

21st CENTURY SCHOOLS BOND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES –December 5, 2023 ROOM 916

The 21st Century Schools Bond Advisory Committee (Committee) met on December 5, 2023 in Room 916. Chair Roberto Martinez called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Committee Members

Mr. Roberto Martinez, Chair
Mr. T. Willard Fair, Vice Chair
Ms. Gepsie Metellus
Mr. Roger Cuevas
Ms. Andrea Graham

Dr. George Koonce
Dr. Sean Foreman
Ms. Julie Williamson
Mr. Jack Lowell

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members

Mr. Raul Perez
Mr. Felix Jimenez

Committee Alternates

Ms. Serena Paramore
Mr. Osmani Gonzalez

Miami-Dade County Public School Attendees

Mr. Archie Moore
Mr. Jeff James
Ms. Arlene Stanek
Dr. Linda Amica-Roberts
Mr. David Hernandez

Mr. Neil Singh
Ms. Nathaly Simon
Mr. Rick Yanez
Ms. Michelle Hicks Levy
Mr. Jose Gonzalez

Other Attendees

Recording Secretary

Ms. Denise Castillo

Mr. Roberto Martinez called the meeting to order and welcomed the Committee. Acknowledging there is no quorum, Mr. Martinez asked Mr. Raul Perez to start the meeting.

Mr. Raul Perez opened with a brief review of the agenda for the 21st Century Schools Bond Advisory Committee Meeting and acknowledged that Dr. Linda Amica-Roberts would be presenting for the Office of Economic Opportunity. Mr. Perez went over the annual report and Mr. Martinez stated that the Tenth Annual Report was provided to the Committee Members at the September 26, 2023 meeting. Mr. Perez started providing an update on the status of GOB projects, years 1 through 5 and accelerated scope projects.

Mr. Perez explained that in 2009 there was a great recession and Miami-Dade County Public Schools had to reduce its staff. Therefore, in 2012 when the GO Bond was established for \$1.2 billion dollars, Miami-Dade County Public Schools decided to engage with a program manager, an outside consultant, to provide staffing. Mr. Perez expressed that early this year, they went through a new solicitation process for a new program manager which resulted in staff transitioning to the new program manager and others transitioning out of the District. Mr. Perez stated that as part of the transition, the Board approved additional positions for Facilities. Mr. Jack Lowell asked Mr. Perez the name of the new program manager firm and Mr. Perez stated that it is AECOM and that they currently have program management contracts with Palm Beach County Schools, Orange County Schools, and Broward County Schools.

Mr. Perez continued to discuss the accelerated and complementary projects. Mr. Perez explained that accelerated are small parts and pieces of scope from a larger main GOB project that were pulled out in the early years to immediately address something, and the

complementary projects are projects that are funded with GOB dollars that came back to central reserves from GOB projects that are completed and closed out. Those funds are taken to the GO Bond Committee for review and then taken to the Board for approval as a F-21 item. Mr. Lowell asked Mr. Perez if they also have Capital funds separate from the GOB funds going on at the same time at the same school and Mr. Perez stated that was correct. Mr. Lowell continued to ask how someone that is not within M-DCPS could find out how much has been spent at a specific school. Mr. Perez stated there are two ways to fund projects. One being called blended funding which means that it has different funding structures and the other one being a stand-alone project that is fully funded by GOB or fully funded by Capital. Mr. Lowell asked where they would be able to see that information. Mr. Perez stated that they will not see the full breakdown in the GOB report, but that the information is available. Mr. Perez continued to go over the accelerated and complementary slides.

Mr. Perez proceeded to go over the expenditures and contracted amounts, and the quarterly expenditure slides. Mr. Perez explained that as of November 15, 2023 they have expended \$1.068 billion out of the \$1.2 billion of the GOB program with \$100 million being identified for technology and upgrades. Mr. Lowell asked Mr. Perez how this compares to the monthly expenditure of the Capital projects. Mr. Perez explained that this is in addition to the Capital projects expenditures and expressed that the Capital projects are roughly in line with the GOB expenditures. Mr. Perez stated that they are getting close to the \$1.2 billion, but to keep in mind that the \$1.2 billion is close to \$1.34 billion because, when the bonds were sold, they received a bond premium which means that the investors paid more than the par value of the bond. Once the bonds are sold, they go into the District's interest bearing accounts.

