

21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS BOND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – June 25, 2014

The 21st Century Schools Bond Advisory Committee (Committee) met on June 25, 2014 in Conference Room 916 of the School Board Administration Building. Chairman Martinez called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

Committee Members

Mr. Roberto Martinez
Ms. Cindy Lerner
Mr. Anthony Dawsey
Mr. Juan Del Busto
Dr. Jaap Donath
Mr. T. Willard Fair
Dr. Sean Foreman

Mr. Samuel Lee Gilmore Jr
Mr. François Illas
Mr. Jack Lowell
Ms. Gepsie Metellus
Mr. Alan Rubin
Mr. Paul Wallace
Ms. Carol Graham Wyllie

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members

Representative Erik Fresen
Mr. Jose Montes de Oca
Mr. Jaime G. Torrens

Miami-Dade County Public School Attendees

Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho
Mr. Jose L. Dotres
Ms. Iraida Mendez-Cartaya
Mr. Carl Nicoleau
Ms. Tabitha Fazzino
Ms. Ana Rijo-Conde
Mr. Raul F. Perez
Mr. Brian Williams
Ms. Magi Betancourt
Mr. Blake Juste
Ms. Corina Bethencourt
Ms. Carmen Naumann

Mr. Tom Knigge
Dr. Sylvia Diaz
Mr. Julian Lafaure
Ms. Melody Thelwell
Mr. Luis M. Garcia
Mr. Paul Washington
Mr. Torey Alston
Mr. Rick Yanez
Ms. Denise Landman
Mr. Felix Jimenez
Ms. Debbie Karcher
Ms. Arlene Stanek

Other Attendees

Mr. Glen White
Mr. Ron Frazier
Mr. Jesus Tundidor
Mr. R.L. Gaiter

Recording Secretary

Ms. Erika Duarte

Mr. Martinez called the meeting to order and noted that this is the first Committee meeting of the second fiscal year of its existence. He proceeded to congratulate the Superintendent on another great year, and welcomed comments from Mr. Carvalho.

Mr. Carvalho began by thanking the Committee for their volunteer work on behalf of the taxpayers of Miami-Dade County and for providing implementation oversight of Proposition 222. One of the promises made was to renovate schools and bring them up to a 21st Century standard. Another promise made dealt with technology and how it will be made accessible and ubiquitous in all schools across Miami-Dade. Recognizing the direction the state is taking in terms of digital content and adoption of text books, we wanted to take steps which both satisfy the State requirements while also dramatically augmenting opportunity in our schools. The first step taken was to expand broadband access and wireless connectivity. We achieved this milestone four years in advance of President

Obama's declaration that by the year 2018, all schools in the Nation will be wirelessly connected.

The second step is that we will be bringing Promethean technology to all classrooms. Promethean itself certified that we effectuated the single largest purchase in the world when we acquired over 10,000 Promethean boards equipped with surround sound systems. The county was divided into eight sectors to procure simultaneous installation and configuration of these devices. Every single classroom in Miami-Dade will have a Promethean board installed by the first day of the new school year. Teachers are receiving professional development.

The third step is that one-to-one student-to-device needs to become a reality in this District before any other District of this magnitude, in the country. Using Los Angeles California as an example, they seem to be experiencing troubles with their deployment. They decided to bond the purchase of iPads at a price of \$800 a piece, opting to pay for them over the next 30 years, making them effectively \$25,000 each. iPads however have a life expectancy of about five years. This School Board however did not use Bond money to buy student devices. Instead, the District acquired a very low interest rate loan with Bank of America for a span of five years in order to avoid paying for the device any longer then we will be paying the loan. Devices have been distributed to a few thousand students this summer in an effort to study the resiliency of the device in the hands of students for a prolonged period of time, as well as fees associated with things like insurance and theft. The goal by the second quarter of the following school year is to have deployed over 100,000 devices into the hands of our students.

