

21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS BOND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – March 18, 2014

The 21st Century Schools Bond Advisory Committee (Committee) met on March 18, 2014 in Conference Room 916 of the School Board Administration Building. Chairman Martinez called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members

Mr. Roberto Martinez
Ms. Cindy Lerner
Mr. Cecil T. Daniels
Mr. Anthony Dawsey
Mr. Juan Del Busto
Mr. Thomas Eagan
Dr. Sean Foreman

Mr. François Illas
Ms. Gepsie Metellus
Reverend Guillermo Revuelta
Mr. Alan Rubin
Mr. Paul Wallace
Ms. Carol Graham Wyllie

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members

Mr. Jose Montes de Oca
Mr. Jaime G. Torrens

Miami-Dade County Public School Attendees

Dr. Marta Pérez,
Board Member
Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho
Mr. Walter J. Harvey
Ms. Milagros Fornell
Mr. Ron Steiger
Mr. Carl Nicoleau
Ms. Tabitha Fazzino
Ms. Ana Rijo-Conde
Mr. Raul F. Perez
Mr. Brian Williams
Mr. Leo Fernandez
Mr. Christopher Miles
Ms. Addys Lopez

Ms. Ana Lara
Ms. Dalia Rosales
Mr. Trevor Williams
Mr. Tom Knigge
Mr. Paul Washington
Ms. Magi Betancourt
Ms. Debbie Karcher

Other Attendees

Ms. Nichole Hefty
Mr. Glen White
Mr. Joep van Berkel
Mr. Stephanus vanderBerg
Ms. Elsie Hamler

Alternates

Mr. Roberto Martell
Mr. Michael Pineiro

Recording Secretary

Ms. Erika Duarte

Mr. Martinez welcomed the committee and advised that both the Superintendent and Dr. Marta Pérez would be joining the meeting shortly.

Mr. Martinez requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 10, 2013 meeting. The motion was made by Mr. François Illas; seconded by Reverend Guillermo Revuelta and passed unanimously.

Mr. Martinez introduced Ms. Cindy Lerner and in turn asked her to introduce the first Item. Ms. Lerner thanked the Chair for his willingness to add the topic in question to the agenda.

Ms. Lerner indicated that she has been the Mayor of Pinecrest for the past five years, and is now the President of the Miami-Dade League of Cities. Over the course of the last several years, Ms. Lerner noted she has become more engaged in what has been developing in the four county region of South Florida covered by Miami- Dade County, Broward County, Palm Beach County and Monroe County. In doing so, she has had an opportunity to observe the significant environmental impact of extreme weather events, climate change and sea level rise in South Florida, which is literally ground zero in this area. A comprehensive work group named the South Florida Climate Change Compact has been created, and all four of the above mentioned counties are participants; the idea is to review and agree on the scientific data and analysis that go into understanding this area's vulnerability. The group has come up with an action plan which includes over one hundred recommendations for what we should all be doing to become more resilient, and how we should plan for the future as it relates to planning codes, building codes, and future land uses. Ms. Lerner noted that if communities don't plan appropriately, the insurance agencies and the banking industry will be planning our future for us, which can have devastating consequences. Ms. Lerner noted that this has encouraged her to get involved at the State and National level, noting that she is Vice-Chair of the National League of Cities' Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Committee. She acknowledged that this information is critical, and stated that we are at the forefront of what is being done in the Region. Ms. Lerner then pointed out that the County has worked diligently at assessing vulnerability and implementing the recommendations that they know they must implement at all affected operations and properties. That doesn't mean however, that most people are aware of what they should be doing to properly prepare.

Ms. Lerner indicated that she has been working with Ms. Nicole Hefty, who has been involved in this topic in the capacity of Director of the Sustainability Office at Miami-Dade County for many years. There is an effort on-going to introduce this information to all the cities in the county in an effort to educate them on their responsibilities and obligations. Ms. Lerner noted that once she joined this Committee and realized the extent of building and renovations taking place, she felt that it would be incumbent upon the members to assure that buildings are completed consistent with this regional action plan, and that everybody else who has any kind of access to these types of infrastructure improvements in the future, understands what our obligations are. The purpose of requesting that this topic be added to the Agenda was to demonstrate that this is an existing issue, and that we all have to better informed and engaged in becoming more resilient in all of our future planning. Ms. Lerner pointed out that she has found Broward County to be more aggressive and advanced in their accomplishments, and hopes that Miami-Dade County can catch up in terms of the municipalities. She anticipates that the Board, the Superintendent, and his staff will be on par with everything that the Climate Action Plan compels us to do.

