

Broward County Public Schools  
**North Area Advisory Council**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
Monarch High School 5050 Wiles Road Coconut Creek, FL 33073  
**Date:** March 17, 2025  
**Time:** 6:15 – 9:00 PM (Call to Order at 6:34 PM)



Website

Email: [NorthAreaAdvisory@gmail.com](mailto:NorthAreaAdvisory@gmail.com)

Website: <http://northareaadvisorycouncil.ch2v.com/>

**Executive Board:**

- **Chair:** Cynthia Dominique
- **Vice Chair:** Karla Figueroa
- **Recording Secretary:** Danelle Dunfee
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Lucie Dicapua
- **Communications Chair:** Nicole Kearney

Attendance: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12irRBvXI2HIUA17KKLCohllqGco4QHnb?usp=sharing>

**A. Call to Order**

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:34 PM by Chair Cynthia Dominique.
- b. Chair announced she will be leaving for military duty tomorrow.

**B. House Keeping**

- All attendees reminded to sign in for attendance credit.
- Members must attend 3 of 4 meetings to remain in good standing.
- Members are asked to speak at least once during meetings.
- Ethics training must be completed if not done already.

**C. Approval of February Minutes**

**Motion to Approve:** Lucie Dicapua

**Second:** Nancy Fry

**Outcome:** Unanimous approval

**D. Old Business**

**1. District Website & Meeting Dates:**

- Website updates continue. New meeting dates TBD.
- They were at our North Area Mtg in February. Next meeting is rescheduled for 4/2 (virtual) – link forthcoming for anyone interested in listening in.

**2. Policy 1070 & Future of Advisories:**

- Task Force continues to evaluate structure and rules for serving as Chair/Vice Chair.
- Concerns shared about the 4-year term limit and election requirements. Changes would lead to new leadership every 2 years. Task force now created to review advisories to make them more efficient. Cynthia Dominique is the Vice Chair on this Task Force.
- Task force collecting feedback: [supt\\_taskforce@browardschools.com](mailto:supt_taskforce@browardschools.com)

**3. Parent Surveys & Consent:**

- Many parents are unaware of surveys or do not return them due to confusion or lack of access.

#### 4. Academic Updates:

- Item by Dr. Holness regarding standardized grading and guidelines for consistency.
- Request made for feedback if issues arise to email your School Board members.
- Noted: about 158 comments were received on this topic.

#### E. Important Info for SAF Chairs

##### 1. Elections & Nominations Committee:

- SAF/SAC elections should occur at the beginning of April.
- Nominations Committee Chair: Michael Pezzicola
- All positions must be elected (parents elect parents, teachers elect teachers, non-instructional elect non-instructional).
- Can utilize a Family Night, assembly, or pep rally to hold elections.
- Due date: **April 15**
- Serving at the school level allows members to serve at Area Advisories

##### 2. School Budgets:

- Joint SAC/SAF Mtgs should be held to review school budgets, ensuring funding to school improvement goals, staffing, Title 1 Funding, FRL (Free Reduced Lunch) Applications, etc. before finalization.
- SAF Chairs must receive budget drafts and a presentation with an opportunity to provide input.
- Schools should have enrollment projections.
- People are not used to filling out the Free & Reduced Lunch forms because of the free breakfast and lunch programs. Some schools have missed Title I designation by 2 students. Additional benefits if qualifying for free & reduced lunch include test fee waivers, gifted designation with Plan B criteria.

##### 3. Enrollment Projections:

- Schools should have these by the first week of April.

##### 4. School Improvement Plans:

- SIPs are due by April 1st
- Training sessions and planning for 2025–26 school year underway.

##### 5. Matriculation Meetings for IEPs/ESE Students:

- In progress; Summer Learning and ESY planning underway.