Mr. Carvalho then noted briefly that all Year 1 and Year 2 construction projects are ongoing and active at this time, specifically projects ranging from one to two million dollars. Also notable is the fact that the larger projects such as the replacement of Norland and M.A.S.T. Academy are moving forward swiftly, along with the eradication of portables as projects are completed. Mr. Carvalho expressed his satisfaction with progress to date.

Mr. Martinez noted the District's remarkable achievement with respect to the technological advances taking place, and that we shouldn't take this for granted given the size of the school district. He added that schools are excited when they receive their Promethean boards. Mr. Carvalho indicated that Promethean board deliveries have reached rates of one thousand units per week, with four to five thousand boards already installed. Another important aspect of this initiative is that all installations are being done by local firms, helping to stimulate the local economy.

Mr. Carvalho referred to the pamphlet distributed at the meeting, and emphasized that indispensable to the on-going work are the Inspector General, the Chief Auditor, the Attorney General, and a Federal entity, which could be here at any time without notice, to ensure that the implementation of this Bond is executed in a faithful, legal, ethical, and moral way. We are going to prove that government can be just that. Mr. Carvalho noted that there is no influence over Procurement decisions. The Board reacts to recommendations that are based on a competitive process. My first act as Superintendent was to reform the lobbying rules for Miami-Dade County Public Schools. One cannot lobby for projects until there is a recommendation from the Superintendent. Projects which are competitively bid enter a "Cone of Silence" that prevents lobbyists from speaking with the

Board, the Superintendent or his staff, until he has advanced a formal recommendation through the public record to the Board. Mr. Carvalho praised the partnership between the Inspector General, the Chief Auditor, and all the other entities with full subpoena investigative power, all of whom are here to ensure that we live up to the promises made.

Ms. Wyllie asked the Superintendent how the technology we are offering in public schools compares to the technology being offered in charter schools. Mr. Carvalho responded that there is a wide range within the charter and private schools systems. There are some schools where all students have been provided their own device, but they are operating on a smaller scale. What's being procured in charter schools is very comparable to what we are delivering. It's a diverse spectrum.

Mr. Martinez advised that the Board should have received an email containing the Annual Report handed out in the meeting, which details the work done by the District on the Bond program. Approval will not be required at the meeting, but Mr. Martinez requested that the members begin reviewing and relaying any questions or comments about the report to Mr. Torrens and his staff. At some point this summer, action will need to be taken on the report before it is transmitted to the School Board. Today is the beginning of this process, and Mr. Martinez stressed the importance of this communication for both the Committee and the community.

Mr. Torrens began with an update of the GOB program, and initiated the presentation by displaying progress pictures of a few of the schools to showcase the work underway, with some pieces essentially completed. An example was Gertrude Edelman/Sabal Palm Elementary, where all the windows have been replaced with impact resistant windows. Mr. Lowell suggested that the address of each of the schools be added to the report to help the community relate instantaneously. Mr. Torrens stated that it would be done. Mr. Torrens continued his presentation by mentioning M.A.S.T. Academy, the contract for which was approved by the Board last month, and work has already begun. Mr. Martinez questioned whether the work at M.A.S.T. is being done on piles. Mr. Torrens confirmed, and pointed out that the school is located on a barrier island, which posed a challenge. To overcome this obstacle, the work being done on piles and a garage is being built on the first two levels, making the occupied space essentially three floors above ground level.

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

- 30 substantial projects are in construction out of 68
- 13 playground surface and/or replacements are underway or completed; these were accelerated components in an effort to complete them before the beginning of the school year
- Portable removal is being aggressively pursued where they are not needed for swing space

Mr. Martinez asked the committee to turn to page 13 in the report, which is a listing of the Year-1 projects. Ms. Lerner asked what happens to the portables when they are removed. Mr. Torrens explained that they are typically demolished after everything of value is salvaged, such as air conditioning units. The Maintenance Department inspects and removes any component that has value.

