

- Suggestion that this issue be brought up at the end of a committee meeting for further discussion. [Dr. Stinson]
- Suggestion that this proposal become a research project regarding the use of technology in classrooms vs. in the home, to determine if technology would add value to a child's ability to function at a higher level in school. [Dr. Crew]

During further discussion, and upon motion being duly made and seconded, the following amendment was proffered:

**AMENDMENT
PASSED**

"...direct the Superintendent to research and develop a feasibility study for the implementation of technology and instructional technology explore the feasibility of contacting and working with Mr. Nicholas Negroponte and Intel Corporation and give this District the opportunity to give every student a laptop, and report to the Board on or before by the December February 2008 Board meeting.

Upon vote being taken, the proposal as amended carried 8-0. It is noted for the record that Dr. Robert Ingram was not present at today's Board meeting.

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

**110,564
HEARD SUPT.'S
REPORTS TO THE
BOARD**

Report on Beginning of School Year

Dr. Crew extended his deepest appreciation and support for principals, teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, security personnel, parents and everyone for doing such a fine job with the opening of schools this year.

Mr. Woodson joined Dr. Crew in expressing appreciation to everyone who played a part in the successful opening of schools this year. He reported that this school year, five new facilities were opened, and that the enrollment as of September 4th was 340,614 students. The district had projected that there would be 341,500 or more students this year. On opening day this year, there were only 60 teacher vacancies compared to 177 last school year; and 1,818 teachers were hired this school year.

Mr. Woodson also reported that there had been a decline this year in the percentage of out-of-field teachers, with the number going from 9.8 percent last school, to 6.7 percent this school year. Additionally, the number of student transfers had declined from 10,271 last school year, to 7,984 this year. The number of serious incident reports also declined from 118 last school year, to 56 this school year during the first two weeks of school.

Ms. Carolyn Spaht, Chief of Staff, commended Ms. Charlene Burks, Director of Instructional Certification, and her staff for having worked tirelessly to reduce the number of out-of-field teachers in the district. The number is lower than it has ever been in this school district. She also commended Mr. Woodson, the regional superintendents, and principals for having worked so diligently to assist in this endeavor. Ms. Spaht reported that the number of open positions on school opening had been significantly reduced, which she attributed to the new processes that are in place. For example, the number of online applications for teaching positions was up by 33%. This success is also attributed to the hard work being done by

principals working day and night to interview potential teachers, and the work of staffing officers and the recruitment department.

Ms. Greer expressed appreciation on behalf of the South Dade community for the two new schools that opened this school year in that area, and for the two schools that are almost finished that will be opening for the August 2008 school year.

**SUPT.'S REPORTS
TO THE BOARD -
CONTINUED**

K-12 Comprehensive Mathematics Plan - 2007-2008

Ms. Melanie Megias, Administrative Director for Mathematics, came forward to present the K-12 Comprehensive Mathematics Plan for 2007-2008. The following points were made:

- Comparison of FCAT mathematics by achievement level, Grades 3-10, 2003 through 2007.
- The 2007-2008 plan is grounded in research about what students need to know and be able to do in mathematics.
- The plan will provide a guide for teaching and learning mathematics based upon changing standards and the infusion of literacy and technology into mathematics classrooms.
- The components of the plan, which includes a vision and mission, curriculum, instruction, instructional materials, literature guide, assessment, FCAT resources, professional learning, parent connections, and community involvement.
- The Mathematics Plan aligns with national and state standards; advocates inquiry/discovery approach to teaching and learning mathematics as a means to ensure that students understand and internalize mathematical concepts; focuses on lesson design as the first step in high quality instruction; recommends that each school develops a learning support system to provide for the individual learning needs of every child, and that includes interventions as necessary; recommends infusing literacy, developing mathematics vocabulary, and integrating technology into mathematics instruction, and provides links to resources to support these efforts; advocates developing capacity through building professional learning communities; and highlights community partnerships.
- Ways that the Mathematics Plan is aligned to science: in the instructional approach; in the area of professional learning; and through community connections.

K-12 Comprehensive Science Plan - 2007-2008

Dr. Cyd Heyliger-Browne, Administrative Director for Science, came forward to present the K-12 Comprehensive Science Plan - 2007-2008. The following points were made:

- Review of the 2006-2007 Science FCAT Performance data: fifth grade increased by five percentage points; eighth grade increased by six percentage points; and 11th grade increased by one percentage point.

Data points indicate that the district is making progress, yet more than 60% of the tested population are at levels 1 and 2.

