



## POLICY 1.0971

4A I recommend that the Board approve adoption of the proposed revised Policy 1.0971, entitled “**District Diversity and Equity Committee.**”

[Contact: Mike Burke, PX 48584]

### Adoption

### CONSENT ITEM

The revisions to this policy include the following changes:

- At line 66, the Haitian Citizen United Taskforce Inc. name has been changed to Ayiti An Aksyon, Inc. (AAA).
- At line 71, the organization name has been corrected to: Haitian American Solidarity Center- PBC, Inc. (HASC).
- Designated voting members were changed from twenty-four (24) to twenty-five (25) and these individuals are identified as coming from organizations and agencies serving a cross section of target groups reflecting the District’s student demographics.
- Identifies the “Committee” in line 28 to include “District Diversity and Equity.”
- Subparagraph b to Section 4 reflects that the definition of quorum for the transaction of businesses changed from the majority of the full membership to nine (9) members.
- Target group, Palm Beach County Education Commission, is removed in line 7; The Haitian American Solidarity Committee is added as a nominating organization.
- The Division of Blind Services of the Florida Department of Education is added as Target group on line 80-81.
- Subparagraph b was added to Section 2, which allows these target organizations to nominate one alternate member who has the right to attend meetings but not count towards the quorum unless the member from the same organization is not present at the meeting.
- Subparagraph c was added to Section 2, which provides that members of the Committee must be residents of Palm Beach County, or have an office in Palm Beach County and providing services beneficial to the students of this County.
- Subparagraph c was added to Section 4, allowing the Committee to establish sub-committees and appoint its members and chair. The quorum for sub-committees is also detailed in this section.
- Subparagraph e was added to Section 4, regarding the new attendance requirements of appointed Committee members and alternates.

**POLICY 1.0971**

**District Diversity and Equity Committee**

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2  
3 1. Purpose and Mission  
4

5 The School Board of Palm Beach County (Board) is committed to a culture of  
6 diversity and equity that reflects the voices, perspectives, and differences arising  
7 from our diverse community and the world to ensure equity in the academic  
8 success of all students.  
9

10 The School Board believes that equity of opportunity and equity of access to our  
11 programs, services, and resources is critical to the achievement of successful  
12 outcomes. The School Board believes that appreciating human diversity,  
13 developing a capacity for cultural competence and committing to equity and  
14 inclusion will enable the District to fulfill its mission. Cultural competence requires  
15 individuals and organizations to understand and respect differences. The District  
16 will adopt procedures intended to achieve a diverse and equitable school  
17 community inclusive of diversity of race, ethnicity, language, culture, gender,  
18 gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religious and spiritual beliefs, age,  
19 and physical and learning abilities. Diversity includes diversity of thought, diversity  
20 of values, and diversity of perspectives. For students to respect and value diversity,  
21 they must experience adults who are reflective of the varied cultures and  
22 backgrounds that make up our community and nation. The District seeks to recruit  
23 and to retain employees that reflect a culturally rich and diverse perspective.  
24

25 The School Board of Palm Beach County recognizes and values the diversity of  
26 our students and families, employees, and business/community partners. We are  
27 committed to a culture of diversity, equity and collaboration which contributes to the  
28 achievement of all students. The District Diversity and Equity Committee will review  
29 and provide strategies for evaluation and accountability of all policies and  
30 procedures.  
31

32 Furthermore, the Board believes the District shall provide equal opportunity in its  
33 employment and prohibit discrimination in its human resource policies and  
34 practices. The District has an obligation to promote equal opportunity in all of its  
35 business practices. Because the District is a public institution operating through the  
36 use of public funds, it reserves the right to require those entering into public  
37 contracts with the District be in compliance with all federal, state and local laws  
38 which prohibit illegal discrimination.

39 To assist the Board and Superintendent in diversity and equity in academic and  
40 operational programs of the District, a District Diversity and Equity Committee  
41 (DDEC or Committee) is created as an advisory committee to the Board and  
42 Superintendent. The Committee shall represent the District's stakeholders and

43 shall reflect the diversity of the student population. The Committee shall be  
44 governed by this policy, as set forth herein.

