



Website



# District Advisory Council

The School Board of Broward County

## Minutes



Questions

Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> 2025, 6:15 pm - 9:00 pm

Kathleen C. Wright (KCW) Boardroom 600 S.E. Third Avenue Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Chair – Cynthia Dominique      Vice Chair – Dee Defoe  
Recording Secretary – Michael Pezzicola      Corresponding Secretary – Antoinette Bailey  
Communications Chair – Brooke Bordy

### 1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

- Meeting was called to order at 6:23 PM.
  - Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
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### 2. Housekeeping & Meeting Protocol

- **Sign-in required:** All representatives must attend DAC meetings. Missing more than three consecutive meetings or four total per year will result in removal.
- **2025–2026 Meeting Dates:**
  - 10/8/25, 11/5/25, 12/10/25, 1/14/26, 2/11/26, 3/4/26, 4/8/26, 5/13/26, 6/10/26.
- **Participation:** Raise colored placard to be acknowledged by the chair. Be concise and considerate of time. One round of comments will be offered per member, followed by a second round if time permits. Additional questions can be submitted via QR code on the agenda.
- If you do not have a placard, contact Antoninette Bailey (Corresponding Secretary) at [baileylakes@gmail.com](mailto:baileylakes@gmail.com).
- Members are reminded to:
  - Be respectful, even when disagreeing.
  - Complete **annual ethics training** (required after July 1, must be completed by the second meeting). [Committee Training Program & Resource Page](#)
  - Register for updates on the [DAC website](#).
- Governing rules: **Policy 1070, Policy 1.2, DAC Bylaws, Roberts Rules of Order.**



### 3. Introductions

- Executive Board introduced.
  - Superintendent **Dr. Howard Hepburn** recognized.
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### 4. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from **May 2025** and **August 2025** were reviewed.
  - Motion to approve by Bob, seconded by Linda.
  - Motion carried.
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### 5. Superintendent's Report — Dr. Howard Hepburn (60–90 minutes)

#### Enrollment & Demographics

- Declining enrollment trends across Broward and neighboring counties:
  - Broward: down 40,000 over 10 years.
  - Miami-Dade: down 12,000.
  - Fort Lauderdale: down 10,000 (loss of \$80M in funding in the past year).
  - Palm Beach: down 6,000 (despite opening a new high school).
  - Orange: down 12,000.
- ELL enrollment decreased by 3,000.
- Immigration slowdown, affordability issues, and return migration cited as factors.
- Over 80 charter schools in Broward also facing enrollment decline.

#### Budget Realities

- No new external hires; only internal moves allowed.



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- Federal funds temporarily frozen for 45 days, returned this year, but will not be available in the same way next year.
- Budget submissions expected in February (earlier than usual).
- \$100 per-student expense increase, but only a \$90 state funding increase.

### **Facilities & Consolidation**

- 34 schools under review; not all will close, but all are part of solutions.
- Goal: use underutilized facilities for community services.
- October workshop to include a 5-year financial analysis per division.
- Consideration of bonds vs. referendum for major facility needs.

### **Magnet & Innovation — Cassandra (Director)**

- Ensure each school has programs to market.
- Diversify portfolio (virtual, venture design, charter).

### **Contracts**

- Over 400 active contracts will be reviewed for necessity, scale, and performance.
- Consideration of in-house staffing vs. external contracts (subs, nursing).

### **Safety & Security**

- Focus on perimeter fencing, entry controls, communication systems, and SESIR data.
- New emergency app rollout — ~100 weekly uses (mostly medical).
- VAPE detectors: detect smoke/vape, scents, keywords (e.g., “FIGHT”), and unusual occupancy patterns.
  - Concerns raised regarding innocent students, special needs students, and privacy.
  - Piloted last year; three vendors tested, one selected.
  - Follow-up action: share vendor list and evaluation results.
- Safety gaps in modular classrooms:



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- Example: Westglades and Margate modulars lacked PA access. Fixed after inspection.
- Follow-up: verify safety/security checks beyond occupancy clearance.