Mr. Martinez pointed out that there may not be any room in pages 13 and 14 of the report to add the address of each school per Mr. Lowell's suggestion. Mr. Torrens confirmed that the address for each school would be added on the individual one page summaries.

Representative Fresen pointed out that the information displayed shows that multiple projects are in design versus in construction, and asked how early in the construction phase the information is updated. Mr. Torrens reminded the committee that this report is the annual report through March 31st. While this information is not "real time", updates are provided periodically. Rep. Fresen clarified that multiple projects contained in this report are in construction at this time, even though they are noted to be in the design phase. Mr. Torrens confirmed. He continued by exhibiting before and after pictures of various schools throughout the county, displaying the remarkable progress that has taken place.

Mr. Torrens continued with the Update on the Year-1 Project Rollout as follows:

- Design for Miami Norland Senior High is underway, with construction slated to begin this fall, per schedule. The contract for construction is anticipated to be awarded by November
- M.A.S.T. is currently under construction
 - The first piece is the new building being constructed in front of the current school along with renovations to existing building
 - Work will be completed and occupancy is expected by next August
- By the fall of this Year, all 68 projects will be well into construction
- There are 76 smaller projects which were accelerated in the hope of limiting disruption to the schools

Mr. Torrens next provided an Update on the Year-2 Project Rollout as follows:

- There are 55 projects, which have been assigned to our SBE and Micro Business firms, both for Architectural/ Engineering Services as well as for construction. This is a parallel program which we were advertising before we issued solicitations
- Scopes are currently being finalized, with design slated to begin in the fall
- All projects have been assigned to individual firms based on their ranking, and organized geographically to facilitate delivery

Mr. Torrens made note that most of these SBE firms have never done work with a government entity before, and stated that it was crucial that they understood how to do business with M-DCPS, and more importantly how to properly conduct work on school premises. A three-day training session was convened with all the firms, with the help of the Department of Education. They were educated on state requirements for educational facilities, as well as payment requests and processes. Mr. Martinez asked about the customary cycle for payment. Mr. Torrens responded that it is twenty-five days from date of invoice, and added that it is important that the firms understand what is considered a valid pay requisition. Every commissioned firm attended the event, along with the Inspector General's office, which organized a presentation on the importance of program accountability and transparency. Mr. Martinez asked who is responsible for processing these payments. Mr. Torrens stated that Ms. Iso Castro's is responsible for this process, and that it is handled through the SAP system. The first step in the payment process for the contractor is to submit their request to the Architect so that they can sign off and confirm

that the work has been completed for the payment being requested. It is crucial that these firms understand that follow up on their behalf is essential in this process. Once M-DCPS receives a valid, signed off pay request, it will be paid twenty-five days from the date of the invoice, regardless of how long the Architect took to approve the request.

Mr. Torrens emphasized the importance of the Direct Purchase and Materials Program being offered to these firms, especially for the small contractors. This removes the responsibility for procurement and payment of materials. M-DCPS will directly issue Purchase Orders using District funds for the purchase of materials. The advantage of this program is the savings of sales tax on purchases for the District, while decreasing out of pocket costs on materials for the contractor. Mr. Gilmore commented on the payment process, specifically regarding the money coming from the general contractor to the sub-contractor. After speaking to Brian and Tori in the Office of Economic Opportunity, he suggested a monthly review committee be created to discuss any sub-contractors who haven't been paid so the situation can be addressed.

Mr. Carvalho introduced the new Chief Procurement Officer for M-DCPS, formally with the Jackson Health System, Ms. Melody Thelwell. He agreed with Mr. Gilmore's concern, and recognized the hindrance that the small firms experience when awaiting payment. That being said, even though it is in the GC's hands, this is the tax payer's investment, which gives us leverage. Mr. Carvalho appointed Ms. Thelwell to lead this initiative, and requested that she convene with the main GC's working on the Bond in order to stress to them the need to implement a process that expedites payment to sub-contractors. Even though the Bond wasn't launched for the purpose of economic development, but rather for the purpose of upgrading schools, there was a secondary promise made to give opportunities for local economic development and job creation. Mr. Lowell suggested that if the GC's have a pattern of slow payment, that they consider issuing joint checks to the subs so that the GC gets paid only if the sub gets paid. Mr. Gilmore agreed. Rep. Fresen suggested that as part of the ongoing procurement process, the GC be advised that delaying payment on a reoccurring basis would preclude them from receiving work with the District in the future. Mr. Martinez requested that Ms. Thelwell create a report for the following committee meeting detailing steps taken to look into this issue.