Ms. Gepsie Metellus stated that she does not recall if the annual report shows the amounts that were received from each of the tranches for the public to understand the amount of money that was available to invest and layout all the investments made. Mr. Perez expressed that the report spells out the schools, projects, and budgets but it does not have the breakdown of the tranches. Mr. Perez stated that they could reach out to Treasury to have them provide a one-page report that shows the additional dollars that were received from the investments, the sale of the investment, and the interest that were collected during that time. Mr. Martinez stated once they receive that, they can approve it and pass it along to the Board. Ms. Metellus suggested that it should be included in the final annual report.

Mr. Perez continued to cover the quarterly expenditure reports and explain the category breakdowns. Mr. Perez also explained that the quarterly reports are part of the annual report. Mr. Sean Foreman stated that he drove by Ludlam ES and that it needed painting. He knows that it was painted in 2014 but asked if they would be repainting and how often that is done. Mr. Martinez asked if that is GOB funded and Mr. Perez stated that it is not GOB funded, but they are working closely with Maintenance and School Operations to come up with some type of program for that. Mr. Perez expressed they currently have close to \$30 million budgeted for painting within the Capital Plan but stated that will still not be enough because, in today's market, to fully paint the exterior of a high school costs around \$1-\$1.5 million, around \$750K-\$800K for a middle school and around \$500K for an elementary.

Mr. Perez expressed that currently funding is the concern, and that the Legislature has approved the concept of the dollar following the child. He stated that for the most part the local Capital millage was the School District's but, with the legislature change, it now follows the child, therefore the local Capital millage is having to be shared with charter schools. Mr. Martinez asked if there is a list showing which schools are receiving those funds that are not managed by Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Mr. Perez stated that list could be requested from the Charter and from the Finance offices. Mr. Martinez asked if those funds would go to whichever school the child attends, even if it is homeschooling and Mr. Perez confirmed that is the case. Mr. Perez expressed that charter schools can use those Capital dollars in another county. Mr. Martinez asked if that has been challenged since it is money that should be spent in Miami-Dade County. Ms. Mettellus expressed concern about the ownership of the charter school buildings because it is public dollars going to private entities.

Mr. Perez expressed that the implementation is being phased out with a 20% increase every year. By the time it reaches Year 5, the projected amount of all 5 years added together, is roughly a \$400 million shift that will be provided to charter schools. Once it is fully implemented at the 100% range, it is just over \$200 million per year which means that in the next 5-Year Plan, there will be roughly \$1 billion dollars going to charter schools. At that point, schools might not be painted every 10-12 year, it might have to be every 15 years.

Mr. Lowell asked if the percentage change was done statewide. Mr. Perez stated that it was done to the Capital Plan which is the local millage for every District in the state. Mr. Martinez stated that at the last GO Bond Advisory meeting Mr. Lowell asked what was happening after the GO Bond has been completed. Mr. Martinez expressed that he was aware of Mr. Lowell meeting with Mr. Perez regarding what is next, and Mr. Martinez requested that he go back to the Committee to report on the outcome in the next meeting and then present a recommendation to the School Board in June. Mr. Lowell stated that he would like to have an action plan by March.

Mr. Perez introduced Dr. Linda Amica-Roberts to provide the OEO update. Dr. Amica-Roberts, from the Office of Economic Opportunity, started with the infographic slide and moved onto the GOB Prime Expenditures summary. Mr. Martinez asked Dr. Amica-Roberts what school site workforce review means. Dr. Amica-Roberts stated that they must review everything to make sure it is in compliance. Ms. Michelle Hicks Levy explained that they go out to the sites to verify staff is properly badged and to check the site for all the documentation needed. Mr. Perez expressed that one of the functions that OEO establishes is with small and micro business percentage goals, minority/women business goals, and local workforce goals. Mr. Lowell asked if this methodology is being followed with the Capital Improvement projects and Mr. Perez confirmed that it is being followed and explained that the only difference in projects is the funding source.

