

In response, Dr. Greenberg advised that the recommended minutes, based on the National Standards for Physical Education were the minimum of 225 minutes per week, and that recommendation comes with an average of secondary school class sizes being between 45 and 60 minutes per day.

Dr. Karp went over questions that were responded to during Committee regarding the weekly instruction of Physical Education being provided by homeroom teacher, should the homeroom teacher be unable to perform those duties. He said that Mr. Woodson said that a plan would be developed. He wanted to know if the District would have the ability or the personnel to be able to do that. In response, Mr. Woodson said that it was sincerely hoped so, but if not other accommodations will try to be made to be sure that this does occur.

Dr. Perez took this time to thank Susan, and all the other people who served on this committee; and the four ladies that stood up that are absolutely wonderful on staff. Echoing the speaker, she said that within the constraints that the District has this is a wonderful policy, more needed to be done, and she was sure that as time passes new things will manifest themselves, but this was a crisis of wellness that was in the entire country. In closing, she thanked all of those that put this together.

Ms. Greer extended her appreciation to all the members of the Wellness Committee, who really worked hard on this policy; and to her appointee Ryan Ellis who was in constant communication with her; and others. She said that this has very significant implications. Other things in the society are faddish, and we seem to be swinging back into a period of time where we are going to have mandatory P.E. Continuing, she said that the dilemma with the prior policy was that by requiring P.E. in the middle school children were being prohibited from being able to take music and art, or any other electives because they were double dosing on other subjects. In closing, she said that she was very supportive of this policy, however, she felt that Ms. Aronowitz' point about cramming yet another requirement into the school day was well taken. She said that certainly hoped that in the administration of this well-intentioned suggestion, it will not squeeze out Shakespeare to learn about how to stay fit and not become obese.

At this time, Ms. Logan thanked her appointee to this committee. She also thanked the whole committee, and staff for coming through with this wonderful policy.

Upon vote being taken, the recommendation carried 6-0. [It is noted for the record that when this item was voted on Mr. Barrera and Mr. Diaz de la Portilla were away from the dais and unavailable to vote on it.]

See Page 56 for the remaining E-items.

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

- Principal and Assistant Principal State Recognition

Dr. Crew said that this item deals with a wonderful piece of recognition that he felt was long overdue to many of the principals and assistant principals in the District. Continuing, he said that he had the

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good fortune, along with Mr. Woodson, to go to Orlando several weeks ago. Slightly unknowing all of the things that were about to unfold, and having heard from the Commissioner that the District was going to be very surprised when they got there – about Miami-Dade's placement in the Recognitions for Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year. Further, he said that it was one of the most wonderful occasions there could be for the District in terms of its administrative leadership at a school-based level. He said that he felt that he wanted to say to the Board that the principals and assistant principals, that they were about hear about, were people who were not only deserving of this, but there were many more who equally as much were suitable candidates for state recognition.

Mr. Woodson continued to introduce this item. Five Miami-Dade educators won top honors at the 2007 Principal Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership during the Fourth Annual Commissioner's Summit for Principals in Orlando on October 2, 2007. They were introduced as follows: Ms. Adrienne Leal, Principal, Coral Reef Senior High School; Mr. Winston A. Whyte, Principal, Howard D. McMillon Middle School; Ms. Reva Vangates, Principal, Dr. Henry W. Mack/West Little River Elementary School (current principal at State School P-1); Ms. Dawn Baglos, Assistant Principal, Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School (Current principal at Crestview Elementary School); and Ms. Hilca Thomas, Assistant Principal, Howard A. Doolin Middle School. In closing, Mr. Woodson presented to everyone the five Principals and Assistant Principals of the Year for the State of Florida.

Dr. Winston Whyte, addressed the Board in representation of all the principals in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Dr. Crew took this time to address the principals and assistant principals for the listening audience.

Members of the Board took this time to congratulate and give thanks to the principals, during which time; Mr. Barrera shared with the principals how enthusiastic the Superintendent was when he called him to tell him about the event.

