

MINUTES

**Parent Subcommittee on District and School Budget Priorities
Family and Community Involvement Budget Advisory Subcommittee
Miami-Dade County Public Schools**

1450 NE 2nd Avenue, Conference Room 916 & Zoom Meeting
Miami, FL 33132

Monday, November 13, 2023

Voting Members Present:

Ms. Beverly Heller	Ms. Maria Norton	Ms. Zoraida Serret
Ms. Mina Hosseini	Ms. Laura Philpot	Ms. Meriel C. Seymore
Ms. Janielle Murphy	Mr. Elias Seife	

Voting Members Present Via Zoom:

Ms. Nicole Crooks	Mr. Scot Evans	Ms. Nadeige Theresias-Joisil
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Voting Members Excused/Absent:

Ms. Isabelle Exume (A)	Dr. Lisa Robertson (A)
Mr. James Lopez (A)	Mr. Antonio White (A)

Others Physically Present/Via Zoom:

Ms. Martha M. Diaz	Dr. Milagros Hernandez	Mr. Ron Y. Steiger
Ms. Tabitha G. Fazzino	Ms. Ines Meras	
Ms. Karellys Hernandez	Ms. Manuella Metellus	

I. Welcome and Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm and a quorum was established. Those present introduced themselves. Committee members and staff were welcomed.

II. Approval of Minutes for October 16, 2023: Ms. Hosseini asked for the approval of the minutes for the October 16, 2023, Parent Subcommittee on District and School Budget Priorities, and the minutes were approved.

III. Upcoming Legislative Session & Discussion of the Legislative Platform: Ms. Hosseini opened the floor to Ms. Tabitha G. Fazzino, Chief Intergovernmental Affairs & Family and Community Engagement Officer, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs & Family and Community Engagement, for a presentation on the upcoming legislative session and a discussion of the legislative platform. Ms. Fazzino shared with the group that we are still in the committee process leading up to session. The session is scheduled to commence on January 9 and will run through March 5, 2024. This will be an early legislative session since 2024 is an election year.

Ms. Fazzino highlighted the following:

- Budget priorities: the District hopes to see an increase of new dollars into the Base Student Allocation (BSA), at least five percent of new money.
- Categoryals: School Safety and Mental Health - These two categories are still a priority for the School Board of Miami-Dade County to increase the funding.
- Capital Funding: CS/CS/HB 1259 (2023) was adopted and as a result, the district will be sharing their 1.5 Mills with charter schools on Unweighted Full-Time Equivalent (uFTE) basis.

- Education Bills filed:
 - HB 109 / SB 246 or 249 – Charter School Conversion Process: will allow municipalities to convert schools to charter schools. This bill will eliminate teachers' voice from the vote and will impact the parents' choice. The District will be opposing this proposal.
- Report with recommendations for the repeal or revision of regulations that will impact traditional public schools in order to create a more level playing field with other educational choice options: The report does not in any way address modifications to assessment or accountability or any significant policy changes. The report does eliminate duplicate reporting, it relaxes compliance requirements, for example: school busses must be inspected every 30 days, and now it will be relaxed to every 90 days. It is likely that the department's recommendations, will be carried in a bill on the House side.
- Senate filed three bills:
 1. SB 7000: Deregulation of Public Schools/Instructional, Administrative, and Support Personnel - With this proposal, teachers with a highly effective evaluation, will have the opportunity to renew their certification every 10 years instead of every five. Additionally, provides more flexibility around the apprentice teacher that was put in place last year.
 2. SB 7002: Deregulation of Public Schools/School District Finance and Budgets, Facilities, and Administration and Oversight – This proposal is looking to eliminate duplicate reporting and cost per student station, which is a limitation that has existed for the last 20 years, making construction across the State better able to navigate.
 3. SB 7004: Deregulation of Public Schools/Assessment and Accountability, Instruction, and Education Choice – This is a proposal to eliminate as a graduation requirement the passage of ELA 10 and the Algebra I EOC. These tests remain but are not a requirement for graduation. Additionally, this proposal eliminates Grade 3 retention as mandatory. It will eliminate the high stakes around these types of assessments, but it will continue to maintain the accountability.

As a next step, these bills will be presented at the Senate Education PK-12 committee this Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 2:00 pm.

Additionally, Ms. Fazzino shared information on the following:

- Two bills originally filed by Representative Alina Garcia on Homestead Tax Exemptions for school District Levies. The purpose of the bills was to eliminate these exemptions but after conversations, she withdrew both bills prior to introduction. Representative Garcia now replaced those bills with two new bills and the purpose is to cap the increase to no more than 10% in the overall value for school District Levies as well.
- The District will be advocating for an increase in per pupil funding for all students with disabilities to account for both student population growth and inflationary costs related to services/programs.
- Funding allocations to assist school districts in implementing sustainability measures to improve operational efficiency, including the use of alternative energy sources such as solar, the acquisition of electric buses and fleet vehicles, and necessary infrastructure and technology upgrades to support their use. The District is in a position to advocate for this implementation which will result in energy savings and will also be eligible for additional funds.