Mr. Torrens continued with the Update on the Year-2 Project Rollout as follows:

- With regard to midsize projects, all 9 projects have been assigned Architects and CM
- Scoping is complete and they are in the design stage, with construction expected to begin early next year
- There are 13 projects over \$2 million, advanced as approved by the Committee

The 13 larger projects are bundled solicitations, which were created in order to both expedite the selection process and to ensure a greater distribution of work. These projects were placed into a group of three, and two groups of five for purposes of advertising and response by architects and CM interested in this work. The idea behind this is that, for example, the top three firms in the first group would all be assigned work, then for the second group, the top five firms would be assigned work and so on. This is welcomed by both design professionals and contractors as it will save them from having to respond to thirteen individual solicitations. It also ensures distribution of work.

Mr. Torrens went on to display the Delivery Method Protocol, and explained that the only change made since the last time this was presented to the Committee was the decision to change Bunche Park Elementary from a partial replacement/renovation to a complete replacement after a more thorough assessment was made. This change has no effect on the project budget, and it makes sense from a maintenance standpoint, as well as longevity of the campus. Mr. Torrens requested Committee action at this time.

Mr. Martinez requested a motion to confirm the change in protocol from partial replacement to full replacement of Bunche Park Elementary. The motion was made by Mr. Samuel Gilmore Jr.; seconded by Ms. Gepsie Metellus. Mr. Martinez opened the floor for discussion.

Dr. Foreman inquired how students would be accommodated during the replacement. Mr. Torrens emphasized that a complete replacement is actually easier than a partial replacement because the new school is built on the other side of the campus while the students occupy the existing school during construction. Mr. Carvalho added that the District has great deal of experience with this process; it's what will be done at Norland Senior, and has been done with North Miami Middle and Senior, as examples.

Mr. Martinez confirmed that there were no further questions in regard to the motion to confirm the change in protocol from partial replacement to full replacement of Bunch Park Elementary, and after requesting a vote from the Committee, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Carvalho pointed out that this is a change to what was initially proposed because it was an adjustment that made better sense and added that some additional changes may have to be made in the future in other instances, but never without consultation with the community and the oversight committee. One change worth looking into relates to significantly under enrolled schools where a substantial investment is anticipated. In areas where there are multiple under enrolled schools within a two mile radius, it may be more beneficial to deliver a brand new school built to the 21st Century standard rather than three renovated, under enrolled schools. This would save money operationally, which can be re-directed. Mr. Carvalho emphasized that the money saved will remain within the same zip code. Decisions on these properties would be made with the community and the Committee.

Mr. Martinez inquired if the Board thought that this seemed like a worthwhile initiative. Rep. Fresen stated it seemed worthwhile. Mr. Gilmore also stated he does believe this idea is worthwhile, and asked that as soon as the there is any kind of timeline established or any specific school chosen, that he is advised immediately. Mr. Carvalho assured the Committee that there would be discussion first. Mr. Martinez requested that the record reflect that the general sense is that this group supports the Superintendent's goal. Ms. Wyllie suggested a fieldtrip to get an example of the schools in question. Mr. Carvalho said it may be helpful to include some community leaders. He stressed that all students should have equitable access to great educational programs.

Mr. Torrens pointed out one important aspect with Bunche Park Elementary and Frederick Douglas is that "the solicitation was issued for a prototypical design", which is noted on the

bottom of the current presentation slide. We are looking to be able to re-use the design of one school for the other, which will generate design efficiencies while delivering the schools quicker, and at a lower cost.