45  
46 2. Composition; Appointment

47  
48 a. The DDEC shall be comprised of 24 25 voting members who shall be  
49 nominated from the following organizations and agencies that serve a wide  
50 cross section of target groups that reflect the District's student demographics  
51 as follows:

- 52 i. one (1) by ASPIRA of Palm Beach County;
- 53 ii. one (1) by the Black Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County;
- 54 iii. one (1) by the Caribbean-American for Community Involvement, Inc.;
- 55 iv. one (1) by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) at  
56 Florida Atlantic University;
- 57 v. one (1) by the Coalition for Black Student Achievement;
- 58 vi. one(1) by Compass, Inc.;
- 59 vii. one (1) by the Economic Council of Palm Beach County;
- 60 viii. one (1) by the El Sol Jupiter's Neighborhood Resource Center, Inc.;
- 61 ix. one (1) by the District's ESE Advisory Committee;
- 62 x. one (1) by For the Children, Inc.;
- 63 xi. one (1) by the Glades Area Branch NAACP;
- 64 xii. one (1) by the Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization;
- 65 xiii. one (1) by the Guatemalan-Maya Center, Inc.;
- 66 xiv. one (1) by the ~~Haitian Citizen's United Task Force, Inc.;~~ Ayiti An Aksyon,  
67 Inc. (AAA), f/n/a Haitian Citizen's United Task Force, Inc.;
- 68 xv. one (1) by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County;
- 69 xvi. one (1) by the Hispanic Education Coalition of Palm Beach County;
- 70 xvii. one (1) by the Hispanic Human Resources Council;
- 71 xviii. one (1) by the Palm Beach County Council of PTAs;
- 72 xix. one (1) by the ~~Palm Beach County Education Commission-~~ Haitian  
73 American Solidarity Committee-Center - PBC, Inc. (HASC);
- 74 xx. one (1) by the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council;
- 75 xxi. one (1) by the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Palm  
76 Beach County;
- 77 xxii. one (1) by the Urban League of Palm Beach County;
- 78 ~~xxiii.~~ one (1) by the West Palm Beach Chapter of the NAACP; ~~and~~
- 79 ~~xxiv.~~ one (1) by the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County;  
80 and
- 81 xxv. one (1) by the Division of Blind Services of the Florida Department of  
82 Education.

83 b. All of these organizations may also nominate one alternate member. Alternate  
84 members have a right to attend and participate at all meetings but do not  
85 count towards the quorum or have the right to vote while the member from that  
86 organization is present at the meeting. If the member is not present, the  
87 alternate is a voting member for that meeting and counts towards the quorum.

- 88 c. All members and alternate members must be residents of Palm Beach County,  
89 or persons with an office in Palm Beach County and providing services  
90 deemed beneficial to the students of Palm Beach County.  
91 d. All persons nominated by an organization to the DDEC shall be submitted for  
92 ratification by the Board.  
93 e. ~~Upon adoption of this policy, DDEC members shall be provided with a copy of~~  
94 ~~this policy and a copy of Board Policy 1.09 (Advisory committees to the~~  
95 ~~Board).~~ Upon the appointment of a DDEC member or alternate member an  
96 individual(s) to the DDEC, the individual(s) shall be provided with a copy of  
97 this policy and Board Policy 1.09.  
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99 3. Advisory Authority and Responsibility  
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- 101 a. The DDEC is advisory to the Board and Superintendent, and its members  
102 shall serve in a voluntary capacity.  
103 b. The DDEC will involve parents, business partners, and stakeholders in  
104 identifying the obstacles that impact upon the District's ability to provide equity  
105 in practices and outcomes.  
106 c. The DDEC will assist the Board and Superintendent in receiving feedback  
107 from the District's stakeholders and in assessing progress towards diversity  
108 and equity in academic, administrative and operational programs of the  
109 District.  
110 d. The DDEC shall: (i) identify culturally competent attitudes, behaviors, skill sets,  
111 and policies of an effective multicultural organization; (ii) identify constraints or  
112 challenges that affect the District's ability to achieve diversity, to ensure  
113 equitable treatment of students and families, employees, vendors/suppliers,  
114 and other community and business allies; and (iii) provide recommendations  
115 that facilitate the prevention and elimination of such constraints or challenges.  
116 e. The DDEC shall review existing Board policies and District practices to ensure  
117 that District policies and practices are inclusive, culturally appropriate and  
118 equitable. The DDEC will receive input and statistical evidence, including data,  
119 best practices and anecdotal information from staff and other sources and  
120 provide advice and recommendations to the Board and Superintendent on:  
121 i. equity in academic outcomes for all groups of students;  
122 ii. diversity of student body enrolled in higher level coursework, including  
123 choice programs, dual enrollment, honors and advanced placement  
124 courses and the steps taken to ensure equitable access to those  
125 programs;  
126 iii. diversity of student body in athletic and other extracurricular programs  
127 and the steps taken to promote inclusive participation of all students;  
128 iv. diversity of populations, related to high school graduation rates, discipline  
129 referrals, placements in Exceptional Student Education, and enrollment in  
130 District Pre-K programs particularly highlighting race, ethnicity, language  
131 proficiency, and socioeconomic membership;

