment of penalties. She also raised concerns about the political activities of some candidates, which she felt were absolutely prohibited by Board rule and state statute.

Mr. Diaz de la Portilla referenced a section of this rule that pertains to complaints filed and the protections and confidentiality that are being offered employees who file these complaints. He was concerned about the kind of procedures that would be taken when receiving anonymous and confidential complaints.

The Superintendent said he understood Mr. Diaz de la Portilla's concerns, and after this policy is approved, he would bring back specific procedures on the implementation of the policy for the Board's review, but consistent with the procedures that we have in place now.

Dr. Feldman's concern was with those people who turn in allegations anonymously. There is a disconnect to the degree that some of the organizations within DCPS and its entities do accept letters that are anonymous while others do no. He wanted to be sure that the district would protect those within this school system who do not sign their letters.

Ms. Rivas Logan spoke in support of this Board rule, but she felt that it should not be necessary as everyone should know what fraud is. She suggested, in response to one Board member's comments about campaign violations, that those allegations should be turned over to the appropriate agency.

Upon vote being taken, the recommendation carried 8-0. It is noted for the record that Dr. Holloway was away from the dais when this vote was taken.