- Support constitutionally elected local school boards and elected or appointed superintendents' authority to supervise all public schools. This issue is on our District's program and we will be advocating for instead of having city council officials supervise all public schools.
- Remove restrictions related to the disposal of surplus school board property. Currently there is a requirement that if School Boards have surplus tangible properties and real properties that it be first made available to charter schools. In Senator Hudson's proposal (7002) those limitations are stricken. The District is in support of this program.
- Implement and fund strategies such as teacher fellowships and loan forgiveness to encourage and attract talented students to enter the field of education. Beginning last year's legislation, there were a number of things that the District got passed including the teacher partnership program as well as scholarship programs for teachers to get advanced degrees to be eligible to teach Dual Enrollment (DE) classes. Additionally, there were also proposals regarding additional loan forgiveness opportunities. Senator Calatayud's bill speaks to the ability to provide additional supplements to recruit teachers in hard to staff areas.
- Provide incentives and/or funding to facilitate the development of workforce housing specifically for public school personnel. Allow unused school board facility or property to be redeveloped by the district for its workforce housing without requiring multi-party governance. The District will be asking for flexibility in managing its own property for housing of their own employees should School Board choose to do so.
- Provide funding to expand the annual Cuban American Studies Institute established by Miami-Dade County Public Schools and implemented in partnership with Florida International University. During last year's session, this program was successfully funded for \$63,000. This is a partnership with Florida International University (FIU) that has existed for several years to provide professional development (PD) for teachers. This year, the District will be requesting about \$150,000 to expand the PD to a full week and triple the number of participants.
- Realign the responsibility to administer the Civic Literacy Assessment Requirement established during the 2020-2021 Legislative Session from school districts to state colleges/universities. The Civic Literacy requirement is applicable to those students who go to one of the twelve state universities. Students must either pass this test or CLEP or successfully pass a political science 101 class once they are at the state university. Every other student that does not go to a state university, has no need for this test.
- Support equitable accountability measures for all publicly funded school choice options. This program is looking to implement a mechanism that will ensure that educational and fiscal accountability is reported back to the public, the parents, and the taxpayer.
- Support legislation that increases penalties for firing a gun within 1,000 feet of a school and that establishes penalties for the unsupervised possession of a firearm by a minor. These penalties would not apply to someone who is discharging a weapon in their home in self-defense even if the location is in front of a school.

The Committee discussed, provided comments, questions, and concerns which were addressed by Ms. Fazzino.

IV. Overview of the Budget Process – Part II: Ms. Hosseini opened the floor to Ms. Martha M. Diaz, Chief Budget Officer, Office of Budget Management for the second portion of the budget process. Ms. Diaz explained that this process is exceedingly long and there are multiple steps to get to the adopted budget. Ms. Diaz will focus today on the Florida Education Finance Program

(FEFP) Funds and FEFP Second Calculation, which is the one that is used for budget adoption. As Ms. Diaz explained during the last committee meeting, when the legislative process starts, the district provides the state its estimated Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) for the next fiscal year, and based on this estimated number, the District will get a report from the State called: the Final Conference Report, showing the initial dollars that will be allocated for K-12 education. As soon as the final certified tax rolls are finalized for all districts, the State will decide how much will be coming from districts' local tax dollars and how much will they be funding. The FEFP Second calculation report is then published presenting the budget adoption for the different districts.

Ms. Diaz shared the following handouts with the group:

- 1) **2022-23 Funding for Florida School Districts:** Ms. Diaz shared with the group that this report shows the various categories and explains further how these categories are calculated and what they are based on.

✓ <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7507/urlt/Fefpdist.pdf>

- 2) **Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) 2023-24 SECOND CALCULATION:**

Mr. Ron Y. Steiger, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Financial Services, explained that this report is not just Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), is it statewide and highlighted the different pages starting with page one which looks a lot like the comparison Ms. Diaz's did on the chart below but with M-DCPS numbers. Page number three shows the total amount per unweighted kids that will be allocated to Dade, \$8,892.18. Mr. Steiger showed how other smaller districts get more funding than Dade.

