

Broward County Public Schools  
North Area Advisory Council  
GENERAL MEETING  
MONARCH HIGHSCHOOL  
December 18, 2025  
6:15-8:45 PM



**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Email: [NorthAreaAdvisory@gmail.com](mailto: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 6:15pm by Chair Nicole Morst
- B. North Region Updates** by Dr. Fleming stated due to district funding losses and budget issues the Superintendent has imposed a strict districtwide budget freeze that impacts travel for staff as well as field trips - will also impact how staffing vacancies are filled - goal is to not impact students. Also looking to cut 1,000 positions - annual attrition is 650-700 some of those positions may be closed. District exploring changes to mandatory support allocation to meet school sizes. No changes should impact safety and security.  
District wrapping up PM2 testing with scores trending up from last year. The percentage schools need to achieve an "A" changes each year based on the District's overall scores and varies for each school level. There were questions about the issues bringing Spanish education into more or all schools. Question about obtaining speech services for students and the difficulties navigating that as a parent.
- C. 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.**
- D. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Motion to Approve the Minutes by Cynthia Dominique, second by Michael Pezzicola - During discussion it was stated there were several errors that needed to be addressed by email and the Motion was TABLED to the following meeting.
1. November 20, 2025
- E. Old Business: Tabled Motion:** I move that the District take immediate action to address the backlog regarding the shortage of school psychologists and social workers and to formally address a critical impact on our students. The delays in services resulting from these shortages are more significant than previously acknowledged and these essential services are legally protected and vital for our students' academic success and well-being. I am specifically urging them to: (1) Assess the staffing levels of specialists at each school, (2) Prioritize resources and personnel for the schools most severely impacted by the backlog, (3) Provide a timeline for when these long-overdue evaluations and 504 plan renewals will be completed. We would also appreciate the district's plan to address this systemic issue.

Motion was read by the chair and a Motion to Bring the Tabled Motion to the Floor was brought by Michael Pezzicola, seconded by Cynthia Dominique

Discussion: The maker cited concerns stemming from reported staffing shortages, personal experience with delays in 504 renewals, and potential impacts on students' access to appropriate services.

During discussion, members sought clarification on whether the issue was systemic or school-specific. Several participants explained distinctions between 504 Plans and IEPs, noting that psychologists are not required for 504 Plans, annual 504 reviews are not legally mandated, and IEP evaluations are subject to a 60-day legal timeline. Administrators shared that each school is required to designate staff responsible for 504s, ESE services, social work, and psychology, and that compliance alerts and monitoring systems are in place.

Members expressed differing experiences across schools, with some reporting timely communication and compliance, while others raised concerns about caseloads, staffing allocations across multiple schools, data limitations, and the ability to accurately identify backlogs. Additional data was shared indicating existing vacancies in school psychologist positions and high caseloads due to responsibilities across public, charter, private, and home education students.

Discussed the need for clearer metrics, better data collection, and targeted information requests to determine whether delays are widespread or isolated. Several members recommended forming a subcommittee to identify appropriate data points (e.g., caseloads, evaluation timelines, backlog indicators) and to engage relevant district departments for accurate information.

Given the need for further clarification and data, and to avoid advancing a motion with potentially inaccurate assumptions, the maker agreed to withdraw the motion. The issue will be revisited after additional information is gathered and reviewed by a smaller working group - **Elementary Subcommittee will meet on 1/9/2026 at 8:30am.**

**F. Open Forum for Motions** - Chair asks if any members have Motions from their schools or old Motions to discuss

-During the open forum, a member raised concerns regarding limited planning time for elementary teachers. The discussion highlighted the demands of planning across multiple subject areas and perceptions that secondary teachers may have different scheduling structures.

District representatives explained that planning time is governed by contractual agreements and varies by instructional model, though elementary schools generally follow a standard framework. Existing planning opportunities include time before school, during student specials, and through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) outlined in School Improvement Plans. Teachers were advised to raise concerns through their school's Broward Teachers Union (BTU) steward.

