

Broward County Public Schools
North Area Advisory Council
GENERAL MEETING
MONARCH HIGH SCHOOL
January 15, 2026
6:15-8:45 PM



Website

MEETING MINUTES

Email: NorthAreaAdvisory@gmail.com

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

Chair- Nicole Morst Vice Chair- Michael Pezzicola Recording Secretary- Nicole Kearney
Corresponding Secretary- Lucie Dicapua Communications Chair- Karla Figueroa

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- A. **Call to Order** at 6:18pm
- B. **Meeting Etiquette**- SAF Chairs, please remember to sign in so that your attendance is recorded, a Guest Sign in is also available. To remain in good standing, SAF Chairs and Members must attend meetings regularly. Missing 3 consecutive meetings or 4 total will result in loss of good standing. When speaking, **ask one question or make one comment** at a time to ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate. Guests may speak if time permits. Please be respectful throughout the meeting and **complete the Ethics Training if you have not already done so.**
- C. **North Region Updates** - Overview of PM2 (Progress Monitoring 2) data - due to the active testing window, only aggregate North Region data was shared; school data to be shared once testing concludes.

-PM2 data shows a clear upward trajectory compared to prior years. Several schools' PM2 results now match or exceed last year's PM3, indicating positive momentum toward year-end outcomes. North Region currently has approximately 7–8 "C" schools, with a stated goal of eliminating all "C" ratings.

-Graduation Highlights - Broward high schools reported the highest graduation rate in Florida, approximately 97.5%, including non-traditional schools. Graduation rate reflects students earning a standard high school diploma, not certificates of attendance.

-Assessment Structure & Accountability - PM assessments measure English Language Arts (ELA) from grades 3–10. PM3 is the assessment tied to graduation requirements in 10th grade. Math PM testing occurs in elementary and middle school; high schools instead use: District benchmarks (BSA) and End-of-Course (EOC) exams (Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, U.S. History)

-School grades are calculated using: proficiency (Levels 3–5), learning gains (one year of growth) and lowest quartile gains (bottom 25% of students). Examples of notable growth were shared, including: Morrow Elementary School showing a 14-point increase in ELA. Math gains among elementary and K–8 schools included increases of 7–14 percentage points.

- Instructional Shifts & Teacher Support - Approximately 70% of newly hired teachers do not come from colleges of education, requiring strong in-school training. The first half of the year focuses on teacher support and development. The second half ("crunch time") shifts focus toward: direct student

interventions and closing learning gaps using PM data. All teachers, coaches, and administrators collaborate during this phase.

-Elementary School Practices - PM2 is used as a roadmap for the remainder of the school year. Schools conduct student-by-student data reviews using detailed spreadsheets to ensure no child is overlooked. Interventions include: classroom teachers, push-in and pull-out support and ESE, gifted, and enrichment services. Parent engagement strategies include: printed reports, literacy nights and conferences explaining student data and growth expectations. Accommodations are provided for students with disabilities, including breaks and alternate testing supports. Students, including those in early grades, actively set goals and track their own progress.

-Secondary School Practices - Emphasis is placed on getting students to take PM assessments seriously, even when labeled as “practice.” Teachers now pull and analyze their own data, sharing it with literacy coaches. Literacy coaches target specific standards during push-in support. Instruction includes: spiraling standards through warm-ups and targeted intervention based on weaknesses. Students maintain grade-rate tracking sheets to understand scores, levels, and goals. Student ownership of data has increased motivation and engagement.

-Cross-Teaching & Targeted Interventions - At Blanche Ely High School, teachers engage in cross-teaching, where instructors with strong results in a specific standard teach across classrooms. Data analysis focuses on: individual students, subgroups (students with disabilities, English language learners) and specific benchmark standards. Tiered supports include: Tier 1: Core classroom instruction and Tier 2 & 3: Push-ins, pull-outs, workshops, after-school tutoring

-Graduation Support & Non-Traditional Schools - Students who do not meet graduation requirements by spring may: retest in summer or fall, or use concordant scores (SAT, ACT, CLT). Schools continue supporting students beyond the reported graduation window, sometimes into the following fall or winter. Non-traditional schools play a critical role in supporting students who are off track. Students may attend alternative programs temporarily and return to their home school or graduate there.