The next four pages starting on page number four is Dade's entire funding formula followed by a detailed description. The number of unweighted kids for Miami-Dade is 367,941.88 and funded weighted FTE is 411,295.36. This amount of weighted FTE of 411,295.36 matters the most because the \$5,139.73 in the Base Student Allocation (BSA) is multiplied by this Funded Weighted FTE amount (see chart below). Mr. Steiger explained that the Adjusted Comparable Wage Factor (CWF) used to be called District Cost Differential (DCD). Through the CWF the state is using the same formula, and many districts are getting the same as they would last year, but the state also raised all the districts that were below 1.0000 to match this number and this has cost the state a huge amount of money that the Dade will not be seeing. Additionally, you will see on the chart a column for Small District Factor (SDF). This refers to the costs that small districts have, and big districts do not and as a result smaller districts will have a higher SDF than bigger districts. The column labeled State-Funded Discretionary Contribution are the districts that do not have a tax roll. The column labeled 0.748 Mills Compression shows zero dollars for all districts on the coast, including Miami-Dade. They took funds from the districts on the coast whose property values are very high to give it to the districts which are inland whose property values are lower so the gap between the two wouldn't be as high.

2023-24 FEFP Second Calculation
Detail 1
7/19/2023

Florida Department of Education

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2023-24 FEFP Second Calculation
Prekindergarten through Grade 12 Funding Summary - Page 1

District	2023-24 Unweighted FTE	2023-24 Funded Weighted FTE ¹	2023-24 Times Funded Weighted FTE	Adjusted Comparable Wage Factor	Small District Factor	Base Funding ²	State-Funded Discretionary Contribution	0.748 Mills Compression
1 Alachua	31,752.99	34,445.82	177,062.773	1.0000	0.0000	177,062.773	0	7,378,830
2 Baker	4,918.19	5,295.15	27,215.641	1.0000	1.0277	27,969,514	0	2,762,646
3 Bay	27,874.00	31,950.45	194,216,686	1.0000	0.0000	194,216,686	0	0
4 Bradford	3,210.85	3,409.38	17,523,293	1.0000	1.0277	18,008,698	0	1,494,651
5 Brevard	79,849.34	87,987.36	452,231,274	1.0000	0.0000	452,231,274	0	13,365,981
6 Broward	272,606.05	301,876.18	1,551,562,059	1.0252	0.0000	1,587,556,299	0	0
7 Calhoun	2,983.69	2,296.42	11,862,979	1.0000	1.0277	12,129,922	0	1,249,943
8 Charlotte	17,691.86	19,643.24	100,960,950	1.0000	0.0000	100,960,950	0	0
9 Citrus	16,435.91	17,694.39	90,944,387	1.0000	0.0000	90,944,387	0	1,749,931
10 Clay	49,339.21	43,734.97	224,785,937	1.0000	0.0000	224,785,937	0	18,283,451
11 Collier	50,791.17	56,780.93	291,838,649	1.0506	0.0000	306,605,685	0	0
12 Columbia	10,279.19	11,041.43	56,749,969	1.0000	1.0277	58,321,943	0	4,972,353
13 Duval	1,367,943.88	1,112,295.36	2,113,347,101	1.0183	0.0000	2,152,632,333	0	0
14 DeSoto	4,669.78	4,983.16	25,612,097	1.0000	1.0277	26,321,552	0	1,855,840
15 Dade	2,143.21	2,330.77	11,979,538	1.0000	1.0277	12,311,361	0	1,116,955
16 Duval	141,355.33	154,601.81	794,611,561	1.0072	0.0000	800,332,764	0	31,727,061
17 Escambia	40,046.49	43,570.92	223,942,765	1.0000	0.0000	223,942,765	0	9,190,669

The following pages shows categorical allocations. These are amounts which are provided and must be used for a specific purpose. Therefore, the funds are spoken for. Mr. Steiger explained that the Educational Enrichment Instruction is a new categorical and there is no explanation on how this number got calculated. It was created to keep district's whole. Due to not having a logic behind this formula, it is the biggest exposure we have right now related to the amounts being funded.

Page seven shows the Adjustment for Family Empowerment Scholarships. It refers to the amount that the state will be deducting for the vouchers, since the state included them in the district's FTE. These funds will be given to *Step Up for Students*. The Add Back State-Funded Discretionary Supplement is the 0.748 Mill.

✓ <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7507/urlt/2324FEFP2ndCalc.pdf>

District	Net State FEFP	Adjustment for Family Empowerment Scholarships	Add Back State-Funded Discretionary Supplement	Adjusted Net State FEFP
	-1-	-2-	-3-	-4-
1 Alachua	142,581,089	(30,264,031)	5,973,107	118,290,165
2 Baker	32,014,699	(1,233,554)	197,793	30,978,938
3 Bay	96,476,631	(7,538,300)	1,386,103	90,324,434
4 Bradford	19,920,569	(3,219,946)	607,442	17,308,065
5 Brevard	339,354,783	(58,158,624)	11,434,469	292,630,628
6 Broward	905,014,889	(215,472,425)	47,897,841	737,440,305
7 Calhoun	15,306,434	(249,553)	34,487	15,091,368
8 Charlotte	16,736,261	(8,548,197)	2,207,973	10,396,037
9 Citrus	63,116,839	(7,909,072)	1,652,415	56,860,182
10 Clay	230,527,297	(15,018,650)	2,391,076	217,899,723
11 Collier	35,634,246	(29,372,905)	9,155,032	15,416,373
12 Columbia	61,626,070	(7,133,748)	1,127,101	55,619,423
13 Dade	911,540,375	(328,553,754)	72,204,316	655,190,937
14 DeSoto	26,726,207	(1,967,656)	336,184	25,094,735
15 Dixie	13,976,669	(1,300,114)	237,660	12,914,115
16 Duval	621,441,268	(124,439,801)	25,095,865	522,097,332