Mr. Martinez thanked Ms. Lerner for making it possible to have Ms. Hefty present to speak on this important topic today, and also recognized Dr. Marta Pérez for attending the meeting. He then continued by congratulating Mr. Alberto Carvalho for being recognized as the National Superintendent of the Year.

Mr. Carvalho extended gratitude for the recognition, and commended his team as well as the community. He also credited the recognition to a united School Board, which was key to this achievement. Mr. Carvalho noted that during the recession years, we've accomplished the unthinkable, advancing in a time when no one else was doing so. Opportunities were taken advantage of when others chose to recede during these dire economic times. As a result, the Miami- Dade County graduation rate has not only surpassed that of Broward County, a county with one third of our diversity and poverty, but it is actually higher than the National average. This shows that with determination and a good cause, anything can be accomplished. We know what steps we need to take in our communities and schools to address the issue of rising sea level. The information and solutions are tangible; you just need the will and the political courage to do the right thing. Anytime is a good time to do the right thing, and the past five and a half years have proven that. Mr. Carvalho emphasized that we will continue to tackle important issues. He pointed out that his style is to plan aggressively, and to engage in an excruciating planning process, planning up to the most minor detail. Thoughtful planning, in turn, has allowed us to kick start the Bond program quickly. There are dozens of fully funded projects currently in the planning or design phase. Mr. Carvalho announced that just this morning he presented a challenge to Meg Whitman, CEO for HP, to not only make a significant reduction on the digital devices being purchased by M-DCPS, but also to contribute \$100,000 for our foundation to support educational programs and I.T. Academies. This initiative resulted in a significant reduction in price, and a savings of \$150, 000.

Mr. Martinez commended the Superintendent and his staff and introduced the presenter, Ms. Nicole Hefty.

Ms. Hefty thanked the Chair, and also thanked Ms. Lerner for her support and collaboration over the last year. She stated that Ms. Lerner has allotted her many resources which have proved beneficial. Ms. Hefty has been working on climate change issues since 2003. In the early 1990's, Commissioner Harvey Ruvin was at the forefront of this issue. He introduced the County to the possibility of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, resulting in the first local jurisdiction to develop a plan for this purpose. It wasn't until 2009, when the County received federal funding through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, that an Office of Sustainability was established, allowing for the development of the County's Sustainability Plan, *Green Print*.

As the sea level continues to rise, we can anticipate that the impact will be significant on our infrastructure. Sea level rise is very difficult to predict due to all the contributing factors which can affect how soon it will happen and how high the sea level will go. NOAA and the South Florida Water Management District came together to create a sea level rise projection for our Region. The projection was an anticipated 3 to 7 inches by the year 2030 and up to 24 inches by the year 2060. This information was passed on to another collaborative work group, the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District. A consistent methodology was then developed for viewing land elevation in the four counties, and looking at a potential one, two, and three foot sea level rise scenario so that we can begin identifying areas in the region which are most susceptible to coastal flooding.

Ms. Hefty encouraged the Committee to visit the website to take a look at the Climate Action Plan, which contains over 100 recommendations. Over 100 subject matter experts were involved in various work groups to view the different sector areas, anticipating potential impacts while beginning to identify actions that should be taken in planning for resiliency. Ms. Hefty acknowledged the differences within the region in regard to resources and political will within individual communities. This plan is intended to be a framework to allow us to move together as a region, while allowing us the flexibility as individual communities to prioritize and identify how best to use available resources. A full copy of the presentation was embedded in the Power Point Presentation given to all Committee Members.