-Financial Literacy Requirement - Financial literacy is now a state graduation requirement. All students must complete one financial literacy course during high school. Instruction timing varies by school and does not include an EOC exam.

- Concerns were raised regarding: moving state accountability benchmarks (“goalpost shifting”) for school grades and the impact of school grades on communities and property values. Clarification provided: grading scale changes are mandated by state legislation, when 75% of schools reach A/B status, cut scores increase automatically. Parents were advised to contact state legislators and the State Board of Education regarding accountability policies.

- Concerns raised regarding equity of access to tutoring and funding for ESE students or students identified as “off standards”. District leadership clarified students in autism clusters or “off standards” should still have access to tutoring and any cases where this is not occurring should be reported

- Ongoing challenges acknowledged in making testing data parent-friendly and accessible. Parents requested: clearer visuals (graphs, comparisons), printed reports and better training on platforms such as Focus and i-Ready. Schools reported mixed approaches: digital access, paper reports and parent training sessions. The district acknowledged this as an area for continued improvement.

- Parents raised concerns about low PM2 scores in early grades compared to classroom performance. Clarification provided: some assessments compare content not yet taught and scores should be interpreted cautiously. Schools emphasized: educating parents on score meaning, teaching students not to rush assessments and use of “flag” reports to identify rushed tests.

D. Graduation Venues - Concerns were raised regarding the district decision to move many high school graduation ceremonies from large external venues to school gymnasiums as a cost-saving measure. The decision generated strong community reaction due to timing and optics, occurring alongside reports of district financial mismanagement, staff overpayments, hiring freezes, and reductions impacting schools. While it was acknowledged that referendum funds cannot legally be used for graduation expenses, participants emphasized that the public perception remains negative and affects trust in the district.

- Graduation Venue Assignments (North Region)

- NSU (Nova Southeastern University): JP Taravella High and Coral Glades High
- Hard Rock Live: Cypress Bay High and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High
(Selected due to having the two largest graduating classes and limited venue availability.)
- Blanche Ely High (host site): Blanche Ely High, Atlantic Technical College, College Academy (North and Central), Dave Thomas Education Center, and Millennium High
- Dillard High (host site): Coconut Creek High, Coral Springs High, and Deerfield Beach High
- Pompano Beach High (host site): Pompano Beach High, Northeast High, and Broward Virtual
- On-campus graduations: Bright Horizons and Cross Creek School

- Venue decisions were driven by: cost savings, capacity constraints, availability of dates and ability to provide more tickets per graduate. Indoor venues were prioritized due to weather concerns typical during graduation season. Gymnasiums selected (including Blanche Ely, Dillard, and Pompano Beach High School) were described as large, well-designed spaces capable of hosting dignified ceremonies. The district stated it would cover decoration and setup costs to ensure ceremonies are respectful and celebratory.

- Multiple participants expressed concern that: students graduating in gymnasiums or at rival schools may feel less valued and graduation venues should not vary in a way that implies unequal recognition. Ticket distribution was identified as a major equity issue and calls were made for consistent ticket limits across all schools regardless of venue.

- Concerns were voiced about perceived contradictions between graduation cost-cutting measures and the hosting of large-scale adult recognition events funded by sponsorships. Clarification was provided that graduation events are not funded by district operating or referendum dollars. Some participants suggested: exploring sponsorships for graduations or leveraging the high visibility of graduation ceremonies for community support

E. District Hiring Freeze - Discussion focused on the impact on school-based staffing. Concerns were raised about schools that had already restructured staff prior to the district memo, including Trade Winds Elementary, where internal reassessments and loss of a non-instructional position occurred to cover a fifth-grade vacancy.

- District leadership stated that staffing is reviewed weekly, remains fluid, and is impacted by: approximately 20 teacher departures per week, declining enrollment and anticipated school closures requiring future staff placement. Certified district staff are being temporarily assigned to schools to cover vacancies where possible, with limitations due to: certification requirements and specialized roles (e.g.,

band directors, JROTC, AP courses). It was clarified that: reassignment of district staff to schools is an ongoing weekly process and instructional support roles may be reduced to prioritize classroom coverage. The Superintendent of Schools reiterated a willingness to step into a classroom if needed.