Rep. Fresen asked whether the bundled projects mentioned earlier are GMP projects, or if the Contractors can raise their prices when they believe they are entitled to the work, as opposed to having to compete for it. Mr. Torrens affirmed that the price is guaranteed. Mr. Gilmore asked if we were on time in terms of schedule and budget. Mr. Torrens responded that we are on schedule.

Mr. Martinez welcomed Ms. Debbie Karcher and Dr. Sylvia Diaz for an update on the technology initiative. Ms. Karcher informed the Committee that the Wi-Fi installation has been completed on all campuses as of February. Due to the aggressive schedule, a physical walk through will be forthcoming to test the health of the network and to assure that the access is strong in all the rooms. The Wi-Fi system is handled remotely, and can be serviced just by tapping into the device or access points. Ms. Karcher stated that once a student has access to Wi-Fi in their school they are able to use that same access on any campus. The traffic on the network is managed by different permissions granted based on whether you are a teacher, parent, student, etc. Mr. Martinez asked if this means that once you are granted access to the network you can access it throughout the County. Ms. Karcher affirmed but only if you are within the school's range. Mr. Carvalho stated that some areas have stronger signals than others, which prompted him to request for help from the County to create a repeater opportunity for areas, such as surrounding parks. Mr. Martinez asked if there are any cities in the U.S. with city wide Wi-Fi. Mr. Carvalho responded that Miami Beach does, but the signal is often weak and unpredictable. Dr. Donath stated that five years ago the then County Mayor attempted this, but was unsuccessful at the time.

Dr. Foreman requested that a field trip be taken to look at the Promethean Boards. Mr. Carvalho shared with the Committee that the media was taken to two schools to view the boards and they are remarkable. It is the most requested tool by teachers and principals. Students are now encouraged to bring their smart phones to school which provide input directly to the device. Dr. Diaz advised that there are currently 6,700 boards in schools, in various stages of installations. An additional 1,500 boards have been ordered, exceeding the initial 10,000-unit order. Teachers are being trained at two sites, and the District will retain four people for the next 18 months to continue training. There will be about 50,000 new mobile devices for school opening, the majority replacing textbooks as part of the World History project for ninth graders. Apps have also been created for the World History project. Mr. Lowell asked if this means textbooks will become obsolete. Dr. Diaz responded that not at this time, but possibly in the future. Mr. Carvalho encouraged that a subsequent Committee meeting be held across the street in the iPrep so that everyone can experience firsthand the advances in technology, and the scholastic environment. Every classroom has interactive technology. This is a model school, and the students' performance was number two in the state.

Dr. Diaz shared that she received an email from Linda Ellerby, who has a show about schools on Nick, asking to feature iPrep on her show next year. Mr. Rubin asked if all the students in middle schools will be receiving laptops. Dr. Diaz responded that they will all be receiving Windows 8.1 tablets with keyboards. The teachers are currently being trained on

how to use these devices. Elementary school students will be receiving laptops. Mr. Rubin asked if parents should wait until after the school year begins to purchase any technology. Mr. Carvalho interjected and stated that parents should not wait. Unfortunately, it is not possible to purchase a device for every student, which is why students are encouraged to BYOD- Bring Your Own Device. He assured that parents will be receiving guidance on which devices would be appropriate and compatible to purchase for their child. Mr. Carvalho spoke about the launch of multiple apps and the possibility of procuring devices through M-DCPS approved vendors.

Dr. Foreman questioned whether the additional technology training for teachers is funded by the Bond. Dr. Diaz stated that teachers are receiving continuing education credits in lieu of payment, and that training is funded in part through the device purchase. Intel and Microsoft are also providing training resources to the School District. Ms. Wyllie asked if there was any concern for those teachers who opted out of the training. Dr. Diaz advised that teachers were allowed to take devices home over the summer, and that there will be multiple web tutorials, ongoing training, and all sorts of "how to's" for the teachers. Mr. Carvalho pointed out that essential in this process will be the students because of how well they understand technology.