Mr. Del Busto questioned whether the Federal Government has any involvement in this. Ms. Hefty responded that the President and his Administration do, but emphasized how difficult it is to get a consensus at the Federal level. Mr. Del Busto stated that four years ago the Federal Government was buying land in the Everglades, and asked if they continue to do so. Ms. Hefty responded that this is all part of the ongoing comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. Ms. Lerner interjected by stating that through her involvement with the National League of Cities, a committee formed within it is looking into addressing and making recommendations to advance Federal policy. The President has recently created a task force on climate change, which includes local and state officials. This country-wide task force not only looks at the sea level rise which impacts South Florida directly, but it also looks at extreme weather events on the National level. One significant issue that both the local government and the County are dealing with is storm water management and drainage issues. The infrastructure is insufficient in all Counties due to drastic weather in recent years. This is something that the school system will need to take into account and be prepared to address.

Mr. Martinez asked Mr. Torrens how the District is planning to incorporate some of the aforementioned issues. Mr. Torrens began by stating that none of our schools are located within the two foot critical areas, even though some of the surrounding neighborhoods may, which isn't something to be ignored. One of the things included in many of the Bond projects is drainage improvements at multiple campuses. Most of the GOB work consists only of renovations of schools, but in the few cases where we are doing new construction, we are making sure that we are complying with these guidelines. Mr. Martinez questioned what is being done to ensure that M.A.S.T. at Key Biscayne is compliant. Mr. Torrens responded that this campus is located on a Barrier island, making it susceptible to sea level rise. The school is being constructed twenty two feet above sea level on stilts, while still utilizing that elevated space for parking. Mr. Martinez asked if there are any new schools to be built inland other than Norland Senior High. Mr. Torrens advised that even though this campus is not located within an immediate threat area, there will be enhancements made to schools in the Northeast area of Miami-Dade County (Sunny Isles, Aventura, etc.). All new construction will be built up to the higher standards.

Ms. Hefty advised that the task force agreed to project as far ahead as the year 2100 because there are too many variables to project any further. She stated that she believes the anticipated projection in sea level rise is about six feet by the year 2100. Due to high costs and budget restraints, it seems the more effective way to move forward is to use these projections to identify incremental steps which can be taken to begin designing infrastructure and services to take us into the future. Ms. Hefty stressed that just because a

campus is not located in the potential threat area, it doesn't mean that the infrastructure is not vulnerable.

Mr. Wallace asked if there were any comparisons which we can use, possibly from the 1960's, and asked if any sea level rise was recorded back then. Ms. Hefty confirmed, and stated that there has been documented sea level rise for the past 100 years. It has risen about nine inches in the last century. If projected on a gradual basis, it doesn't seem so potentially devastating, but because of factors like increases in carbon dioxide and thermal expansion, the sea level is expected to rise quicker and sooner than it has in the past.

Dr. Foreman inquired whether the County Commission had to vote on the Green Print plan, and wanted to know what kind of support or resistance Ms. Hefty had encountered from the Commission. Ms. Hefty stated that when the plans were initially released, they were in the midst of a Mayoral recall, causing significant disruptions. The plan was officially presented about a month ago, and passed after over two years of development. Despite all the disruptions, Ms. Hefty feels the Board has been supportive. Dr. Foreman pointed out that the graph in the Power Point shows that between 1980 and 2010, there was a drop in sea level. Ms. Hefty explained that the base line is the year 2010. Dr. Foreman continued by asking what the suggestions for the School Board are, such as mitigation and prevention. Ms. Hefty stated that there isn't an easy answer. There are many factors that need to be considered, and this Plan should be referred to in future planning processes.

Ms. Metellus inquired if the recent Water and Sewer Bond is consistent with this particular plan. Ms. Hefty stated that it is, and went on to describe a lawsuit between the Biscayne Bay Water Keepers, and both the County and EPA. The suit was brought about because in the consent decree, there is no specific acknowledgment or recognition of Sea Level Rise and how it could impact the infrastructure. The County has been utilizing this projection since it was created in their master planning process for water and sewer. They also retained a consultant to do an initial vulnerability assessment of their primary plans along the coast, including South Dade, Central District in Virginia Key, and the North Dade plant. All these structures have been susceptible to storm surges from the day they were built. As we move forward with the infrastructure improvements, it is imperative that we begin incorporating those considerations into the design of the improvements.