- Equity and Access Plan

Dr. Crew explained the reason this item was brought before the Board for discussion. He said that this item deals with an issue that had been discussed with the Board, specifically, asking the card question about the location, allocation, and distribution of programs that were in the school system, District-wide. He said that the issues were:

- A. The quality of programming on district-wide basis, (i.e., what things were good enough that should be kept, and what things were not); and
- B. What was the distribution pattern of the best of the menu that were offered children on community-wide basis, (i.e., should there be more International Baccalaureate programs, and if so, where will they go. As new schools were coming on line, what will be a rich and highly academic and chal-

lenging program of studies that will be useful and positive for the community in which that new school was being built).

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Continuing, he said that those were the kinds of questions being asked, and were being asked with an eye, not only toward the issues of quality, but because the District wanted to make sure that every community and the children within that community had access to a very high quality menu; an array of options that any parent could suitably place their children in, regardless of where they lived in Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Woodson continued to introduce this item to the Board, with the inclusion of a slide presentation. He informed the Board of the goals of this item. Following, Mr. Michael Bell came forward to present the Perspectives on Choice. [A copy of the presentation is on file with the office records for this meeting].

Mr. Barrera raised questions to the Superintendent about how the middle schools compared because it seemed as if the K-8's did really well academically. He wanted to know if there was a correlation as far as continuity. Dr. Crew replied that he felt that Miami followed the same trend as the rest of the nation in this area; K-8's generally out performed traditional middle schools. Further, he said that the question about K-8's here in Miami was totally a question not of what is the quality of the product; the issue for Miami is what is the distribution pattern, and the rhyme and reason by which a K-8 will be created. Continuing, he said what was really being asked for was for the District to be more analytical, more thoughtful, more market-sensitive, about where particular product programs were put that Miami-Dade should be replicating, should be utilizing more, but should be more strategic about in terms of where they are actually located. He continued to explain the reason for this, and what will come later for this issue.

Members of the Board continued to raise questions and discuss this item at length, as follows:

- One of the things heard from parents regarding middles schools was the size of the schools. [Mr. Barrera]
- Were there any plans to try to see what could be done with middle schools? Mr. Michael Bell replied. [Mr. Barrera]
- One of the things that cause some of the real frustration to the parents at some of the schools is that a rule was adopted, and the District was moving toward capping schools at 100% of capacity; and yet it was not happening on the ground. Students were transferring and enrollments were going in those schools that people perceived to be desirable schools; and leaking out of, and thereby further deteriorating schools that people perceived to be undesirable. Stability needs to be brought as part of this process so people in an area knew that their kids were going to the local school, and not using devious methods to go to other schools. [Mr. Greer]

- Why middle schools were never converted to a K-8? The elementary school was always converted, which cost more. Mr. Woodson replied. [Mr. Barrera]
- Research showed that children were usually lost in the middle school transition period between elementary and high school. The reason elementary schools were converted to K-8's was because parents wanted to keep their children in the elementary schools' protective environment. [Mr. Diaz de la Portilla]

Members of the Board and staff continued to discuss this issue at length, during which time, the presentation resumed and concluded. Subsequently, the Superintendent gave the Board an opportunity to hear the theory of a new framework for being able to look at this issue and then in an appropriate time give him feedback on whether or not this embodied essentially where the Board would want to be.

Mr. Wexelbaum made a few comments regarding the presentation.

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

- Importance of Integrating the Arts

Dr. Crew explained the reason the item was brought before the Board for discussion. He asked that this issue be brought to the Board for one very specific reason; it is a thorny issue, it has a multiple set of edges, the District is very interested and he wanted the community to know that the District was interested in protecting and expanding the arts. He felt that that is not what was happening in many cases. For a host of reasons the arts have begun to become truncated, the quality of teaching that teachers were actually afforded the opportunity to provide was much less than what they would want, and much less than what was in their hearts to do, in their capacity to do. He felt that this was an issue that the Board really needed to know that; it was something that the District was taking very seriously as it goes forward in thinking about the arts as a core subject matter. This is an important issue because it had not been thought of as a core subject matter. There was a body of research behind this, an enormous opportunity for the District, in spite of the budget conversation, to still have a pedagogical conversation about the value of the arts in influencing and challenging, and raising the level of cognitive skills the children come to school with, as well as they pursue when in school. He continued to express how important this issue was, and told the Board that they will hear much more about it as it was integrated into the discussions about high school diplomas, the whole conversation about elementary and middle school education, and in professional development. In closing, he said that it was his hope that this was a very provocative conversation that they could stay true to.

