

MEETING MINUTES
MULTILINGUAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC)

DATE: November 12, 2025

TIME: 6:30 PM

LOCATION: Hollywood Hills Elementary & MS Teams

Attendees

Sara Korol (Chair), Stephanie Rodriguez (Superintendent Designee), Patricia Gleason (Elementary Teacher Representative), Maria Catalina Rubio (Elementary Parent Representative), Milagros Mora (Middle School Parent Representative), Wendolyn Andrus (Recording Secretary), and additional parents and district staff members participating in person and via Teams.

Quorum: Yes (confirmed)

Recorder: Wendolyn Andrus

Call to Order & Welcome

- Chair Sara Korol opened the meeting at 6:38PM by welcoming attendees joining both in-person and virtually.
- Technical issues were noted regarding Teams' access for parents without district emails.
 - Alternatives will be explored for future meetings.

Pledge of Allegiance

- The committee and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions

- Committee members introduced themselves and their roles.
- Communication platforms reviewed:
 - **MAC Outlook Email:** MacBCPS@outlook.com (new district email forthcoming)
 - **Website:** MACBCPS.com (updated regularly with minutes and resources)
 - **Facebook Page Activation:** In progress to increase community engagement

Approval of Minutes

- September meeting minutes could not be displayed properly due to technical issues.
- Approval deferred until the file can be accessed and clearly presented.

Hispanic Heritage Celebrations Showcase

- The committee highlighted school-based Hispanic Heritage Month events, demonstrating community engagement and cultural pride promoted by Dual Language Programs.
 - Manatee Bay Elementary, Eagle Point Elementary & Eagle Ridge Elementary showcased their celebrations.
 - Proposal by Sara to consider putting together a "how-to" informational sheet for parents looking to start/structure a Dual Language parent committee. Manatee Bay model is school-led, where the school collects \$\$ from Hispanic Heritage event, keeps it in account for use on DL programs.

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Riverglades has a different model, where PTA has a separate account where \$\$ is kept from selling Dual Language t-shirts.

School Visit Summaries

- Gulfstream Academy (K–8) & Riverglades Elementary

Gifted Program & Dual Language

- Concerns were raised regarding students leaving Dual Language when identified for the Gifted program.
- Committee members clarified that students can participate in both, and Dual Language is a rigorous program appropriate for advanced learners.
- Mrs. Machin shared that at Manatee Bay, she encourages teachers to obtain gifted certification and currently has one at each grade level but confirmed that students can remain in Dual Language through the consult model when needed and recommended creating a one-page flyer to clearly explain how Gifted and DL can coexist.
- Committee agreed that clearer districtwide communication for families is needed.
 - The flyer should be one page, not tri-fold available in all languages, not only Spanish.
 - Should be shared from the moment students enter DL, not only when identified gifted.

Middle School Readiness & Course Pathway Discussion

- A key discussion centered on the lack of appropriate Spanish coursework in middle school for dual language students who are not native speakers but have 6+ years of Spanish instruction.
 - Concerns raised:
 - World Languages department does not recognize “dual language” as a category.
 - Lack of assessment or inconsistent placement into Spanish for Spanish Speakers.
 - District acknowledged potential gaps when schools do not provide complete testing lists.
 - Students who do not fit Spanish 1 (too advanced) or Spanish for Spanish Speakers (too difficult) have no appropriate option
 - Need for a bridge course or differentiated Spanish course for DL students in middle school
 - Sara suggested a **Summer Spanish Bridge Program** for rising 6th graders to strengthen conversation, grammar, and readiness before Spanish for Spanish Speakers courses in middle school.
 - Funding availability and logistical feasibility to be explored with district.

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- Spanish as one of the rotating Specials might be helpful at the elementary level.

- Committee agreed to pursue data, consult district research, and explore proposing a new course or support option.

STAR Data in English & Spanish K–5

- District is implementing STAR (Renaissance) Spanish Language Progress Monitoring for grades K–5, which will:
 - The goal is to provide side-by-side Spanish and English data similar to FAST
 - Strengthen progress monitoring and instructional accountability
- Forthcoming district memo with further details

Data Request to District

- Sara formally requested district data:
 - Comparison of % of Spanish-speaking vs non-Spanish-speaking households
 - Kindergarten enrollment vs 5th grade dual language continuation
 - Purpose: determine attrition and equity patterns.

Amira Program Update

- Amira contract is being finalized for board approval.
- Committee acknowledged for its role in advocating for districtwide Amira access.
- The need for more structured oral Spanish practice to complement literacy software was shared.

Parent & Public Comments

- Parents expressed appreciation for the MAC's efforts.
- Falcon Middle School successfully corrected DL students' coding and offers a popular Spanish study hall period.
- Suggestions included creating engaging middle school electives for Dual Language students.
- Families asked for clearer communication about DL pathways into middle and high school.
- Suggestions for high-school–level community partnerships (e.g., hospitality, business) to support and enhance real-world Spanish application.

Action Items

- Explore alternative access options for families unable to log into Teams without district emails.
- Draft a one-page Gifted + Dual Language flyer for families (multilingual).
- Begin outlining a proposal concept for a Summer Spanish Bridge Program for rising 6th graders.
- Collect middle school Spanish placement feedback from families to inform recommendations.

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- Create “how-to” guide for different models of starting DL parent committee at school

Next Meeting

- **February 18, 2026 @ 6:30PM**
- **Location:** Coral Springs Middle School
- Hybrid access anticipated.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 PM.