

Broward County Public Schools
North Area Advisory Council
GENERAL MEETING
MONARCH HIGHSCHOOL
October 16, 2025
6:15-8:45 PM



GENERAL 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

Ask Questions During the Meeting:

<https://forms.gle/29BCuvXHTwTnYw296>



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- A. Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 6:25 PM by Chair Nicole Morst. She introduced the advisory officers and welcomed attendees. Dr. Fleming, Regional Superintendent, introduced himself and members of his leadership team: Ricardo Santana, Director of Teaching and Learning – Northeast, Meredith Weiss-Schnur, Director of Teaching and Learning and Michelle Stein, Teaching and Learning. Dr. Fleming welcomed parents and volunteers, emphasizing their importance in student success. He recognized principals newly appointed to leadership roles. Dr. Fleming congratulated the group on the district's "A" rating, noting that 90% of North Area schools earned A or B grades last year.
- 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**. - Chair reminded principals to ensure their School Advisory Forum (SAF) Chairs have been submitted and to sign in upon arrival. Guests were also asked to sign in separately. Members were reminded: to remain in good standing, attendees must not miss more than two consecutive or three total meetings and quorum is affected by absences. Placards were distributed for voting and questions. Members without placards were asked to see Lucie Dicapua.
- C. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** - Motion to Approve September 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes as Amended by Muriel Theophin-Atilus, 2nd by Mario Marcano - Motion passes with one opposing vote.
1. May 15, 2025 Minutes (Not available)
 2. September 18, 2025 Minutes - Corrections on Page 1, Section E in the first paragraph the last line should reference "IEPs and 504s"; also in Section E, in the second paragraph a close parenthesis should be added to "backdoor suspensions."
- D. Vape Detectors/Chief Michael Gregory** - The main presentation was delivered by Chief Michael Gregory, Chief Safety and Security Officer for Broward County Public Schools, who provided an overview of the district's Vape Detection Initiative. The program is designed to curb student vaping, promote healthier choices, and enhance campus safety. The technology will be implemented in middle and high schools, limited to restrooms, and the pilot phase has recently been completed to evaluate functionality, user experience, and alert systems. The detectors identify aerosols and particulates, including THC and nicotine compounds, and send real-time alerts to administrators for rapid response. They can also help

detect patterns, such as recurring locations or times of incidents. He stressed the importance of the systems as a deterrent, stating there was a documented effect from metal detectors.

Chief Gregory emphasized that the devices do not record video or audio, and instead use radio-wave sensing and AI to detect air quality changes and movement, which may also help identify overcrowding, bullying, or medical emergencies. He shared that from 2023-24 to 2024-25 high schools saw a 26% decrease in vaping incidents (from 665 to 492) following the installation of metal detectors, while middle schools saw an 84% increase (from 87 to 160). Based on those trends, vape detection devices will now be installed in both middle and high schools simultaneously.

A 30-minute Q&A session followed. Members asked questions about potential detector placement in stairwells and hidden areas, project costs, and the implementation timeline, with the RFP expected by December. Chief Gregory addressed concerns about privacy, explaining that the technology tracks movement patterns but not identities or body shapes. Questions about discipline were clarified as being handled through the Student Code of Conduct and managed by the discipline department rather than the safety division. Questions about the pilot program were explained that 7 different products were tested for various features and usability and to develop internal processes for implementation. Questions about education for students and parents on rollout were affirmative there would be an education process for students and parents. Dr. Fleming and several principals reinforced that vape detection will serve as an additional safety measure to complement—not replace—existing supervision and intervention strategies.

- E. **BCPS Cares** - The next presentation was given by Farrah Wilson, who thanked attendees and introduced her colleagues from the Applications and Marketing teams. She explained that the new district website was launched to create a cleaner, more modern, and user-friendly experience. The redesign involved migrating over 80,000 pages from 235 school sites and 90 departments, a large project that took place while many staff were off-calendar. As a result, the initial rollout served as a “move-in” phase, with ongoing refinements and updates since July. While many pages still display stock photos, the goal is to replace them with authentic school images, and schools can request updates to locked sections like banners and Proud Points through an Incident IQ ticket.

She highlighted new features such as the Hero Showcase and “Enroll Now” button, which support school identity and the district’s enrollment marketing efforts under “Choose BCPS.” Emphasized that websites are living platforms requiring regular updates and encouraged schools to stay current with content, meeting minutes, and community information. To support this, her team provides monthly communiqués, open labs, and training sessions for web managers, and they meet weekly to address feedback and issues.

Transitioned to the BCPS Cares initiative, explaining that it was developed to streamline how parent concerns are handled. Instead of escalating issues directly to the superintendent, parents are encouraged to follow a clear process: first contact the teacher, then the principal, and if unresolved, submit a School-Related Concern form or email the North Region office at BCPSCaresNRO@browardschools.com. The system routes concerns to the appropriate regional staff to ensure timely responses and accountability, while also allowing parents to submit compliments recognizing outstanding staff or schools, each region has its own email address.