Ms. Antoinette Dunbar continued to introduce this item. She shared with the Board programs that children in Miami-Dade were currently being exposed to – a performance by a student violinist, and a video on the arts. Following, Ms. Dunbar shared the challenges of

this program, which were; Limited Resources, Scheduling Restrictions, and Professional Development.

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Ms. Greer commented on the presentation, and said that the Board could look forward to having that conversation, which makes her slightly nervous when the District was going to infuse yet another something into a glass that was already full, and it would be interesting to see how it can. She hoped that this was the beginning of a longer term conversation about how to make this transition. Dr. Crew addressed this matter.

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

- Competitive Grant Funds

Dr. Crew explained the reason this item was being brought before the Board for discussion. He said that he wanted to respond to queries raised by the Board with respect to competitive grants. He asked Mr. Carvalho to speak to that issue, and also, to provide an update on the special legislative session, and its results.

Mr. Carvalho felt it was very appropriate, as has been observed over the past four years, a decline in terms of total potential funding from traditional revenue sources (local and state dollars), that over a four year trend the level of competitive grant dollars has increased dramatically. Using a slide presentation, he explained the competitive grant funds and its sources for 2007-08 YTD, to the Board, which he said was responsive to the question that was posed earlier in the meeting. Further, he said that it was interesting to note that as the potential funding from local and state sources continues to decline, the investment at a national level in this school system continues to increase. He said that something right and something good, on behalf of schools and children, was happening in Miami-Dade and this was absolute proof of the recognition that something good was happening on the part of funders throughout the nation.

Mr. Barrera raised questions to staff about this item. He wanted to know if the District was receiving more money because it was available, or was it because the District was being more successful in the programs that it was applying for.

In response, Mr. Carvalho stated that the District was being successful because it was submitting better proposals. The programs that the District could showcase, as a means of proving to the potential funder, that this was a valuable investment – are very solid. Further, he said that Mr. Barrera's question was appropriate because in reality federal dollars have also declined, but the District's ability to land more of those dollars has increased at a time when both state and federal dollars had gone down. In closing, he said that Miami-Dade was doing better than any other county in the state of Florida, proportionally and comparatively speaking than most of the districts of this size or larger, throughout the nation.

- Special Legislative Session Results

Mr. Carvalho then explained the Special Legislative Session results to the Board. He addressed the results of the special session, dealing with the budget deficit; the specific impact of those statewide cuts for Miami-Dade; what this represents; increase as of now; the total increase per student in 2007-08; Workforce Development reductions; and what would come from the conclusion of the current session. He continued to explain this item.

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

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

Ms. Helen B. Williams, The Rilya Wilson Advocacy Project, Inc.; Ms. Karen Aronowitz, United Teachers of Dade; Ms. Maggie Palmer, United Teachers of Dade, and Ms. Susan Marie Kairalla.

Ms. Rivas Logan addressed the legislative session item. She wanted to remind everyone that the whole entire state budget was cut by 1.4%, and education was cut by three quarters of one percent. She said that this happened because everyone came together and fought for education. She continued to address this issue.

Dr. Perez echoed the sentiments of some of the speakers that spoke about the importance of the arts and how they benefited communities in every which way. She said there was a Board member in the past who was always identified as the main champion of the arts; Ms. Betsy Kaplan, and for a very long time the District was number one in the arts in United States. She felt that to continue that was absolutely important, necessary, and something that could only benefit the students. Further, she expressed her concerns regarding the cost of the reports that were presented.

See Page 52 for the remaining A-items.

Regularly-Scheduled Public Hearing

REGULARLY-
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HEARING

The regular session of the School Board meeting was temporarily recessed, and the Board's Regularly-Scheduled Public Hearing was convened, at this time.

Ms. Carmel Joseph and Mr. Wali Salahuddin, Florida Action for Minorities in Engineering (F.L.A.M.E.), appeared before the Board to give a public recognition of Ms. Niki Brown's tenure.



The following speakers appeared before the Board to address educational issues:

Ms. Karen Aronowitz, United Teachers of Dade, Mr. Fedrick Ingram, United Teachers of Dade, and Mr. Artie Leichner, United Teachers of Dade.