Dr. Amica-Roberts continued with the GOB Prime Expenditures summary and then reviewed the certified firms. Ms. Metellus asked Dr. Amica-Roberts if the increase was in work, or the number of firms certified, and Dr. Amica-Roberts explained that it was work because it is expenditures that have been paid to the certified firms. Dr. Amica-Roberts also reviewed the contractor pre-qualification dashboard, as well as the compliance update regarding certifications and goals established for firms. Dr. Amica-Roberts

reviewed slides regarding compliance, upcoming events, and infographic. Mr. Lowell asked if they use the same process for the Capital projects and Dr. Amica-Roberts explained they have the same process for all projects regardless of funding structure. Mr. Foreman asked Dr. Amica-Roberts if she is finding that the community still does not know about the program. Dr. Amica-Roberts stated that it does require some education and understanding about being certified along with what that means.

Mr. Martinez expressed that this area is very important to him and to the entire community for diversity and the economic development for the County. Mr. Martinez asked for a volunteer from the Committee to meet with Dr. Amica-Roberts before the next meeting to find a way to continue the program and make it better. Ms. Metellus volunteered and stated that she would meet with Dr. Amica-Roberts.

Mr. Martinez stated that the Tenth Annual Report was handed out in the previous meeting and acknowledged that there was no quorum. He also advised the Committee if they had any changes or updates to the meeting minutes that were passed out, to let staff know to have them updated.

Mr. Lowell stated that in the last meeting he brought up an issue with the air conditioner at Coral Gables Senior High School and stated that he believes it is not part of the GO Bond, but stated that Mr. Perez explained that there was a slowdown in the supply chain, however he wanted to find out what the status was with the GOB project. Mr. Perez explained that the GOB project is on its way and that it will be ongoing. Mr. Perez also advised Mr. Lowell that he would send him the 5-Year Plan for Coral Gables Senior High School.

Mr. Foreman asked about why there would be a playground at Coral Gables Senior High School and Mr. Perez explained that some of the high schools have an early childcare program for employees at the school or residences around the school where they can bring their child to that classroom where the students help, and the playgrounds are used for that purpose.

Mr. Martinez expressed that he is all for choice but wanted clarification on how the funds follow the child. Mr. Perez explained that the GOB money is 100% Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Mr. Martinez asked about the Save Our Teachers program and Mr. Perez explained that is shared with the charter schools. Mr. Perez explained that it is the local Capital Outlay that is being given to the charter schools and they are the ones that can spend it anywhere. Mr. Martinez asked where that money comes from, and Mr. Perez confirmed that it comes from property taxes within Miami-Dade County. Mr. Martinez asked if that money is local tax, shouldn't that be spent locally. Mr. Perez expressed that the charter schools have the flexibility to use those funds in other counties. Mr. Martinez asked if anyone has challenged that, and Ms. Metellus expressed that she feels it should be challenged. Ms. Julie Williamson stated that she is willing to challenge it but wanted to find out from Mr. Luis Garcia to see if it has already been challenged. Mr. Martinez stated that he would get with Mr. Garcia to find out.

Mr. Perez expressed that there was one final topic on the agenda covering the subcontractor's performance bonds. Mr. Perez went over subcontractors' performance bonds and explained the exhibits on slide 36. Mr. Lowell asked about the \$400K credit

and Mr. Perez expressed that the \$400K credit went back individually into each project. Mr. Martinez asked how the subcontractor performance bond impacts OEO and the businesses that are certified with them. Mr. Perez expressed that it actually helps because the issue with the small/micro and minority businesses is that they cannot get a bond but, by changing those parameters, they are now able to get a bond.

Having exhausted all the agenda topics, the Chair, Mr. Roberto Martinez, reminded the Committee that the next meeting would be held on March 5, 2024.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:25 p.m.

Approved:


Mr. Roberto Martinez, Chair

Date:


3/5/24