



Mayor's Task Force for Racial & Ethnic Equality

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE **MEETING MINUTES** **Thursday, August 13, 2021** **3:00 p.m.** **Zoom Meeting**

Call to Order

Julie Fisher Cummings, subcommittee co-chair, called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. Tiffany David of the City of West Palm Beach, took attendance for the meeting record. Kayla Elson, of Justice & Sustainability Associates, reviewed the meeting agenda.

Education Surveys Update

Kayla Elson presented the results from the Education Survey. Sally Chester, subcommittee member, noted a response that indicated frustration over some school administrators' confidence in students' ability to succeed. Tiffany David shared that based on comments in the Action Summit, some residents feel that their schools do not properly support and believe in their student's ability to succeed. Subcommittee members also commented on whether there were enough responses on which they could base a recommendation.

From the results of the educator-focused survey, Julie Fisher Cummings highlighted the consistent emphasis on needing more resources and support in the classroom, and feeling burn out.

Discussion: Priority Two Recommended Ideas

The subcommittee members began narrowing down their recommended ideas under priority two. Subcommittee members agreed that they would like to put forward the idea to create an education liaison position in the Mayor's office to advocate on behalf of students and teachers and find resources to support educational programs. Sergio Piedra, subcommittee member, suggested using the Delray Beach Education Coordinator position as a model for the role. Julie Fisher Cummings stated that the liaison position could be resourced by a public-private partnership.

The second idea that the subcommittee members discussed was investing in mental health resources and a mental health liaison who would lead a Mental Health Task Force to address the mental health needs in schools. However, Tiffany David highlighted the importance of ensuring that their recommendations address the root causes of racial and ethnic inequality, not just a general issue in the city. Joyel Glaze, subcommittee member, shared information about the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that offers city employees and family members free mental health resources and the School-Based Team (SBT) where guidance counselors, school nurses and other



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school staff work together and refer students to mental health resources. Therefore, to ensure that they are not recommending programs that already exist and to focus on racial and ethnic inequality in education and workforce development, the subcommittee members chose to explore another idea under priority two.

Lastly, the subcommittee members discussed an idea of meeting with teachers from every school in West Palm Beach to ask them what resources and support they need.

Public Comment

No public comments were made at this time.

Next Steps: Task Force Review

Kayla Elson will provide the subcommittee members with an updated recommended ideas list for the subcommittee members to finalize at the next meeting. Subcommittee members will also continue their efforts to get more community feedback to inform their recommendations.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. by Alexandria Ayala. The next meeting will be on Monday, August 16th, 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
Sergio Piedra, 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
Milena Almetica, Justice & Sustainability Associates

Absent:

Andre Darnell Wynn, Subcommittee Member