- Concerns were expressed regarding: communication to parents about staffing changes and instances of unstructured class time due to staffing shortages.

- Discussion addressed task assignments and compensation, with concerns about: temporary pay increases during a hiring freeze and equity between district-level and school-based staffing decisions. District clarified: District staff reassigned to schools retain existing pay and Task-assigned staff may receive temporary compensation adjustments tied to increased responsibilities and existing vacancies. Examples of school-based acting assignments (e.g., assistant principals serving as principals) were cited as appropriate uses of temporary pay adjustments.

WE MOVE that the School Board of Board County freeze all pay or salary increases for non-school-based staff temporarily or task-assigned to a different position - moved by Cynthia Dominique and seconded by Karla Figueroa. After discussion, Motion failed (7 in favor, 8 opposed).

F. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

1. October 16, 2025 (tabled) - Motion to approve the October 16 Minutes - moved by Joe Morerro and seconded by Michael Pezzicola - motion passed unanimously.
2. November 20, 2025 (tabled)
3. December 18, 2025 - Motion to approve the November 20 and December 18 Minutes - moved by Muriel Theophin-Atilus and seconded by Sara Marta - motion passed unanimously.

G. Elections - Open Positions include: Middle School Rep, High School Rep, Teacher Rep, Student Rep, ESOL, ESE and Legislative.

- **WE MOVE** that Jackie Luscombe be appointed as the North Area ESE Rep - moved by Cynthia Dominique and seconded by Nancy Fry - motion passed unanimously.

- **WE MOVE** that Dr. Tia Quay Bogle be appointed as the North Area Legislative Rep - moved by Cynthia Dominique and seconded by Karla Figueroa - motion passed unanimously.

H. Open Discussions/Topics & Motions from SAF Chairs - None

- Question about A+ Funding and how it is typically voted to be spent - member advised on best practice based on prior meetings

- Question about Class Wallet - has specific items that can be purchased, typically school supplies and continuing education

I. Old Business (none)

J. Updates

1. **Academics/Testing Update** - Lucie DiCapua - Board going to hold Workshop on testing and Performance Matter (testing platform) in February.
2. **SAC/Accountability Funding** - no update on funds - principals are being advised to express needs
3. **Nurses**
4. **Redefining**
5. **Food & Nutrition - Lunches** - payments toward student balances should be made to cafe manager

K. Upcoming Dates/Important Reminders

DISTRICT ADVISORY GENERAL MEETING AT PLANTATION HIGH

FEBRUARY 11TH AT 6:15 PM- 8:45 PM

NORTH AREA GENERAL MEETING AT MONARCH HIGH

FEBRUARY 19TH AT 6:15 PM- 8:45 PM

L. Adjourn - Motion to Adjourn at 8:45pm - moved by Karla Figueroa and seconded by Muriel Theophilin-Atilus - Motion passed unanimously.

Important Links

- **MANDATORY Advisory Ethics Training:**
<https://www.browardschools.com/bcps-departments/human-resources/hr-operations/committee-training-program-resource-page>
- **North Area Budget Training Presentation:**
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FPte4xxTtalwQEoBLxIEC8iTaOs2rUT6/view?usp=sharing>
- **Title 1 Funding Presentation:**
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nCUCaCTFasoGMdL6aqBvHrLLFafNRyQg/view?usp=sharing>
- **School Board Meetings, Agenda Packets, and Recorded Videos:**
<https://www.browardschools.com/Domain/12453>
- **Student Performance Data:**
<https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/3154422/Presentation.pdf>
- **School Improvement Department and Plans:** <https://www.browardschools.com/page/35378>
- **School Accountability and Improvement Policy:**
https://schoolinfo.browardschools.com/bcpsweb/displaypdf.html?filename=Policy_1403
- **School Accountability and Improvement Guidelines:**
https://schoolinfo.browardschools.com/bcpsweb/displaypdf.html?filename=Policy_1403
- **School Advisory Forum Policy:**
https://schoolinfo.browardschools.com/bcpsweb/displaypdf.html?filename=Policy_1.3.pdf