

Broward County Public Schools
North Area Advisory Council
GENERAL MEETING
MONARCH HIGHSCHOOL
April 16, 2026
6:15-8:45 PM



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 6:20pm by Chair Nicole Morst and clarified that all North Area Advisory Council officers serve as parent volunteers and are not district employees. The executive board was introduced:

- Nicole Morst, Chair (Coral Glades High School)
- Lucy DiCapua, Corresponding Secretary (Riverside Elementary)
- Nicole Kearney, Recording Secretary (Country Hills Elementary; Coral Springs Middle)

Chair noted a full agenda and referenced recent developments requiring time for community questions and discussion.

B. Tribute to Nancy Metayer - Chair acknowledged the passing of Nancy Metayer, Coral Springs community leader and Vice Mayor. She highlighted Ms. Metayer's impact on local families, particularly her mentorship of children and support of young women in the community.

Dr. TaiQuay Smith-Bogle shared personal reflections on Nancy Mateer's leadership and community involvement, including her role in uniting and supporting the Coral Springs community, her encouragement of parent involvement and civic engagement, and personal examples of mentorship and support provided to local families and children

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Vice Mayor Nancy Metayer.

C. Nominating Committee - Nicole Kearney, Chair - Explained the formation of the Nominating Committee for the upcoming board elections and the positions that subject to annual election, including:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Recording Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary
- Communications Secretary

She requested two additional volunteers to serve on the committee. The following members volunteered: Nicole Diamas and Christine Pembleton. The committee will meet virtually (two meetings) to prepare a slate of candidates. Elections will be held at the next general meeting on **May 21, 2026**.

Board members encouraged participation, emphasizing that positions are open to all parents and support/training will be provided.

D. Approval of Minutes - March 11, 2026 - No changes proposed in discussion - **Motion to Approve the Minutes by Nancy Fry, second by Nicole Diamas - Motion passed with none opposed.**

E. Facilities Department - Mark Dorsett - Chair opened the floor for facility-related concerns

1. **Riverside Elementary School** – Ongoing HVAC failures reported over multiple years, including repeated breakdowns, inconsistent cooling, and reliance on temporary portable units.

District Response:

- Full HVAC system replacement estimated at approximately **\$5.5 million**
 - Project submitted within the **DEFP** - Identified as a **Year 1 priority (beginning July 2026)** pending School Board approval
 - Timeline dependent on funding approval, design, permitting, and construction scheduling - Work may occur during summer or school breaks where feasible
2. **Eagle Ridge Elementary School** – Bathroom stall gaps creating privacy concerns; issue previously raised but not resolved.

District Response:

- Advised that work orders must be submitted and tracked through the school site
 - District emphasized importance of proper work order entry to ensure visibility and follow-up
3. **Forest Glen Middle School** – Water fountains are outdated and rusted; students are avoiding use.

District Response:

- Schools may pursue replacement through fundraising or donations
 - Equipment must be District-approved and installed by District personnel
 - Recommended process: coordinate through school administration and Facilities
4. **Deerfield Beach Elementary School** – Reports of missing bathroom stall doors and locks; concern raised that this may be a broader issue across multiple schools.

District Response:

- Emphasized need for accurate and consistent work order submissions
 - Acknowledged challenges with duplicate or repeated work orders in the system
 - Noted ongoing efforts to improve tracking and resolution through the Maximo system
5. **Deerfield Beach Middle School** – Gym floor described as slippery and unsafe, increasing risk of student injury.

District Response:

- No specific timeline provided
 - Advised that concerns should be documented through work orders for evaluation and prioritization
6. **Margate Middle School** – Plumbing and sewer system issues – Aging infrastructure requiring significant repairs – ADA compliance concerns in certain restroom areas – Kitchen conditions, including prior lack of adequate HVAC

District Response:

- Sewer line replacement under consideration; may require extensive reconstruction
 - Project planning includes potential full restroom rebuild if infrastructure work proceeds
 - Additional capital project identified: approximately **\$2.2 million** for kitchen/cafeteria improvements in a future DEFP year
 - Temporary HVAC solutions have been installed in kitchen areas
7. **Coral Springs High School** – Construction barriers (related to prior asbestos abatement and ongoing work) have limited bathroom access for an extended period, impacting students.

District Response:

- Barriers may remain in place during ongoing construction to contain dust and ensure safety
 - Acknowledged need to review timeline and accessibility concerns
 - District reiterated that student bathroom access must comply with safety requirements
8. **Coral Glades High School** – Track surface is concrete, limiting safe athletic use.

District Response:

- Noted that athletic facilities may be addressed through partnerships with municipalities
 - Example provided of shared-use agreements for athletic fields with local cities
9. **Work Order System & Maintenance Processes (General Discussion)** - Delays in work order completion - Duplicate work orders for the same issue - Lack of clarity on responsibility for submitting requests - Longstanding unresolved maintenance items

District Response:

- Work orders categorized by priority:
 - Priority 1: Emergency (immediate response)
 - Priority 2: Urgent
 - Priority 3: Routine maintenance
 - Acknowledged backlog, including some multi-year work orders
 - “Tiger Teams” deployed to address multiple lower-priority items efficiently
 - Transition underway to mobile-enabled Maximo system to improve tracking and completion
 - Training available for school-based staff to improve work order entry and management
10. **Capital Planning & Funding (District Educational Facility Plan (DEFP))** - Questions regarding how projects are prioritized and funded, and visibility into school-specific needs.

