

21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS BOND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

The 21st Century Schools Bond Advisory Committee (Committee) met on September 24, 2019 in conference Room 916 of the School Board Administration Building. Chair Martinez called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Committee Members

Mr. Roberto Martinez, Chair
Ms. Cindy Lerner, Vice Chair
Mr. Francis Ragoo
Mr. Juan Del Busto
Dr. Jaap Donath
Mr. T. Willard Fair
Mr. Roger Cuevas
Dr. Sean Foreman
Mayor Anthony Defillipo

Mr. Alfred Billings
Mr. Jack Lowell
Rev. Guillermo Revuelta
Mr. Erick Wendelken
Mr. Allen Rubin
Ms. Carol Graham Wyllie
Ms. Julie Williamson
Ms. Beth Edwards

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members

Mr. Jaime G. Torrens
Mr. Raul F. Perez
Mr. Ron Steiger
Ms. Maria T. Gonzalez

Committee Alternates
Ms. Serena Paramore

Miami-Dade County Public School Attendees

Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho
Mr. Carl Nicoleau
Ms. Maria Izquierdo
Mr. Tony Vu
Mr. Victor Alonso
Ms. Tabitha Fazzino
Ms. Jennifer Andreu
Ms. Elizabeth Soto
Mr. Neil R. Singh

Ms. Addys Lopez
Mr. Jerold Blumstein
Ms. Francys Vallecillo
Ms. Patricia Betancourt
Mr. Thomas Knigge
Mr. John-Philip lafelice
Mr. Richard Benvenuti
Ms. Amanda Pinto
Mr. Jon Goodman

Other Attendees

Recording Secretary
Ms. Denise Castillo

Mr. Roberto Martinez called the meeting to order and welcomed the Committee. Acknowledging a quorum, Mr. Roberto Martinez asked for a motion to approve the May 21, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion was made by Mr. Juan Del Busto, seconded by Mr. Jack Lowell and passed unanimously. Mr. Martinez discussed the annual report and explained that it is approved every year and wants to make sure everyone has plenty of time to review it. Mr. Martinez stated that it will be brought to action at the meeting being held in December. He then introduced Mr. Raul Perez, Chief Facilities Design & Construction Officer.

Mr. Raul Perez opened with introducing himself and explain what he his position was prior to being Chief Facilities Design & Construction Officer. He went on to talk about the Adopt-a-School Program and encouraged everyone to adopt a school.

Mr. Francis Ragoo asked Raul to go over the steps that need to be taken in order to Adopt- a-School.

Mr. Raul Perez explained that an email was sent out providing a list of schools that currently have GOB projects. He stated if there is any interest in adopting a school, just respond to that email and someone from his office will contact them to go over the process.

Mr. Alan Rubin expressed that he would like to visit John F Kennedy MS.

Mayor Anthony Defillipo expressed that he appreciates Alan Rubin for expressing the interest in John F Kennedy MS because he has concerns about that school.

Mr. Raul Perez provided an update on the status of GOB projects, years 1 through 5 and accelerated scope projects. Mr. Perez went over the different types of projects that have been undertaken including; safety upgrades, HVAC, playgrounds, portables, remodeling, renovations and other projects.

Mr. Alan Rubin asked if the money that has not been spent on technology will be used in the future for technology. Mr. Richard Benvenuti responded.

Mr. Raul Perez explained that there is a limited amount of money leftover from technology.

Mr. Alan Rubin asked how much was supposed to be for technology and Mr. Perez stated that there was \$100 Million for technology of which \$93 Million has been expended. Mr. Rubin proceeded to ask if that meant that there was still \$7 million to go and if it has been allocated and what the hold up was on getting the technology needed for the schools that did not have it yet.

Mr. Raul Perez stated that he would get that information.

Mr. Jack Lowell asked if there was a slide that showed the cost of the completed projects?

Mr. Raul Perez stated that there was no slide with that but stated one could be done.

Mr. Francis Ragoo asked if the \$7 million will bring all the schools to par with technology.

Mr. Richard Benvenuti responded by saying that the funds for technology have been fully expended. He stated that for interactive boards the district is providing general dollars to continue the installation of the newer generation of interactive boards.