- The process used to develop the K-12 Comprehensive Science Plan: compiled data related to student performance on the Science FCAT; assembled team of science professionals to guide staff in the development of the Plan; vetted the Plan with key stakeholders; incorporated stakeholder input on the revision of the Plan.
- Some of the key components of the Plan: the vision, mission, goals, and underlying principles; curriculum pacing guides; professional development; parental involvement; instructional block; reading and writing in the content area; progress monitoring; and competitions.
- Plans for this year include: Implement curriculum for Integrated Science III to include more students in science courses during high school and to address low achievement at grade eleven; provide Essential Labs for middle and high school students; provide Pacing Guides for use by teachers to align instruction with state standards and interim assessments; utilize Interim Assessment data three times a year to gauge incremental student performance; incorporate a checklist for instructional walkthroughs of science classrooms for administrators and coaches; implement the Coordination of Services Plan; and implement Professional Development Plan.

**SUPT.'S REPORTS
TO THE BOARD -
CONTINUED**

Ms. Ava Byrne, Deputy Superintendent for Professional Development, provided the Board with an explanation of the targeted professional development for new teachers and experienced teachers. She also reported that the district is finalizing a partnership with two universities that will bring to the district a master's degree in science, and a combination master's degree in math and science that will also lead to certification in those two areas.

Ms. Enid Weisman, Regional Center 2 Superintendent, came forward to share with the Board the impact of this plan on the regions. Accompanying her were Ms. Lois Saunders, a curriculum support specialist, and Mr. Carnell White, Principal of North Miami Senior High School. Ms. Weisman reported that the district has developed a differentiated school site support plan, where every "F" school in Dade County will receive a minimum of one-day regional support; all "D" schools will have a minimum of one-half day regional support; and all "C" and above schools will have the support that the data indicates they need. There is also a provision for monitoring in order to have consistency throughout the entire district. Almost every 11th grade student this year was scheduled into a science class. A common fidelity check form was developed that is aligned with the Comprehensive Science Plan. Additionally, the regions expanded the 11th grade integrated science lesson plans.

Next, Ms. Lois Saunders, a teacher who helped to design this program, demonstrated one of the science benchmarks.

Mr. Diaz de la Portilla expressed appreciation to members of staff for their presentation. He then cited concerns he previously had with the previous science plan, but he was pleased to see that the district's immediate concerns about how to improve FCAT scores in the coming FCAT administration were addressed in the new plan. He listed various other aspects of the new plan that had addressed some of his concerns, which included a

clear vision and mission statement, measurable goals, the inclusion of various instructional models for first-time teachers, and an independent evaluation of performance measurement of goals and planning implementation.

One issue that Mr. Diaz de la Portilla said was not addressed was the timing of field trips. He raised questions about whether there was a policy regarding science field trips or any kind of field trip prior to the FCAT, and if there was a policy regarding taking children away from their classroom when they should be preparing for the FCAT.

**SUPT.'S REPORTS
TO THE BOARD -
CONTINUED**

During the discussion of this concern, Mr. Woodson indicated that principals are allowed to make those decisions, even though the district at times may impose moratoriums on field trips.

Dr. Crew opined that there are a lot of children who would learn far more about science and the way science principles create and sustain our world through field trips. He said that does not mean students would not have to apply that knowledge on a test or use it in the context of providing an integrated response to test questions or in-class test questions, etc. He felt that field trips should be incorporated in a meaningful and thoughtful way so that they bolster youngsters' interests and capabilities in science.

Next, Mr. Diaz de la Portilla raised the following questions with staff:

- As it relates to the FCAT, how will student performance throughout the year be tracked based on the science plan?
- How will the district identify the students who do not meet the State Sunshine Standards or benchmarks indicated?
- How will the plan be evaluated using student performance measurements to determine the parts of the plan that are successful or unsuccessful before the administration of the FCAT?
- Will there be feedback from high school students, via student surveys, to determine whether teachers are meeting the needs of students?

Update on Demonstration Sites

Ms. Lois Lee, Director of the Schools of Choice, came forward to provide an update on Demonstration Sites:

Ms. Lee reported that this year's demonstration schools served over 1,200 students and were housed in all six regional centers, at the following sites: Maya Angelou Elementary, Region 4, and Greynolds Park Elementary, Region 2. Arvida Middle, Region 5, and Cutler Ridge Middle, Region 6; Miami Carol City, Region 1; and Miami Springs Senior High, Region 3. The purpose of the demonstration schools was to create a learning environment where teachers shared best practices and students actively participated in learning activities. Students and teachers were immersed in advanced thinking skills, research projects, and problem solving. These activities took education in Miami-Dade County Public Schools to the next level, i.e., the development of 21st Century skills for a global marketplace. The faculties focused on implementing a teaching and learning model that acknowledge the critical role of standards, but also ensured that students could truly understand content and apply it in meaningful ways. Teachers and administrators worked together to explore the questions: What works in classrooms? How can we apply what works to help all students? Stu-

dents on the other hand worked to strengthen skills in reading, writing, mathematics, science, foreign language, technology, and the arts.