-Following continued discussion on elementary instructional pacing, members raised concerns that district testing windows were too restrictive, contributing to rushed instruction, reduced flexibility, and extended periods of schoolwide testing disruption. Participants noted impacts on instructional pacing, student experience, school activities, and end-of-term events. Comparisons were made between state testing windows and shorter district-imposed windows, with discussion of how compressed schedules affect elementary schools differently due to staffing, accommodations, and staggered testing needs.

District and school administrators explained that testing windows are designed to balance instructional time, accountability, data availability, and logistical constraints, and that principals retain discretion in

scheduling within district windows. Additional context was provided regarding the need for timely data to support intervention planning and state accountability requirements. Members acknowledged differing school experiences and emphasized the importance of mindset, school culture, and communication in minimizing student stress during testing.

A motion **to leave testing windows open until all instructional material has been taught** was formally presented, discussed at length, and ultimately **withdrawn** to allow for further review at upcoming Elementary Subcommittee.

-A representative from Challenger Elementary raised ongoing concerns regarding inadequate PA speaker coverage in hallways and stairwells, noting that students are unable to hear emergency announcements during drills and response protocols. The issue was described as a long-standing safety and security concern impacting effective communication during emergency preparation and potential emergencies.

Members acknowledged the concern as both a facilities and security issue and advised the school to escalate the matter through Facilities Task Force channels and directly to the District's Chief of Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness. It was noted that district leadership is aware of PA system deficiencies at some schools and has begun assessments, but schools were encouraged to continue advocating to ensure the issue is prioritized.

-A parent shared an incident involving a substitute clinic staff member who misidentified a student and contacted the wrong parent, raising concerns about student safety, confidentiality, and clinic procedures when a school nurse is not present. The discussion reiterated prior motions supporting a nurse in every school, noting ongoing hiring shortages and funding challenges. Members emphasized the need for clear, written clinic protocols—particularly for student identification, parent notification, and medication/health issues—and encouraged schools to address process improvements locally with principals and district health services while broader staffing challenges persist.

-Members discussed widespread concerns regarding student financial obligations (e.g., library books, IDs, materials, meals) not being visible to parents in the FOCUS system and the lack of timely notification. Members shared experiences of learning about significant balances only when attempting to register students for activities or graduation, raising concerns about transparency, communication, and legal notice requirements. The discussion highlighted inconsistencies in how obligations are tracked, displayed, and communicated across schools and systems, as well as confusion caused by multiple platforms and notification sources.

**I move that the District ensure that any student obligations are reflected in FOCUS and that a process is created for notification to parents or guardians via their preferred method of communication.** The motion was made by Cynthia Dominique and seconded by Wanda Acevedo. Following discussion and clarification of language, the motion **passed unanimously**

## G. Updates

- 1. Food & Nutrition - Lunches** - Members received an update on district meal charge procedures and student lunch obligations. It was confirmed that students will not have trays removed, and that meal charges are currently being absorbed through principal accounts, resulting in approximately \$300,000 in districtwide debt. The district plans to transition meal charges to student obligations, retroactive to September, once separate accounting systems are aligned. At this time, meal charges may not yet be visible to parents, but balances may appear later once the system update is completed, potentially by February.

Members discussed inconsistent and unclear parent notification practices, noting that families may receive alerts through different platforms (school calls, MySchoolBucks, or school-based communication), and that there is no standardized notification process. District staff acknowledged confusion regarding messaging and indicated work is underway to revise communication scripts and improve clarity.