Mr. Raul Perez stated that he believed that all the upgrades were complete.

Mr. Raul Perez continued to provide an update on the status of the GOB Projects and the expenditures.

Mr. Roberto Martinez asked what happens to the furniture that is removed from the schools. Mr. Perez expressed that if it could be salvaged, it is put in a warehouse and then reused somewhere else.

Mr. Jack Lowell asked if there are any legal disputes or legal claims pending?

Mr. Raul Perez expressed that currently there are no legal disputes or legal claims pending.

Mr. Raul Perez continued to go over the expenditures and the reallocation of funds. Mr. Perez went over F-21 and the reallocation of funds.

Ms. Cindy Lerner stated that some of the balances for the reallocation funds are a significant amount and asked if the work was not necessary. Mr. Perez explained that the reports were done in 2012 and some of the deficiencies were addressed by maintenance which resulted in deleted scope.

Mr. Roberto Martinez asked for a motion to approve the reallocation of funds. Motion was made by Mr. Francis Ragoo, seconded by Mr. Jaap Donath and passed unanimously.

Mr. Juan Del Busto asked if there is already a priority list that will be completed with the reallocated funds that were not used?

Mr. Raul Perez stated that there is a list of schools that are listed in order of priority and that list will be presented to the board once the approval is needed to reallocate the funds to the new projects.

Mr. Jack Lowell requested that they have a slide showing the gross projected cost with allocated and not allocated along with the gross capital amount including all interest.

Mr. Raul Perez went on to review the Sixth Annual Report that goes over the audit that was done by S. Davis and Associates P.A. Mr. Perez then introduced the Office of Instructional Technology, but before Mr. Benvenuti's presentation, Superintendent Alberto Carvalho was introduced.

Superintendent Alberto Carvalho discussed a video that is put out every year and shared it with the Committee to give them an idea on the day to day lives of students. Superintendent Carvalho reviewed the graduation rates and stated that the graduation rate is currently at 89%. Eight years ago, it was at 56%.

Mr. Jack Lowell asked who has been exposed to the video that had just been presented and encouraged its dissemination. Superintendent Carvalho expressed that the video is shown at every open house.

Mr. Francis Ragoo asked the Superintendent what was his greatest challenge and greatest achievement?

Superintendent Alberto Carvalho expressed his biggest challenge moving forward from an academic perspective centers on the students that have lingered on the bottom end of the scale for a long period of time. Mr. Carvalho also went over Title I funding and pre-k.

Mr. Richard Benvenuti started off by saying that this is the 6th year of improving technology. To date there are currently 172,000 mobile devices. Mr. Benvenuti stated that the District is investing \$24 Million dollars into technology that is not bond money.

Ms. Jennifer Andreu, of the Office of Economic Opportunity, gave an overview on the pre-qualified firms and which ones have graduated to a different category. Ms. Andreu went over the different outreach programs that they are coordinating to add more firms to the program.

Mr. Francis Ragoo asked what the reason for the change in number of firms in the program was.

Ms. Jennifer Andreu expressed that some firms might expire or go out of business. They do renew every firm, but the business has to be in business for at least a year. It cannot be a startup business. Currently there are 155 Pre-Qualified Contractors.

Mr. Jack Lowell asked if it is guaranteed that a company will get business.

Ms. Jennifer Andreu expressed that it is not a guarantee, but it gives you access to go through the bidding process.

Mr. Jack Lowell asked for a percentage on how many of the prequalified firms have received business.

Mr. Raul Perez stated that they did not have that information at the moment, but they could provide it. Mr. Roberto Martinez request to have that information sent to all of the board members.

Ms. Jennifer Andreu explained that the Office of Economic Opportunity reviews all the "F" items that go to the Board and they make sure that all the vendors are in compliance with the Jessica Lunsford Act.

Having exhausted all the agenda topics, the Chair Mr. Roberto Martinez, reminded the Committee that the next meeting would be held on December 10, 2019.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:51 p.m.

Approved:


Mr. Roberto Martinez, Chair

Date: 3.10.2020