



# **Mayor's Task Force** for Racial & Ethnic Equality

## **EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Friday, June 17, 2021**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Zoom Meeting**

#### **Call to Order**

Julie Fisher Cummings, subcommittee co-chair, called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Tiffany David, of the City of West Palm beach Mayor's Office, took attendance of participants for the meeting record. Kayla Elson, of Justice & Sustainability Associates, reviewed the meeting agenda.

#### **May 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes**

No comments were made about the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes; the meeting minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

#### **June 12<sup>th</sup> Action Summit Outcomes**

Kayla Elson reviewed a presentation containing Action Summit data and results. Specifically, it contained community feedback about the subcommittee priorities and ideas. Overall, Action Summit outcomes indicate that the subcommittee is on target with its discussions.

#### **Discussion**

Tiffany David mentioned that some schools have school culture coordinators but does not know if it is focused on culturally targeted interaction with parents. Alexandria Ayala, subcommittee co-chair, stated that a school culture coordinator is mostly for school culture and student-parent engagement, not culturally targeted outreach.

Dina Rubio, subcommittee member, asked what the subcommittee could do to ensure their suggestions can move forward with the school board. Alexandria Ayala replied that the subcommittee is tasked with focusing on how prioritized education is in the local government by recommending what the city can do move forward regardless of what the district does. Joyel Glaze, subcommittee member, suggested that city officials attend staff meetings and learn about school dynamics and needs. She also suggested that parents need to make be vocal about school dynamics and educational needs.

Sally Chester, subcommittee member, gave her thoughts about the Action Summit and stated that a meeting with all the different subcommittees and Task Force members is necessary to ensure clarity on ideas and thoughts across policy areas and subcommittees. Kayla Elson stated that a collective meeting among the co-chairs is being planned.



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Alexandria Ayala stated that having folks go to school board meetings and contacting board members is definitely needed and helpful, however, change need to come from the municipal leaders of the city. Alexandria Ayala offered to connect subcommittee members to her contacts. Kayla Elson shared the ideas list and stated that the next meeting will be focused on refining these ideas.

Sally Chester then asked about the Task Force service time. It is up to two years, there is up to another year potentially since this Task Force was established in July 2020. Sally Chester also stated that accomplishing easier to achieve things can help with wins for the community. Julie Fisher Cummings agreed and urged moving forward with making recommendations. Sally Chester commented that the recommendations need to be easily implementable, practical, and make as big of a difference as possible.

Julie Fisher Cummings asked if the subcommittee is addressing what they think is the greatest need or what the community thinks is the greatest need. She praised the idea Alexandria Ayala posed: a position in the administrative team of the city that specifically focuses on education outreach and outcomes. Julie added that this position does not exist in the Palm Beach County area but in other areas across the country like Detroit and New York. Dina Rubio also suggested requiring investors to provide money that goes towards education in the city.

### **Public Comment**

Linda Mauger-Harnish wanted to know how to help. She indicated that she and her husband attended the Summit. She stated that she works with Big Brother/Big Sister and that her husband is interested in the workforce development initiatives. Since there are a lot of great resources, she is wondering how they can be leveraged to help with this initiative. Alexandria Ayala responded that her continued engagement with the Task Force and subcommittee's efforts is helpful, along with the service she and her husband already provide in the city.

### **Education Surveys Preliminary Results**

Kayla gave updates on the survey. The official respondent numbers are not high enough to analyze themes, but the surveys are getting responses.

### **Next Steps**

Subcommittee members will be able to comment ahead of time about the priorities and ideas that came up in conversation to date. The subcommittee will determine which ideas to submit to the Task Force to review. Subcommittee co-chairs will highlight potential "cross-collaboration" with the other subcommittees and the Task Force.



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## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m. by Alexandria Ayala. The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### Present:

Alexandria Ayala, Subcommittee Co-Chair  
Julie Fisher Cummings, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Sally Chester, Subcommittee Member  
Joyel Glaze, Subcommittee Member  
Dina Rubio, Subcommittee Member

Tiffany David, City of West Palm Beach Mayor's Office  
Kayla Elson, Justice & Sustainability Associates  
Emma Lipsky, Justice & Sustainability Associates

### Public Attendees:

Janapanarites  
Linda Mauger-Harnish

### Absent:

Andre Darnell Wynn, Subcommittee Member  
Sergio Piedra, Subcommittee Member