Additional discussion addressed how families and donors can pay off student lunch debt, clarifying that payments intended to cover individual student balances must be made directly through the school's cafeteria manager, rather than through district or foundation donations, which are applied to principal accounts. Concerns were also raised regarding privacy, application requirements for free/reduced lunch, and lack of uniform charging practices across elementary, middle, and high schools. Members emphasized that communication and standardization remain ongoing challenges requiring further attention

**2. Redefining** - Chair reviewed the Superintendent's recommendations regarding redefining which included:

- Consolidation of Sunshine Elementary into Fairway Elementary
- Consolidation of Panther Run Elementary into Chapel Trail Elementary
- Consolidation of Palm Cove Elementary into Pine Lakes Elementary and Lakeside Elementary, with Palm Cove transitioned for other district use
- Consolidation of North Fork Elementary into Crescent Park Elementary, with North Fork repurposed for another campus use
- Boundary adjustment affecting a portion of Walter C. Young Elementary to Silver Trails Middle School
- Consolidation of Plantation Middle School into Plantation High School
- Consolidation of Bair Middle School into Westpine Middle School
- Boundary reassignment of a portion of Charles W. Flanagan High School to West Broward High School
- Reconfiguration of Hallandale High School into a four-day-week magnet school modeled after Pompano Beach High School
- Reconfiguration of Thurgood Marshall Elementary School as a Birth–Grade 5 Early Learning Center
- Consolidation of Seagull Alternative High School into Whiddon Rogers Education Center

Members of the Boundary Committee reported that the committee's votes generally aligned with several of the Superintendent's recommendations, though some proposals were not supported. It was noted that no North Area schools were approved for closure during the current cycle, despite earlier discussion of several North Area middle schools.

While Forest Glen was considered during the boundary review process, community opposition and Board discussion resulted in its exclusion from the final recommendations for the current cycle. Multiple board members reiterated commitments made to the Coral Springs community not to revisit closures within the same year; however, committee members and attendees expressed a strong belief that Forest Glen is highly likely to be considered for closure in the next boundary cycle, with concern that the pattern of under-enrollment and prior district actions may lead to renewed closure proposals.

Committee members also raised concerns about the boundary process, including inconsistent participation, lack of a standardized evaluation tool, and limited focus on financial sustainability, facilities, and long-term feasibility. Some members suggested exploring alternative strategies for underutilized campuses, such as partnerships or shared-use arrangements, as a means to preserve school sites.

Motion to Extend the Meeting by 10 Minutes moved by Cynthia Dominique and seconded by Nicole Morst. Motion passed unopposed.

- 3. SAC Funding** - Chair provided an update on the previously approved Motion requesting restoration of approximately \$20 million in accelerated funding intended for specific student programs. It was reported that despite follow-up communications with district budget staff, no formal response has been received. Concerns were raised that the accelerated funds were placed into general funds and expended, contrary to state guidance allowing rollovers and limiting use to designated purposes. Members expressed frustration that shortages persist in critical areas such as student meals, school nurses, and instructional materials, with examples cited of families being asked to purchase classroom textbooks.

Additional discussion addressed Accountability (SAC) funds, including confusion caused by recent district memos regarding allowable uses, staff bonuses, eligibility of personnel, and required fringe benefit deductions. Clarification was provided that fringe costs must be deducted from bonus allocations and that schools may submit a fringe reimbursement request form if a portion of funds is used for non-bonus purposes. Members noted that these procedures and forms had not been consistently communicated to principals or SAC members, resulting in widespread confusion.

Council members emphasized the importance of improved transparency and communication regarding funding decisions and encouraged school representatives to report unmet student needs directly to district leadership. No further action was taken on this item.

## H. Upcoming Dates/Important Reminders

DISTRICT ADVISORY GENERAL MEETING AT KCW	JANUARY 14TH AT 6:15 PM- 8:45 PM
NORTH AREA GENERAL MEETING MONARCH HIGH	JANUARY 15TH AT 6:15 PM- 8:45 PM

- I. Adjourn** - seeing no further business, the Chair heard a Motion to Adjourn moved by Valerie Leath and seconded by Lisa Reas. Motion passed unopposed.

### 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/1nCUCaCTFasoGMdL6aqBvHrLLFafNRyOg/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](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](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](https://schoolinfo.browardschools.com/bcpsweb/displaypdf.html?filename=Policy_1.3.pdf)