

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS

March 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. with the following Board members and Board support staff present: Ms. Shirley Brandman (Chair), Ms. Laura Berthiaume, and Mr. Phil Kauffman were present, as well as Board Members Mrs. Pat O'Neill and Dr. Judy Docca. Board staff present were Ikhide Roland Ikheloa, Chief of Staff and Glenda Rose, recorder.

Staff members Dr. Frieda Lacey, Dr. Frank Stetson, Mr. Eric Davis, Ms. Lori-Christina Webb, Ms. Stephanie Williams, Mr. John Landsman, and Ms. Sylvia Morrison.

Guest present were: Karla Silvestre, Office of the County Executive; Diego Uriburu, Identity; Candace Kattar, Identity; Ana Lopez, Community Bridges; Henry Montes, Latin American Advisory Group; Marialuz Johnson, Community Bridges; Agnes Jones-Trover, community member; Luisa Montero, Latino America Youth Center; and Kate Garvey, Department of Health and Human Services.

Minutes

The minutes from December 6, 2010, were approved.

Meeting materials are available hyperlinked to the agenda which is on the web at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/boe/meetings/SPEDdocs/2010-11/2011-0314/Agenda.pdf>

Report of the Latino Youth Collaborative Steering Committee

The work of the committee was a collaborative endeavor with representatives from every facet of Montgomery County life playing a part in the exploration, analysis, and recommendations related to the lives of Latino youth and their families.

The committee members presented the following recommendations from the report:

- Address the disproportionately high rates of academic ineligibility among Latino Youth in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).
- Change existing voluntary withdrawal practices in MCPS.
- Utilize schools as neighborhood-based hubs that provide comprehensive services and education opportunities in a safe environment for all community members.
- Strengthen the accountability to and equitable treatment of the Latino community by MCPS by funding independent public/private entities to fill advocacy gaps for Latino parents.
- Build on MCPS' efforts to empower Latino parents to better understand and integrate into the school system to enable them to advocate effectively for their children's education.

Dr. Lacey and Dr. Stetson pointed out some of the ideas and programs that MCPS is working on with the help of the community. They thought the report and recommendations were powerful. There is a need for an action plan and to identify a person to lead the implementation since the recommendations cross several offices within MCPS.

There was a discussion of Wheaton High School and the Thomas Edison High School of Technology and the need for Career and Technology Education. The discussion continued about students prepared for careers and being college ready.

Next Steps and Implementation

The committee agreed that the recommendations were important, and MCPS staff will take the lead in developing implementation strategies. The guide for staff will be the recommendations flagged in the presentation. The recommendations and implementation strategies will eventually be presented to the full Board. In the meantime, the Strategic Planning Committee will review the recommendations and prioritize the interventions.

The meeting ended at 2:40 p.m.