After providing a video overview of the activities in each of the six demonstration school sites, Ms. Dona Depriest, a teacher, provided a brief explanation about what she experienced in the program and how it is impacting her teaching.

**SUPT.'S REPORTS
TO THE BOARD -
CONTINUED**

Announcement of FIU/M-DCPS Athletic Partnership

Mr. Alberto Carvalho reported that Mr. Pete Garcia, the Athletic Director for Florida International University (FIU) and Mr. George de Cespedes, Chairman of the Athletic Association for FIU, brought a concept to the school district that would provide 10,000 tickets per game for the next five games that FIU will be playing at the Orange Bowl for the children of M-DCPS and their parents. The significance of this is that a lot of the parents of the children who attend our schools saw their first football game at the Orange Bowl. This partnership will allow over the course of the next five home games, 50,000 children and their parents to witness a bit of history, as the Orange Bowl will soon be no more. To the extent possible, attempts will be made to seek partnerships and contributions from different entities in the community to provide transportation for specific communities throughout the county.

Mr. Carvalho then introduced Mr. Pete Garcia, the Athletic Director for FIU; Mr. George de Cespedes, the Chairman of the Athletic Association; and Mr. Luciano Garcia, Councilman of the City of Hialeah Gardens.

Update on Special Legislative Session

Mr. Carvalho informed the Board that he had just been informed that the previously announced Special Legislative Session, scheduled to convene on September 18, had been postponed. The Senate and House were not able at this point to agree on the level of cuts or which specific areas of programs should be cut. He said that this matter was of grave concern to the district, as the more the announcement of the cuts locally is delayed, the more it would likely cause the district to have to make that cut up to an annualized impact on the budget.

Mr. Carvalho went on to explain the significant differences between the House and Senate in terms of the overall cuts, and what each chamber is proposing. He informed the Board specific meetings have been scheduled for this week and next week to address the proposals. He further stated that the legislative leaders are paying attention to the unison voice of all the associations that are advocating the same platform.

The following persons appeared before the Board to address the Superintendent's Informational Reports to the Board:

Ms. Nicole Popkin, fourth grade student from David Lawrence, Jr. K-8 Center; Mr. Julien Zaragoza, Biscayne Nature Center for Environmental Education; Ms. Helen B. Williams, The Rilya Wilson Advocacy Project, Inc.; Ms. Karen Aronowitz, President, United Teachers of Dade; and Ms. Susan M. Kairalla.

Ms. Rivas Logan made comments about the improvement in Science FCAT grades, and other comments about FCAT grades. She expressed concern about the future of the FCAT writing results in the district, and she raised questions about the FCAT Writing Plus, which replaced the previous FCAT writing exam.

Ms. Hantman expressed appreciation to Ms. Dunbar and Dr. Cyd Browne for meeting with her to provide a briefing on the K-12 Comprehensive Science and Math plans. She also thanked everyone involved in these plans.

Dr. Karp thanked Ms. Dunbar, Dr. Browne, Ms. Megias, and all members of staff for meeting with him. He commended district and region staff on the hard work they did in the preparation of the math and science plans.

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Note: At this time, Mr. Diaz de la Portilla announced that he would be officially withdrawing Agenda Item H-7. Upon motion being duly made and seconded, the same carried 8-0. It is noted for the record that Dr. Robert Ingram was not present at today's Board meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM H-7
OFFICIALLY WITH-
DRAWN**

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Note: Upon motion being duly made and seconded, the Regular Session of the School Board meeting was temporarily recessed, and the Board convened its Budget Public Hearing.

**CONVENED
BUDGET PUBLIC
HEARING**

6:00 P.M. Budget Public Hearing

School Board Attorney JulieAnn Rico announced the procedures to be followed by the Board during today's Budget Public Hearing.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted to move agenda items E-13, E-14, and E-15 to the floor for discussion at this time.

E-13

Dr. Rudolph F. Crew, Superintendent of Schools, and Ms. Ofelia San Pedro, Deputy Superintendent, Business Operations, recommended that The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, adopt the millage resolution for 2007-08 for a total of 7.948 mills.

**110,596
ADOPTED MILLAGE
RESOLUTION FOR
2007-08**

The following persons appeared before the Board to address budget issues: Ms. Karen Aronowitz, President, United Teachers of Dade; and Ms. Susan Kairalla.

During Ms. Greer's comments about the 2007-2008 budget, she spoke about the pending budget cuts from the State Legislature and those to be undertaken by the district. She felt it important for the Board's constituency to understand that these cuts would directly affect the education of their children and their schools.

Ms. Hantman said she made a proposal during the Board's first budget hearing, but it was not accepted nor even considered. Since that time,