Mr. Torrens continued with the GOB update. There are 54 projects over \$2 million in Year 3, with an aggregate value of \$241 million. Following similar protocol, these projects are being bundled based on size and geographic considerations in an effort to expedite the process, while ensuring work distribution. These solicitations will be issued starting in the fall. Mr. Torrens pointed out that the committee received a hard copy of the presentation at hand, which details the accomplishments of the GOB program and of this committee over the past year. One of the important facets of the GOB program as it was being launched was economic opportunity for everyone in the community. Since then, a few of the accomplishments are as the follows:

- Established the Office of Economic Opportunity
- Adopted Small and Micro Business policies
- Reinforced local vendor preference
- Goal Setting Committee procedure established for all projects
- A disparity study was created to guide our MWE program
- Successfully certified 420 Small/ Micro Business entities, 200 of them in the construction area
- Commissioning of the Architects for Year-2 will be taken to the Board soon
-

Dr. Donath inquired if there has been any negative impact with respect to staffing and material costs due to the current construction boom. Mr. Torrens stated that the impact is beginning to be felt at this time, and that we may have to make appropriate adjustments. Mr. Gilmore questioned how much money has been spent to date. Mr. Torrens responded that \$42 million have been expended.

Mr. Williams began his update of the Office of Economic Opportunity by highlighting the certification dashboard, which effectively shows that to date, approximately 427 firms have been certified. Also notable is the certification rate at 95%. In an effort to raise awareness about the program, in May the OEO entered into 3 MOU's with the Florida Small Business Development Center, The Hispanic Business Initiative Fund, and with The NAACP. Each of

these documents has benchmarks for increasing the number of firms in all of the specific categories. Since entering into the MOU's, the Disabled Veteran's participation rose from two to five. Mr. Williams continued by displaying the community outreach dashboard, and stressed that this is key in advising the Committee and the public about the types of groups being reached out to and where this information is being disseminated.

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

SOME OF THE EVENTS ATTENDED:

Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce
Event with the Black Police Precinct
Small business workshop with the County, with the Beacon Council
Event with the National Association of Black Women in Construction, with MCM
Hialeah Chamber of Commerce

UPCOMING OUTREACH & PARTNERSHIPS:

Business Workshop with Thornton Construction
Coffee with the Community (bi- monthly)
Local hiring event this Friday
City of Miami Gardens, City of Opa-Locka and City of North Miami Beach with respects to Norland Senior

Mr. Williams touched on the Disparity Study, and stated that not only will the Chief Auditor be validating the information, but the information has also been given to an economist retained by the School Board Attorney's Office, Dr. Boston from Georgia Tech. The results are expected within the next few weeks. The Committee will be receiving a report from both the Auditor and the Economist with their respective findings. This information will first go to a Board Workshop before being provided to the Committee and the SBE Advisory Committee. This is to assure that the process is transparent, as promised.

Mr. Gilmore asked if there is any change with the Black participation on M.A.S.T. Academy. Mr. Williams responded that the OEO is consistently trying to increase the participation, and has identified 100 African American firms in the Construction trade, which have been actively reached out to. Mr. Torrens added that they are also seeking minority suppliers and vendors. Ms. Metellus wondered if there was any way to dissect information, such as deciphering information for Haitian Americans within the African American percentages. Ms. Metellus also expressed her concern if we have done enough to show that we have the best transparency policies, the best opportunities for inclusion, and to make sure that we strive to help the firms understand the certification process. Mr. Williams offered Ms. Metellus a list the exact number of Haitian firms which have participated. He also shared that the OEO is attempting to team up with the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce for a local hiring event being conducted in North Miami.