Mr. Rubin stated that it seems we are at a point where drastic sea level rise is inevitable, no matter what changes we make. Ms. Hefty stated that while that is a possibility, we can't give up. There is a lot we can do if we take action now to continue to make this a livable community. We need to focus on what we can do to extend our capacity to live here by thinking outside the box. After a trip to the Netherlands, where water issues have been dealt with effectively for many years, we learned that an idea is identifying areas where we can allow water to come in on occasion. This can be a space that is used by the community 80-90% of the year, but can become a storm model retention area on occasion. There are a lot of opportunities we need to look at so we can lead the way.

Ms. Lerner advised the committee that Senator Bill Nelson will be coming to Miami-Dade County to hold a field hearing on sea level rise at the Miami Beach Convention Center on April 22nd. Senator Champion will be concluding his road tour on climate issues in Miami later on that same week. Ms. Lerner mentioned some resources including the Georgetown

Climate Center, as well as the Greater Miami Chamber Sustainability Committee. The challenge is to get the word out and to plan appropriately for the future.

Ms. Hefty concluded by offering anyone with any further questions to contact her. Mr. Torrens advised that there is a link to the presentation on the Committee's collaboration site.

Mr. Torrens next provided an Update on the Year-1 Project Rollout as follows:

- We are concluding design on sixty eight Year 1 projects;
- Commencement of construction in most schools will take place shortly;
- The bidding for the M.A.S.T. project is taking place presently;
- Miami Norland Senior replacement will begin construction in the fall, during the fourth quarter of Year 1;
- One project will be in construction during this first quarter, which is M.A.S.T. at Key Biscayne;
- There will be a surge during the second quarter with over 50 projects; in construction;
- We will be winding down in the third quarter;

Mr. Torrens stated that the M-DCPS network infrastructure has been upgraded, and wireless capability has been implemented at every site as of February 28th. Mr. Wallace asked about the expenditures at mid-year. Mr. Torrens explained that the second quarter is when most construction will begin, resulting in the bulk of expenditures. Mr. Torrens proceeded to speak about the Bring Your Own Device policy which will roll out by September. Mr. Martinez clarified that by the beginning of the new school year, every classroom in Miami-Dade County will have a smart board or promethium board. Mr. Torrens confirmed and emphasized the importance of meeting this initiative, seeing that it is one of the Bond commitments. There will be extensive training for the teachers to ensure they are able to fully utilize these boards.

Mr. Martinez expressed concern over the possibility of technological glitches and the immediate availability of technicians who can remedy the issue quickly. Ms. Karcher confirmed that there isn't a same day service level agreement, but that there are technicians at every high school and middle school. Based on the number of active HEAT Tickets, technicians are dispatched to schools when needed, with the possibility of escalation if there are a large number of tickets being created for the same site. Mr. Rubin asked what the current Service Level Agreement is. Ms. Karcher responded that the District attempts to get tickets processed within seventy two hours, and that there is no Service level Agreement in place. Mr. Wallace suggested the option of creating a help desk. Ms. Karcher stated that there was a help desk however the District has found that HEAT Tickets are more efficient.

Mr. Wallace asked if Bond money is being used for any of this activity. Mr. Torrens stated that there are two components to the Bond Program, one being the improvement of the physical aspect of our schools, and the second being the advancement of technology. The promethium and smart boards are related to Bond money. The schools which are slated to begin in Year 4 and 5 don't have to wait to receive the technology upgrades. Every one of

our students will have this technology available for the 2014-15 school year. Mr. Wallace expressed that this acceleration is the greatest thing to happen to our public school system in our lifetime.

Ms. Wyllie asked if the parents will have internet access with their personal devices when they are on school premises. Ms. Karcher advised that as soon as the next two steps are completed they will; the next step being the configuration to make it possible to use Your Own Device, and the last step being adding the different access based on your role in the M-DCPS portal. Parents will be able to log on to the wireless once on the premises.

Ms. Lerner questioned the capacity to service every laptop and smart board with such a limited bandwidth. Ms. Karcher stated as far as capacity is concerned, the District has upgraded the data center to ten Gigabits per second. At this time, the District is only utilizing four Gigabits. Ms. Karcher also advised that the District utilizes software which allows us to prioritize the traffic of issues. The internet bandwidth costs have been cut down by 1/5th, from \$20,000 per Gig per month to \$20,000 for five Gigs per month. Mr. Dawsey inquired if the smart boards will be installed in any detention centers. Mr. Torrens confirmed that all sites will be receiving them.

