Website

District Advisory Council
The School Board of Broward County

Minutes

Questions

Wednesday, September 10th 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**.
- 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.
    - Broward: 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.

- 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:

- 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

- 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.

        - 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).

Adjournment: 9:00 PM

Date: 09/10/2025

DISTRICT ADVISORY SIGN-IN 2025-2026		
GUEST - NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL ADDRESS
Irene Donaldson	SAF Chair @ ITE	irenedonaldson4444 @gmail.
Philip Hall	[redacted] Parent	Pjlouis28@hotmail.com
Mark Foxwell	SAF Chair@PPE	markf69@hotmail.com
LILA THROPES	SAF CHAIR B.I.Z REP CHAIR	swissdiamond77@gmail.com

District Advisory Council 2025-2026

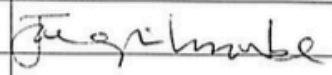
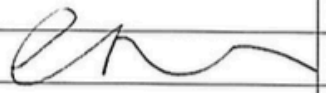
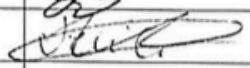
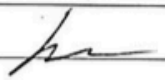
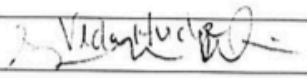
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Title	Name	Ethics Training Date	Signature	20-Aug	10-Sep	8-Oct	5-Nov	10-Dec	14-Jan	11-Feb	14-Mar	8-Apr	13-May	10-Jun
OFFICERS														
Chairperson	Cynthia Dominique			√										
Vice Chair	Dee Defoe	8/5/25		√										
Recording Secretary	Michael Pezzicola			√										
Corresponding Secretary	Antoinette Bailey	7/27/25		√										
Communications Chair	Brooke Bordy	8/25/25		√										
Past Chair	Dr. Nathalie Lynch Walsh			A										
Parliamentarian - Non voting	Vacant			V										
BOARD APPOINTMENTS														
Ms.Maura McCarthy Bulman District 1	Doureene Reyes-Greenstein			A										
Ms. Rebecca Thompson District 2	Vacant			V										
Ms. Leonardi District 3	Martha Gutiérrez-Steinkamp			A										
Ms. Lori Alhadeff District 4	Bob Mayersohn			√										
Dr. Jeff Holness District 5	Easton Harrison			A										
Mr. Adam Cervera District 6	Jennifer Forte			√										
Ms. Nora Rupert District 7	Vacant			V										
Dr. Zeman District 8	~~Vacant~~ Jessie Bastos			V										
Ms. Hixon District 9	Kristina Lucia			A										

√= Present √= Present via Teams V=Vacant 1-2-3-4 Indicates # of Absences

REPs TO DAC				20-Aug	10-Sep	8-Oct	5-Nov	10-Dec	14-Jan	11-Feb	14-Mar	8-Apr	13-May	10-Jun
Title One Rep	Mario Marcano			√										
PTA Rep	Phyllis Shaw			A										

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Gifted Chair	Alan Buskin			A	✓									
Multilingual Advisory Committee	Danielle Hoffman			A										
ESE Chairperson	Jacqui Luscombe			✓	✓									
BTU Rep	Terry Lopez Preuss			✓										
ESOL Rep				A										
High School Principal Rep.	Lisa Spencer			A										
Middle School Principal Rep.	Louis Kushner			✓	✓									
Elem. Principal Rep.	Lori Turner			A										
Center Principal Rep.	Christopher McGuire			A										
Ed. Support & Mgt Assoc. of Broward														
Student Advisor	Landyn Spellberg			✓										
Student Representative	Kaelyn Edwards (North)			✓										
Student Representative	Johndale Carty (Central)			✓	✓									
Student Representative	Jea'Cier Leon (South)			✓	✓									
Student Representative														
STAFF			No Placard/ **No vote**	20-Aug	**10-Sep**	8-Oct	5-Nov	10-Dec	14-Jan	11-Feb	14-Mar	8-Apr	13-May	10-Jun
Staff liaison	John Sullivan													
Staff liaison	Megan Turetsky													
Staff liaison Alternate	Adrienne T. Dixon Paul													
Staff liaison Alternate	Shelly Navarro Winter			✓	✓									
Student Services	Ascellia Arenas													
Parent Involvement (FACE)	Nadia Bryan Clarke													

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South Area 2025-2026				√= Present √= Present via Teams V=Vacant 1-2-3-4 Indicates # of Absences										
Title	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
rperson	Antoinette Bailey	7/27/25	DAC OFFICER	√	✓									
t-at-Large	Janice Waite			√	✓									
chool Rep	Sharon Bures			√										
chool Rep	Irene Donaldson ~~Vacant~~			V	✓									
School Rep	Sharon Bures Vacant			V	✓									
School Rep	Vacant			V										
chool Rep	Laurel Garfinkel			1										
chool Rep	Vacant			V										
-at-Large	Vacant			V										
ess Rep	Vacant			V										
ties Rep	Linda Ferrara			√	✓									
ative Rep	Vacant			V										
her Rep	Vacant			V										

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Central Region 2025-2026				√= Present √= Present via Teams V=Vacant 1-2-3-4 Indicates # of Absences										
e	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
erson	Pamela Taylor	7/25/25		√										
t-Large	Carla Wong	8/15/25	Carla Wong	√	√									
ool Rep	Midge Royer	7/25/25		√										
ool Rep	Vacant			V										
hool Rep	Noelle Corris			√										
hool Rep	Vacant			V										
ool Rep	Dee Defoe	8/5/25	DAC OFFICER	√	MD									
ool Rep	Vacant			V										
t-Large	Maxine Brivjtte			√	MB									
s Rep	Lila Thropes ~~Vacant~~	Ø		V										
s Rep	Dr. Nathalie Lynch Walsh			1										
ve Rep	T. Nikki Watkins	8/2/25		√	√									
r Rep	Vacant			V										

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North Area 2025-2026				√= Present √= Present via Teams V=Vacant 1-2-3-4 Indicates # of Absences										
Title	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
Chairperson	Nicole Morst			√	✓									
Parent-at-Large	Karla Figueroa			√										
Elem. School Rep	Michael Pezzicola		DAC OFFICER	√	✓									
Elem. School Rep	Amaral Jean-Bart			1										
Middle School Rep	Diana Brown			√	✓									
Middle School Rep	Cynthia Dominque		DAC OFFICER	√	✓									
High School Rep	Becky Leung			1										
High School Rep	M. T- Atilus ~~Vacant~~			V	✓	✓								
Citizen-at-Large	Vacant			V										
Business Rep	Jeff Bold			1										
Facilities Rep	M. T. Atilus ~~Vacant~~			V	✓									
Legislative Rep	Tai Quay Bogle			1										
Teacher Rep	Vacant			V										

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