ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & DIVERSITY COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SCHOOL BOARD REPORT
JULY 19, 2022
Regular School Board Meeting

Good morning, Superintendent Cartwright, Chair Levinson, Board Members, and staff. Please accept this report on behalf of the Small Business Advisory Committee, also known as SBAC, managed by the Economic Development & Diversity Compliance Department.

At the June 23rd meeting, Mr. Robert Ballou presented a BCPS Certificate of Appreciation to each member for our service last fiscal year. Also, we elected the incoming officers for the 2022/2023 school year. Carolyn Jones was elected Chair, and Shaheewa Jarrett Gelin will serve as Vice Chair. This was followed by the unanimous approval of new, at-large SBAC member, Brian Farrell.

Mr. Ballou continues to emphasize the importance of having regular contact with our respective School Board Members. Having said that, Will De Faria reported that he shared with his Board Member, Mr. Foganholi, a copy of his comments on the draft revised Supplier Diversity Outreach Program Guidelines to keep him abreast of the efforts and strategies to increase the economic inclusion of local suppliers.

As EDDC works to implement measures to foster economic growth of certified suppliers, Robert reiterated how important it is to receive input from us, as an advisory arm of the department. Furthermore, he welcomes ideas for consideration, and used Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Sheltered Market Program as an example. EDDC is studying it to potentially add

it to the toolkit. Committee members Shaheewa Gelin and Carlton Crawl attested to the positive impact that Sheltered Market Programs have on the local economy and strongly encourage EDDC to implement a program in the District.

Also, during our meeting, Robert shared that Broward and Dade Schools are scheduled to begin a series of joint supplier education and outreach workshops for all certified suppliers in August.

We also learned that starting in September, BCPS Reciprocal certifications will be conducted in B2G, which is also used by our neighboring school districts. And reciprocity, in B2G, will ultimately create a collective database of certified firms and expand the economy for local, small businesses. The EDDC will continue to utilize SAP/ARIBA for all new and renewal certifications.

If this wasn't enough, one of the most exciting initiatives Robert shared that will benefit local firms is spearheaded by the *South Florida Anchor Alliance*. The organization consists of all government procurement organizations in Broward and Dade. And the *Anchor Alliance* is working to simplify government procurements. We learned the *Health Alliance* is sponsoring a $2 million grant to integrate the procurement systems of 10 local agencies to develop a common database of suppliers and procurements. Both BCPS and Dade Schools, are included in the 2-year program. The purpose of the initiative is to create a common platform of suppliers and solicitations between all of the participating public sector buying groups in South Florida. The project is anticipated to result in a significant increase in local business spend for all participating

agencies. It also will enable local certified firms to leverage time and resources through the creation of a singular platform housing bid opportunities from multiple agencies.
We anticipate this will have a huge impact on the small business community and are glad to know BCPS is included.

In other news, EDDC is preparing for a Disparity Study Update. Responses to a Request for Information occurred in June and the Request for Proposals is scheduled for advertisement this month. The update is anticipated to commence in September and conclude by August 2023, spreading the cost over two fiscal years. We are certainly looking forward to this process.
Lastly, EDDC planning to hold focus groups this summer to engage with the community, starting with a survey. The survey responses will determine the direction of the listening sessions.

In closing, to view EDDC program data and metrics, Robert encouraged the committee to view "EDDC By Numbers" on the department's website at www.browardschools.com/eddc.

Thank you for your time.