ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & DIVERSITY COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT
SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

DECEMBER 13, 2022
Regular School Board Meeting

Good morning, Superintendent Cartwright, Chair Alhadeff, Board Members, and staff. My name is Marie Compas, and I represent Board Member Rupert on the Small Business Advisory Committee, also known as SBAC, managed by the Economic Development & Diversity Compliance Department.

First, on behalf of the committee, we would like to welcome each new School Board Member to the District. We are an advisory team for the Supplier Diversity Outreach Program, and we serve, in partnership with the District, to help grow the economic base of Broward County for the benefit of our students, families and the business community.

At the November 17th meeting, Mr. Ballou walked the committee through the Disparity Study Consultation Contract with *Keen Independent Research LLC*. Specifically, we discussed Milestones 1 - 4 which are scheduled to be completed by June 2023.

Under the first Milestone, tasks include, but are not limited to, an in-depth review of the Supplier Diversity Outreach Program and District purchasing and contracting policies and procedures. It also includes a market analysis. and assessment of available Small/Minority/Women Business Enterprise (S/M/WBE) firms.

Milestone #2 involves an analysis of the availability of ready, willing, and able S/M/WBE suppliers in each procurement commodity category. The data gathering process will use internal and external sources.

The tasks under Milestone #3 involve analyzing the District's contracting and procurement data using the SAP Ariba, DemandStar, and B2Gnow systems to generate reports on S/M/WBE participation and utilization in bids/proposals and contracting. Subsequently, using statistical methodology and legal standards for Disparity Studies, the consultant will create a Disparity Model to identify any disparity, be it under-representation or over-representation.

And the last Milestone scheduled to be completed by the end of the fiscal year involves the development of additional remedies for corrective measures against documented disparities.

In addition to discussing the Milestones, Robert informed us of his plan for SBAC to serve as the Disparity Study working group. Conceivably, with our monthly involvement from the beginning of the study, the process will be expedited should we formally accept the role in January 2024. Also, it is important to note that as a working group, we would share information and get input from *our* various professional and community groups to contribute to the process.

The first session of the Disparity Study will be held in January, and you can look forward to updates from your SBAC appointee after Milestone 1# is completed. This would be above and beyond ongoing departmental updates from EDDC.

In closing, Mr. Ballou shared the *FY23 Q1 Small/Local Spend Scorecard*. He reported $55.5M in direct District diversity spend. Also, 78 out of 481 certified suppliers did business with Broward Schools in Q1 resulting in a 21.5% utilization rate for the quarter. As a committee, we appreciate having access to this data, because it shows how the District is trending as we work to increase and reach diversity spend goals. I would also add that this type of data generally is not so easily accessible from other agencies. So kudos to Broward Schools. Thank you for your time and have a wonderful holiday season.