One of the issues which the District has faced is getting bidding information out to the community. A new process in place is the release of a forecast with six months' worth of contract opportunities on the Procurement side, which has already resulted in a higher number of responses to solicitations. Another initiative in place is getting a new online bidding notification system named Demand Star, a system currently being used by multiple

entities throughout the states. This program immediately notifies bidders of new opportunities as they become available. Ms. Metellus identified an instance where she heard someone say that they attempted to apply for something and were required to submit a writing sample. Mr. Williams stated that he has never heard of anything like that, and advised Ms. Metellus to refer anyone with any issues such as this to the OEO. Ms. Lerner inquired if we capture the demographics of the people who attend Outreach Seminars or workshops. Mr. Williams confirmed that this information is logged.

Mr. Dawsey questioned having access to view the certified firms by name on this report. Mr. Williams stressed that all this information is found on our website, which is updated weekly. Dr. Donath asked if we are looking into showcasing success stories for these smaller firms, which became certified and are now able to obtain work with larger contractors because they went through this process. Mr. Williams assured that they are working on identifying those types of instances and pointed out two maintenance contractors which started on smaller contracts and have since doubled the value of their contracts and their bonding capacity.

Mr. Martinez requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 18, 2014 meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Samuel Gilmore Jr.; seconded by Dr. Jaap Donath and passed unanimously.

Ms. Thelwell began her presentation by describing the rollout of Demand Star. Several entities such as Broward County and Palm Beach County Public Schools use the same system. This is a free system that allows a Government entity to display Bids to the public, allowing vendors to bid electronically. This system provides us with matrixes and analytics, which will be useful to the Committee. Ms. Thelwell advised that the feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive, and stated the District is looking to move forward with the implementation for the next fiscal year. Mr. Gilmore voiced his concern over the possibility of de-humanizing the process too much with technology. Ms. Thelwell stated vendor workshops are planned to help avoid miscommunication.

Mr. Ron Frazier, the Vice Chair of the SBE Committee, introduced himself and congratulated the Superintendent. As an Architect, he acknowledged that there are always bumps in the road during any project, and asked that these bumps be documented so that we can display how the District overcame these obstacles. He reminded the Committee that there are many M/WBE firms who have lost opportunities during the Bond since there is no M/WBE program in place. Mr. Torrens responded by agreeing that there are always bumps in the road, but that we have done our best to predict them. Workshops and training have been put in place in an effort to reduce issues. Mr. Martinez conveyed that this Committee discusses the good and the bad, but mostly the bigger picture, and actively seek solutions to any issue brought to the table. Mr. Carvalho exclaimed that the work is being approached differently than it had been over the past thirty years, and that it is crucial to try to predict these potential obstacles to avoid them in the future. Some issues, which have arisen in terms of the Bond implementation, have to do with the cost of doing business.

Mr. Martinez welcomed Felix Jimenez from the IG's office. Mr. Jimenez handed out a pamphlet to detail an overview of the Office of the Inspector General and their role as a "watchdog" agency. Mr. Jimenez informed the Committee of their goal to fulfill the Board and the Superintendent's wishes for transparency and fairness in the process. Dr. Foreman

asked if there have been any complaints to date. Mr. Jimenez confirmed that there haven't been any at this time. Mr. Gilmore expressed that it would be helpful to know some of the rules. Mr. Lowell inquired if there are regular coordination meetings between the Contractor, Architect and a representative from the School Board. Mr. Torrens responded that these meetings are in place, and that the IG sends a representative to said meetings.

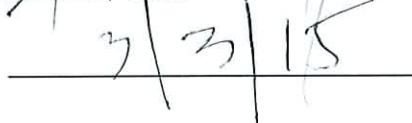
Mr. Martinez advised the Committee to review the report received, and to contact Mr. Torren's staff with any questions or concerns. A vote will be necessary on a future date. Some dates that have been suggested were July 10th and July 31st, allowing ample time for everyone to review and approve the report prior to the August School Board meeting. Mr. Martinez was not able to get everyone to agree on either of the proposed dates, and suggested that a date in August would be considered.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Martinez adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

Approved:


Roberto Martinez, Chair

Date:


7/31/15