

Broward County Public Schools
North Area Advisory Council
DRAFT - General Meeting Minutes – DRAFT
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

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/12irRBvXI2HIUA17KKLCohlqGco4QHnb?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

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.

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:**
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 - 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 23rd.
 - Request for parent survey flyers to be translated into multiple languages as schools are currently having to manually do the translation on their own.

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