Mr. Torrens reiterated that Year 1 projects are well on their way. We're in the planning phases and getting ready to launch designs for Year 2 projects. There is a group of projects that are over \$2,000,000 in construction value which require individual commissioning. The District plans to issue the solicitation for the first group of projects in time for Spring Break. We will be issuing additional solicitations for the remaining thirteen projects shortly after. These project specific solicitations are already underway, but we have the SBE component to keep in mind. The Board approved the first group of Architects, Engineers and Contractors on the Small Business enterprise program for projects between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000. This is also notable given that the inclusion of SBE and MBE firms is one of the Bond commitments. We are getting ready to launch about forty seven projects with construction values of \$200,000 and \$1,000,000. These projects will be assigned to these eleven Architects and nine Contractors who were commissioned by the Board at the March meeting. As the years pass, some of these small firms will build capacity and should be able to compete for larger projects in the future. For projects under \$200,000, the selection process for Micro Businesses has been completed, and recommendations are expected at the April Board meeting. This is the first time in M-DCPS history that we have a full complement of Small and Micro Business Firms.

Mr. Torrens stated that as of July 1st, we will officially be beginning Year 3 work. There are 68 projects which are either in planning, design or construction. By the end of 2014, we will have over 190 projects underway. One of the transparency items is the Dashboard, which is up and running. We are currently reviewing the reporting tool, which is currently under the Cone of Silence, and anticipate taking a recommendation to the Board in May. We have also commissioned through Parsons Brinckerhoff, the Program Manager, a firm that is documenting all the work. They have concluded all the before pictures for every single school affected by the Bond. There will be before, during, and after pictures to provide documentation to the community. These pictures will also help to document for record purposes. There will be a photo gallery created for each school that will be accessible through their respective website.

One of the functions of this Committee is to prepare an annual report to the Board, due at the end of the fiscal year. Prior to the following Committee meeting we would like to work with the Chair to put together a draft of a report which will be circulated to the Committee members. Once we gather comments from everyone, we would then have a report in final form which would be transmitted to the School Board.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the preparation of the annual report prior to the next meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Paul Wallace; seconded by Mr. Juan Del Busto and passed unanimously.

Mr. Martinez expressed that we are leaders in the community and that we need to get this story out to the stakeholders. This is a unique and great story.

The Board Treasurer, Mr. Fernandez, next provided a financial update by displaying the differences between the original GOB Issuance Schedule and the revised schedule. The second Issuance in 2014 was for \$100,000,000. The total inclusive rate is 4.67%. Mr. Martinez stated that according to these numbers we will continue to issue until 2018. Mr. Fernandez confirmed. The rates will go up, but so have the property values. This in turn reduces the cost for individual tax payers. Ms. Metellus questioned whether these savings impact or challenge the value of the property. Mr. Fernandez responded that from the Bond's Point of View, the levy would be equally applied.

The OEO Officer, Mr. Williams, commented on the previously mentioned success stories, adding that this last Board meeting resulted in the commissioning of our first Sheltered Market for Architectural Engineering project consultants for miscellaneous items up to \$1 million dollars. The statistics and success stories can be viewed on the Power Point presented today. The majority of these firms had not done business with the Board within the last five years. It was emphasized that the SBE program is a race /gender neutral program. Mr. Del Busto asked if there is more than one attribute for the program. Mr. Williams responded that the female owned portion of the program is all female owned, but the Minority Owned program is not gender specific. In regard to the commissioning on the construction management at risk, nine out of nine firms are minority owned, six out of the nine are Hispanic owned, three out of the nine are female owned, and one out of the nine is African American owned. The MBE's will be taken to Board in April. Eight out of the eight are minority owned, which we are extremely proud of. African Americans make up 19% of Miami-Dade County's demographic in terms of total population, making the 63% participation rate outstanding. Mr. Del Busto highlighted that the community really needs to know about these success stories. Mr. Martinez asked if this information will be in the report which will be presented in the following Committee meeting on June 10th, because he believes this presents the perfect opportunity to share this information. Mr. Williams acknowledged that it will be.