Page eight shows the Total State Funding for 1,320,471,926. The sum of the Required Local Effort Taxes, 1,585,518,397 and the 0.748 Discretionary Local Effort, gives us the Total Local Funding, 1,951,332,018. If we add the Total State Local Funding and the Total Local Funding, we get \$3,271,803,944, which is how much funding Miami-Dade will receive. The reason this report is thirty-nine pages is because the following pages will further breakdown some of the allocations provided.

District	Net State FEFP	Class Size Reduction Allocation	State-Funded Discretionary Supplement	Total State Funding	Required Local Effort Taxes	0.748 Discretionary Local Effort	Total Local Funding	Total State and Local Funding
	-1-	-2-	-3-	-4-	-5-	-6-	-7-	-8-
1 Alachua	142,581,089	26,672,402	5,973,107	175,226,598	75,080,637	17,902,555	92,983,192	268,209,790
2 Baker	32,014,699	4,632,116	197,793	36,844,608	4,870,782	1,148,233	6,019,015	42,863,623
3 Bay	96,476,631	27,794,083	1,386,103	125,656,817	95,943,803	22,184,224	118,128,027	243,784,844
4 Bradford	19,920,569	2,739,230	607,442	23,267,241	4,508,848	1,058,575	5,567,423	28,834,664
5 Brevard	339,354,783	71,434,085	11,434,469	422,223,337	210,100,806	50,129,315	260,230,121	682,453,458
6 Broward	905,014,889	249,316,473	47,897,841	1,202,229,203	916,073,466	217,117,539	1,133,191,005	2,335,420,208
7 Calhoun	15,306,434	1,983,554	34,487	17,324,475	1,648,037	406,976	2,055,013	19,379,488
8 Charlotte	16,736,261	16,350,668	2,207,973	35,294,902	101,946,942	23,645,368	125,592,310	160,887,212
9 Citrus	63,116,839	14,848,664	1,652,415	79,617,918	48,305,404	11,319,687	59,625,091	139,243,009
10 Clay	230,527,297	37,159,372	2,391,076	270,077,752	58,007,436	13,770,093	71,777,529	341,855,281
11 Collier	35,634,246	50,203,372	9,155,032	94,992,650	323,627,679	118,721,679	442,349,358	537,342,008
12 Columbia	61,626,070	9,243,281	1,127,101	71,996,452	13,769,128	3,201,525	16,970,653	88,967,105
13 Dade	911,540,375	336,727,235	72,204,316	1,320,471,926	1,585,518,397	365,813,621	1,951,332,018	3,271,803,944
14 DeSoto	26,726,207	4,289,509	336,184	31,351,900	7,726,679	1,873,438	9,600,117	40,952,017
15 Dixie	13,976,669	1,967,646	237,660	16,181,875	2,538,468	587,310	3,125,778	19,307,653
16 Duval	621,441,268	124,580,467	25,095,865	771,117,600	345,340,705	81,154,523	426,495,228	1,197,612,828

Page 19 shows the Program Cost Factor for each of the different program used to fund the FTE we get funded for. This is how unweighted FTE gets translated to weighted FTE.

- 3) **The comparison of the 2nd FEFP Calc for FY 23/24 vs. 4th FEFP Calc for FY 22/23:** This chart compares M-DCPS' FEFP from the fourth calculation of last year versus this year's 2nd Calculation and shows the difference in funding. Additionally, it also shows the list of allocations that were rolled into the BSA. Ms. Diaz started to go over the file which compares the 4th FEFP Calculation report for FY 2022-23 to the 2nd FEFP Calculation for FY 2023-24. She pointed out how this file shows how a lot of the allocations that were previously broken down for fiscal year 2022-23, were rolled into base FEFP funding for FY 2023-24. This will appear as a significant increase in base funding dollars or additional funding, but it is not the case because these funds were previously allocated separately below the base funding. Therefore, they do not represent additional funding and most of them are already spoken for such as the Teacher Salary Increase allocation which is now rolled into the BSA.

The Committee discussed, provided comments, questions, and concerns which were addressed by Ms. Diaz and Mr. Steiger.

V. New Business: none

VI: Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.