District Response:

- DEFP (Five-Year Work Plan) used to prioritize capital projects based on condition, urgency, and long-term planning
 - Projects require School Board approval before funding and design begin
 - Facility condition assessments have been completed districtwide to guide planning
 - Detailed reports are limited for security reasons; principals have access to site-specific information
11. **Community Funding & Donations** - Questions regarding how schools can fund improvements (e.g., water fountains).

District Response:

- Donations should be coordinated through the school with a clear letter of intent
 - District prefers to manage installation to ensure compliance and safety
 - Approved vendors must be used
12. **Additional Concerns – Resources & Staffing** - Concerns raised regarding staffing levels, resource allocation, and reliance on external contractors.

District Response:

- Acknowledged operational challenges, including staffing reductions and high volume of work orders
 - Noted ongoing efforts to improve efficiency through systems and planning
13. **Follow-Up Requests**
- Request for updates on playground projects (e.g., Hunt Elementary)
 - Request for continued communication on major project timelines and progress

- F. **Referendum** - School Board Member Dr. Allen Zeman addressed the group to provide an overview of the upcoming referendum expected on the November ballot, focusing on funding priorities, district finances, and strategies to improve student outcomes.

Dr. Zeman explained that the referendum represents approximately **\$1.23 billion (17% of the district’s budget)** and is one of the few flexible funding sources. He emphasized the Board’s responsibility to ensure these funds are used as promised—primarily for teacher pay, mental health, safety, and school-based staffing.

He noted the scale of the district (about 30,000 employees and 239 campuses) and the need to make strategic decisions with limited resources, particularly to retain students and rebuild trust with families. A central focus is “winning the hearts and minds” of students and parents.

School Utilization and Programs - Addressing concerns about school closures, Dr. Zeman stated the priority is strong student experiences, not maintaining under-enrolled buildings. Schools with low enrollment often cannot offer full academic and extracurricular programs, while fully utilized schools can. Consolidation may be necessary, though the district is also exploring program enhancements to attract students.

Student Retention - He acknowledged that students are leaving for charter and private options, a trend seen nationwide. The district’s approach is to improve offerings and compete by strengthening the quality of traditional public schools.

Referendum Funds and Input Dr. Zeman stated that community input—through meetings, surveys, and advisory groups—does influence decisions. Referendum funds are audited and must be used as designated, with a focus on supporting schools directly.

Accountability and Communication - Concerns about transparency and communication were acknowledged. Dr. Zeman agreed improvements are needed and noted that some district practices, including surveys, have not met expectations. He emphasized the importance of raising standards while recognizing the strong work happening in schools daily.

Staffing Priorities - In response to concerns about staffing cuts, Dr. Zeman stated he does not support reductions that impact student services and stressed the importance of prioritizing school-based positions.

G. School Safety and SRO Concerns - Concerns were raised about changes to School Resource Officer (SRO) contracts and lack of communication with cities, with both a Margate City Commissioner and a Margate Elementary student speaking against the change. Dr. Zeman acknowledged the situation was mishandled and apologized, noting that no final decision has been made. He also affirmed that Broward County Public Schools is considered the safest school district in the United States based on multiple objective measures, and that student safety remains a top priority.

H. Human Resources - Dr. Ernie Lozano - Discussion began by acknowledging the difficulty of recent staffing decisions. Dr. Lozano emphasized that while the reductions are significant, there are misconceptions about district staff and their roles. He clarified that many district-level employees directly support schools and students, even if they are not always visible on campuses. The reductions were largely focused on vacant positions or distributed strategically across departments:

- **Transportation:** 103 positions cut (mostly vacant), with over 1,000 staff still supporting student transportation daily.
- **Safety & Security:** 7 positions cut (all vacant), with approximately 900 staff remaining, most serving on school campuses.
- **Maintenance:** Over 600 employees remain dedicated to facilities and school work orders.
- **Clerical & Administrative:** Reductions resulted in fewer staff supporting multiple departments.
- **Leadership Levels:** The highest percentage of cuts (16%) occurred at director-level and above, aligning with directives to prioritize reductions at the top.

He stressed that many district-based roles—such as social workers, psychologists, and instructional support staff—are essential to student services, with over 800 still supporting schools.

Motion to Extend the Meeting Until 9:00pm made by Nancy Fry, seconded by Cynthia Dominique - Motion passed with one opposed.

Addressing the scale of the district, he noted Broward County Public Schools employs approximately 30,000 individuals. While cuts are impactful, the district plans to **restructure and realign remaining staff to maintain service levels**.

He also emphasized that:

- No teachers are expected to be left without employment, with placements anticipated by the end of the school year.
- Feedback from staff and the community will guide adjustments moving forward.
- A detailed breakdown of changes will be presented at the upcoming public workshop.

Motion - We move that the District maintain the current class size funding at 24 students at the high school level - moved by Nicole Morst, seconded by Cynthia Dominique - Motion withdrawn by maker.

The motion was made due to concerns about larger class sizes and staffing strain. District staff clarified that class size funding applies mainly to core classes and that the proposed change was part of a broader reallocation to provide more support at the elementary level.

After discussion about the impact on both elementary and secondary schools, concerns were raised about how the shift would affect staffing across grade levels. The motion was ultimately **withdrawn**, with agreement that the issue needed further review with the budget office before any decision.

I. Old Business & Updates - Accelerated Funds

J. North Region Updates

K. Upcoming Dates/Important Reminders

DISTRICT ADVISORY GENERAL MEETING AT KC WRIGHT BUILDING

MAY 13TH AT 6:15 PM- 8:45 PM

NORTH AREA GENERAL MEETING AT MONARCH HIGH

MAY 21ST AT 6:15 PM- 8:45 PM

L. Adjourn - Chair adjourns the meeting at 9:00pm.

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