### **Questions & Concerns Raised**

- Equity of VAPE detector implementation (high vs. middle schools).
  - Gifted Center plans.
  - Messaging for immigrant families regarding school access.
  - Zoning: research annually, need clarity on school vs. regional service.
  - Recommendation: ensure parents don't make enrollment decisions based solely on closure lists.
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## **6. School Transformation Office — Dr. Veda Hudge**

### **Broward Estates Update**

- Early Head Start & Pre-K Programs:
    - 4 classrooms: 16 Early Head Start, 21 Head Start, 17 VPK, 10 Pre-ESE.
    - 96 seats funded federally; 64 currently filled.
  - Concerns:
    - Community expressed desire to keep Broward Estates open; board reported otherwise.
    - Website still lists Broward Estates Elementary — needs update.
  - Follow-ups:
    - Update website to reflect early childhood services.
    - Provide enrollment data within 1 mile radius.
    - Clarify staffing changes between Coral Springs ES VPK and Broward Estates Early Head Start.
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## **7. Facilities & Playgrounds**



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- Facilities Task Force gathering data on playground standards.
  - Action Items:
    - Identify schools not meeting minimum standards.
    - Re-send checklist distributed to SAF chairs last year.
    - Confirm whether PTO/PTA should fund playground upgrades.
    - North Area rep: Muriel nominated; to be formalized.
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### **8. Finance & Academic Resources**

- Concerns about missing specials and reading coaches at low-enrollment schools.
  - District retaining 20% of ACE/AP funds (previously 5%).
  - CAPE funding delayed despite state release.
  - SAC funds: must be used by June 1 each year (should not roll over).
  - Follow-up: confirm if SAC funds are frozen/taken.
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### **9. Access to Social Media**

- Concerns raised about students being required to use social media for cheerleading routines or courses.
  - Follow-up: each area to collect specific examples for discussion next meeting.
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### **10. Motions**

- **Extend Meeting 15 Minutes** — Carried (1 opposed).
- **Policy 1070 Review:**
  - Motion: We recommend that the school board maintain the monthly committee reports to address issues raised at the district level in a timely manner.



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- Carried (1 opposed).

- Motion: We recommend that the board establish a consistent minimum of 90 minutes per month for committee reports and that the board work directly with its advisory/committee chairs to establish a mechanism that shows stakeholders that community concerns, feedback, and recommendations are given consideration, evaluation, and response. We also recommend that board member follow ups and their responses should be published on a public facing portals.

- Carried unanimously.

- **Reappointments:**

- Linda reappointed to Technology Advisory Committee.

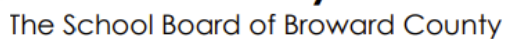
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### **11. Announcements & Reminders**

- Training Subcommittee — 9/12/25 @ 8:15 AM (Teams).
- Steering Meeting — 9/22/25 @ 7:00 PM (Indian Ridge MS).
- SAF Training — 9/29/25 @ 6:00–9:00 PM (Teams).
- Next DAC General Meeting — 10/8/25 @ 6:15–8:45 PM (KCW).
- Budget Training — 10/29/25 @ 6:30–9:00 PM (Teams).

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**Adjournment:** 9:00 PM



**Date: 09/10/2025**






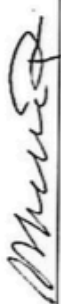




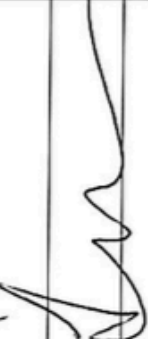






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Central Region 2025-2026				1-2-3-4 Indicates # of Absences														
				√= Present	√= Present via Teams	V=Vacant												
Person	Name	Ethics Training Date	Signature	20-Aug	10-Sep	8-Oct	5-Nov	10-Dec	14-Jan	11-Feb	14-Mar	8-Apr	13-May	10-Jun				
	Pamela Taylor	7/25/25		√														
At-Large	Carla Wong	8/15/25		√	√													
Pool Rep	Midge Royer	7/25/25		√														
Pool Rep	Vacant			√														
Pool Rep	Noelle Corris			√														
Pool Rep	Vacant			√														
Pool Rep	Dee Defoe	8/5/25	 DAC OFFICER	√														
Pool Rep	Vacant			√														
At-Large	Maxine Brivitte			√	MB													
As Rep	Lila Thropes <del>Vacant</del>			√														
As Rep	Dr. Nathalie Lynch Walsh			1														
ve Rep	T. Nikki Watkins	8/2/25		√	√													
r Rep	Vacant			√														