During the question period, attendees asked about website calendar updates, digital access to the BCPS Cares flyer, and the availability of translations. Clarification provided that a refresh feature for calendars had recently been added, and the flyer was accessible online through several district pages. Acknowledged that some forms and links were still displaying only in English and said her team would follow up with the vendor to correct translation issues. Participants also discussed response time

expectations, with confirmation that while the goal is to respond within one business day, complex concerns may take longer to resolve. Reaffirmed the importance of direct and courteous communication throughout the process. Closed by thanking everyone for their feedback and engagement, noting that the district is committed to continuous improvement in both customer service and communication.

- F. SAC Funding** - After much speculation, it has been confirmed that schools would not be receiving SAC rollover funds this year. The new CFO has decided to eliminate rollover dollars entirely, and although schools will still receive A+ recognition and workforce education funds, those too will not carry over into the next year. Provided an overview for new SAC chairs, explaining the different types of school funding, including A+ or “accountability” funds and SIP funds. Shared that since 2021, Broward County has not been funding schools’ SIP allocations. Recently, schools learned that their rollover balances—often used for tutoring, SAT prep, camps, and student incentives—had been wiped out without prior notice.

This decision has frustrated many, as some schools had saved tens of thousands of dollars for programs now left unfunded. Participants discussed that Broward County’s justification is that the funds should have been spent within the same year students generated them, but schools have long relied on those savings to manage uncertainty in future funding. Members questioned how the district could redistribute SAC funds to cover deficits at other schools, noting that this violates the statute requiring SAC committees to vote on all fund usage. Principals in attendance agreed clarification was urgently needed, acknowledging they too were surprised and concerned.

The conversation broadened into possible next steps, including contacting the School Board and CFO to voice objections and request transparency. Several attendees emphasized the importance of advocating for the restoration of funds, noting that removing school-controlled dollars undermines A-rated performance and equity. One participant pointed out that some rollover AICE dollars may be used to fund new Cambridge program startups, effectively transferring funds from one school’s students to another’s.

We MOVE that the District return the Accountability Funds and SIP rollover dollars that schools had left over from previous year to the school it came from - Moved by Nicole Morst, 2nd by Danielle Dunfee. After discussion, including lack of notice and schools needing time to determine spending of the returned funds. Amended motion is offered: **We MOVE that the District return the Accountability Funds and SIP rollover dollars that schools had left over from previous year to the school it came from and they be afforded 120 school days or until the end of the 2025/26 school year, whichever is longer, to spend those funds - Moved by TaiQuay Bogle, 2nd by Nancy Fry. Motion passes as amended with none opposed.**

- G. Roll Call** - will be done at next meeting

- H. Redefining Update** - Discussed the upcoming meeting on October 27 at Coral Springs High School to discuss programmatic changes at the North Area middle schools. Also pointed out that Challenger Elem. feeder middle school Westpine Middle is on the table to be merged with Bair Middle school which would be discussed at a separate meeting. During the discussion, a member referenced recent School Board meetings, highlighting ongoing concerns about the proposed Autism school and the district’s handling of related initiatives. They referred to an email that had gone unaddressed by the district for approximately 140 days, explaining that this lack of timely action resulted in the proposal being weakened and the district missing an important opportunity to support students with autism. The speaker expressed frustration that while the district delayed, Mater Academy advanced its own proposal, described as a “hostile occupation,” suggesting that a quicker response from BCPS could have helped preserve a campus through a more collaborative partnership. The speaker stated they would continue to raise the issue publicly, despite pushback, because the community deserved transparency and accountability. They

concluded by noting that there are different models for autism programs and that a district-managed specialized school could still be a positive option if handled with care and urgency.

- I. **Bylaws Subcommittee** - We are amending the North Area Advisory Bylaws this year. We will meet virtually on November 4, 2025, and on December 2, 2025, at 8:00 p.m. to discuss changes. A meeting notice will be sent to all members. - Notice to follow for these meetings
- J. **Future Topics** - SAF Chairs should communicate to the North Area Board the topics they would like to see on the agenda at upcoming meetings. - Excessive testing for Kindergarten students and concerns with building hand motor skills with more computer use in the classroom.

Motion to Extend the Meeting by 10 minutes by Lucie Dicapua, 2nd by Nancy Fry. Motion passes with 3 opposing votes.

Discipline - too punitive for elementary - members should know that discipline resets each year and all prior discipline drops off students records at a certain grade - staff to follow up with which grade.
Transportation issues. Teachers not having time to address student emotional/mental health issues.
Facilities. Co-location of charter schools and the potential impact of that. Schools allow computer use instead of outside play during required unstructured play.

- K. **Open Discussion** - Hazel Health is no longer active - they may still be billing insurance companies for services - Question about how they are handling stored data - additional information not available at this time.
- L. **Adjourn** - Motion to Adjourn at 8:55pm by Nicole Morst, 2nd by Karla Figueroa. Motion passes unopposed.

DISTRICT ADVISORY GENERAL MEETING AT KCW

NOVEMBER 5TH AT 6:15 PM- 8:45 PM

NORTH AREA GENERAL MEETING MONARCH HIGH

NOVEMBER 20TH AT 6:15 PM- 8:45 PM

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Kearney
Recording Secretary
North Area Advisory Council