Mr. Brian Williams then provided a breakdown of the certifications that the District have done:

- 362 Applications received
- 316 Small Business Certifications
- 85% Certification rate in less than a year

Mr. Williams shared that they are working on three strategic partnerships with three agencies, targeting particular groups to pursue an increase in the Asian participation, Hispanic participation, Service Disabled Veterans and also Native American participation.

Mr. Martinez expressed to the Superintendent that with all these successes, we should be getting the word out to the community. Mr. Carvalho stated that the District could perhaps pen something to the Herald, although he has been told that this is a great, but repetitive story. Mr. Martinez suggested a feature story in August to coincide with the roll out of the 2014-15 school year. Mr. Carvalho stated that we are the largest school entity in the US to be under wireless connectivity. Having implemented this in all schools, in all zip codes at the same time is quite an achievement worthy of accolade.

Ms. Lerner suggested that the technology initiative should have its own Facebook page, documenting this outstanding progress so that the community could join and be informed from beginning to end. She also suggested that someone from the media follow said Facebook page on a regular basis to report all of our achievements. Mr. Carvalho expressed the fact that we lack a Marketing outlet within the system, making streamlining these requests a challenge. Mr. Martinez suggested that he can get together with the Superintendent's staff to discuss ideas. Mr. Carvalho also stated that through his social media accounts, he believes about 20,000 followers receive constant updates on his behalf. Ms. Metellus reminded the Committee that we do have an Outreach Sub-Committee, and expressed that we need to incorporate as many strategies as we can think of, so that we can get the ball rolling in regard to media outreach. Ms. Wyllie suggested that three or four committee members go directly to the Herald Editorial Board. Mr. Martinez asked the Board Attorney, Mr. Walter Harvey, if this was a possibility. Mr. Harvey stated that as long as the visit is publicized, it wouldn't be an issue. Ms. Wyllie suggested that a designated Herald reporter attend and cover future committee meetings. Ms. Metellus suggested that we do so, but with revolving media sources to reach out to as many communities as we can.

Mr. Williams stated that the OEO strives to reach every county and every community through their outreach efforts.

Mr. Brian Williams then provided an update on the Office of Economic Opportunity Outreach activities as follows:

SOME OF THE EVENTS ATTENDED:

Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce with Dr. Karp
Pirtle Local Hiring Outreach Seminar
Subcontractors Outreach Event with Turner Construction
Outreach event with City of Homestead

UPCOMING OUTREACH & PARTNERSHIPS:

Beacon Council Event
South Florida Minority Supplier Diversity Council Business Expo
Pirtle Local Hiring Seminar (MAST Academy)
West Kendall Business Association
City of Miami Gardens Business Fair

Dr. Foreman mentioned that he was speaking to Hispanic female business leaders, and noticed there may be a resistance to declaring themselves as minority owned businesses. Mr. Williams stated he has encountered that issue, but very seldom. While some people prefer not to be categorized, they do have the option of coming in as a small business through the race/gender neutral program.

Mr. Williams also shared concern with the vendor application process. At this time, when a vendor does an initial application with Procurement, they indicate whether they are a minority, but they are not identified in the system as a minority until they are certified. This is a disadvantage because credit is being lost. The OEO will now be tracking non-certified minorities as well as the certified ones, in an effort to track Minority Owned firms which prefer not to identify themselves as minorities. Mr. Wallace asked why we deal with contractors who don't get certified. Mr. Williams said that historically, there are firms who don't feel the need to get certified as a minority because they are getting the work anyway. It hurts the accuracy of the statistics being sought. Mr. Wallace suggested that we only deal with certified contractors.

Mr. Martinez asked the Committee if there was any new business, and encouraged them to do as Ms. Lerner did by presenting any topic which is deemed vital or beneficial. Ms. Metellus asked Mr. Martinez about the previous meeting's minutes. Mr. Martinez stated he was in the process of reviewing them.

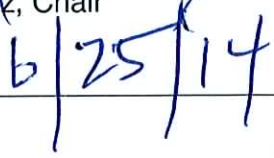
There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Martinez adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

Approved:



Roberto Martinez, Chair

Date:



6/25/14