- 132 v. access to and support of rigorous curriculum content which includes the  
133 contributions and history of diverse populations;
- 134 vi. culturally competent and inclusive school climate that encompasses  
135 culturally and linguistically responsive family engagement;
- 136 vii. diversity in school/district employees across all levels of employment and  
137 job responsibility, including leadership positions, to ensure community  
138 populations are reflected equitably. The committee's review shall include  
139 employment data, recruitment, mentoring, retention, promotion, and  
140 employee discipline practices to ensure adherence to equal employment  
141 opportunity standards. Contracting and procurement opportunities shall  
142 also reflect equal opportunity standards; and
- 143 viii. any other diversity and/or equity issues related to the equitable and  
144 inclusive practices of the District as requested by the Board or the  
145 Superintendent.
- 146 f. The DDEC will recommend the implementation of ongoing professional  
147 development that includes cultural competence, antiracism, and ethno-cultural  
148 equity for all District employees. The professional development plan will also  
149 include strategies for educators to prepare students in the development of  
150 their own cultural competence and their successful participation in a global  
151 society.
- 152 g. The DDEC will collaborate with relevant and appropriate District staff in the  
153 design and implementation of a monitoring instrument to evaluate continuous  
154 progress. The results of the evaluation will be used for reflection and  
155 modification of practice.
- 156 h. The DDEC will not:
- 157 i. advise on the selection, transferring or disciplining of staff members, or  
158 handle any incidents of harassment/EEOC complaints;
- 159 ii. participate in the selection of vendors or specific instructional materials; or
- 160 iii. override the recommendations of school-based school advisory councils  
161 and parent/teacher associations.

#### 162 ~~4.—Advisory Authority and Responsibility~~

#### 163 **4. Committee Procedures, Operations, Reporting and Administrative Matters**

- 164 a. *Meetings.* The DDEC will hold its meetings consistent with the provisions of  
165 Board Policy 1.09, except as stated herein.
- 166 b. Meetings of the entire DDEC will require a quorum of nine (9) physically-  
167 present, currently-appointed voting members. If the member from an  
168 organization is not present, this would include the alternate from that  
169 organization.
- 170 c. The DDEC may establish sub-committees and appoint its members and chair.  
171 These subcommittees will have the authority to research issues within the  
172 jurisdiction of the DDEC, make findings and make recommendations to the  
173 DDEC. For meetings of sub-committees of the DDEC, the quorum shall be a

174 majority of physically-present DDEC subcommittee members and its meetings  
175 must be in the Sunshine.

176 d. *Operations, Procedures and Administrative Matters.* The DDEC shall conduct  
177 its meetings consistent with, and DDEC members and alternate members  
178 shall abide by, the provisions of Board [Policy 1.09](#), except as stated herein.

179 e. If the member and any alternate member for that appointing organization are  
180 not present for three (3) meetings during the calendar year so that the  
181 organization is not represented at those meetings, absent the Chair granting  
182 compassionate leave due to personal, business or familial exigency, or other  
183 good cause, the Committee member and alternate will be automatically  
184 removed. Appropriate staff shall then notify in a timely manner the appointer  
185 of the vacancy and the need for a replacement DDEC member and alternate.  
186 A periodic report will be made by the Chair to the Board regarding the  
187 attendance of appointed Committee members and alternates.

188 f. *Reporting.* Reports to the Board and Superintendent will be made by the  
189 DDEC consistent with Board Policy 1.09.

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191 5. **Duration of Charter.** This policy shall remain in effect until repealed or amended  
192 by the Board.

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195 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Fla. Stat. §§ [1001.32\(2\)](#); [1001.41\(1\) & \(2\)](#); [1001.42\(27\)](#);  
196 [1001.43\(10\)](#)

197  
198 LAWS IMPLEMENTED: Fla. Stat. §§ [218.415](#); [1001.32\(2\)](#); [1001.41\(1\)](#); [1001.43\(2\) &](#)  
199 [\(10\)](#)

200  
201 HISTORY: 4/18/2012; \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / 14

Legal Signoff:

The Legal Department has reviewed proposed Policy 1.0971 and finds it legally sufficient for adoption by the Board.

Bonnie A. Harris  
Attorney

Dec 13, 2013  
Date