**Commented [NF1]:** Not sure how that ended up there in my minutes - that was just my note about our next meeting

#### F. Heart Gallery of Broward – Dr. Mary Kinirons, Executive Director

- Website: <https://heartgalleryofbroward.org>
- Focus on foster children needing permanent homes that are more difficult to place.
- Across the US and some in Canada
- DCF is privatized in Florida; can complicate processes as every county is different.
- Challenge: Photos of children can't be shown publicly anymore, affecting adoption rates.
- Using speaking engagements, libraries, local malls to drive traffic to register with them.
- Provides youth enrichment programs, birthday and back-to-school programs, WE CARE program for resources for families

#### G. Executive Functioning Presentation – Bari Aranoff, FDLRS HRD Specialist

- Tools, resources, and strategies discussed for executive functioning challenges.
- 18 centers statewide - Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System.

#### H. Social Work Presentation – BCPS Social Work/Student Services Initiatives Division – Dr. Jhonii Louis

- Social Worker program removes barriers to student success and social/emotional development.
- BCPS has 180 Social Workers, clerical, and liaisons. Community liaison keeps social worker on campus, gets resources for students. Social Workers give social skills classes, use trauma-informed care, train and retrain on skills.
- All BCPS social workers hold Master's-level degrees.

- SWs are embedded in schools.
- Collaborate with agencies, individual and group counseling, attendance, social services, crisis response, expulsions.
- Many parents' unaware services are available.
- Social workers are assigned to 1-3 schools. High schools receive 1 full-time social worker; elementary and middle schools may share with neighboring schools.
- Suggestion: Train staff on trauma-informed care and access to services.

#### I. North Region Superintendent's Office Updates

- 5 weeks until testing
- Emphasis on accountability and data tracking, building student endurance before assessments.
- Review of student performance, EOCs, and FAST assessments.
- Broward Standards Assessment (BSA) compiles work from throughout the year.
- "Crunch Time" = Focused, short-term approach to reviewing specific, high-priority standards in weeks leading up to tests ("filling the gaps").
- Principals discussed what is going on at their schools: instruction plus remediation, instructional facilitators from the district are coming into the schools, peer to peer instruction, test-taking strategies, ELOs during the school day.
- SAF chairs should make sure SIP aligns with instructional plans. SAF chairs received dashboards for their schools with overarching data.
- Graduation rate for the county is close to 90%.
- Many opportunities for accelerated courses in North Area. The school with the lowest percent of acceleration in North Region is still at 58%. Biggest hinderance is access to/availability of courses.
- Data is being audited to ensure supports are targeted. Continued effort to improve equity and outcomes, especially for displaced or underserved students.

#### J. Committee Reports / DAC Updates

- **Policy 5070:** Discussion of enrollment/withdrawal for MS/HS boundary change policy. DAC recommended making MSD a choice area, since they are accepting reassignments, to allow priority and prevent siblings from being split. 150 seats are projected to be open, and Coral Glades is currently over-enrolled.
- **SAT/ACT:** New rule allows either to replace FAST test (but the FAST scores still count against school grades).
- Concerns raised about SAT/ACT access, especially for low-income students.
- Proposal: District should cover SAT/ACT costs for all students.

#### K. Open Discussion

- **Topics Raised:**
  - 
  - Issues with school choice and inconsistent practices.
  - Request for accountability on communications.
  - Recommendation to ensure IEP/504 students receive equal support.'
  - Summer Learning begins June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Request for parent survey flyers to be translated into multiple languages as schools are currently having to manually do the translation on their own.

**Commented [NF2]:** Sorry, that was part of the Heart Gallery presentation

**Commented [NF3]:** Not sure if you got this from elsewhere - I don't know these items.

#### **L. Announcements**

COMMITTEE/MEETING	DATE
DISTRICT ADVISORY GENERAL MEETING AT KCW	April 9, 2025 @ 6:15–8:45 PM
***NORTH AREA GENERAL MEETING AT MONARCH HIGH	April 17, 2025 @ 6:15–9 PM
SUPERINTENDENT TASK FORCE: COMMITTEE STRUCTURE REVIEW	TBD
SUMMER LEARNING	June 23

#### **M. Adjournment**

Time: 9:04 PM

Motion to Adjourn: Nancy Fry

Second: Noted on file

*Notes Taken By: Nancy Fry*

#### **Submitted by:**

**Danielle Dunfee**

Recording Secretary