Broward County Public Schools
North Area Advisory Council GENERAL MEETING
MONARCH HIGH SCHOOL
October 15, 2026 6:15-8:45 P.M.
DRAFT MINUTES

Email: NorthAreaChair@gmail.com
Website: http://northareaadvisorycouncil.ch2v.com/

I. Call to Order & Welcome

- **Call to Order:** The regular monthly meeting of the North Area Advisory Council (NAAC) was called to order at approx. 6:44 PM.
- **Introductions:** Welcomed council members, parents, school administrators, and community stakeholders.
- **Sign In:** required for all attendees

II. Guest Presentations & Discussion Topics

A. Next Generation BCPS Referendum

- **Speaker(s):** John Sullivan (BCPS Chief of Staff & Communications)
- School Board referendum will appear on the November 3rd ballot. A slideshow presentation accompanied Mr. Sullivan's explanations. He explained that this is not a new tax. It is a renewal of the one-mill property tax voters already approved. The Secure the Next Generation Referendum would continue securing funds for all Broward County public schools including teacher supplement, mental health programs and school safety staff. It requires more than a 50% (simple majority) to pass.

B. School Nutrition and Meal Programs

- **Speaker(s)**: Dr Valerie Wanza (Chief Strategy & Innovation Officer) and Dr Lilly Bouie (Executive Director, Food & Nutrition)
- **Structure & Oversight:** Detailed overview of the Food and Nutrition Service structure, managed by the Executive Director and operations directors overseeing site supervisors and grocery supply chain compliance.
- **Accountability & Quality Controls:**
  - Ten site supervisors actively monitor cafeteria managers.

- Nutrition education and meal benefits divisions oversee free and reduced-price meal application eligibility.
- Continuous tracking ensures full meal pattern compliance and appropriate food portions, ensuring no student is missed.

- **Funding & Lunch Debt:**
- First-quarter reporting highlighted an accumulated lunch debt of $86,000;.
- Current protocols involve providing alternate meals (charged to principals) if students lack funds, though grant and philanthropy drives were suggested to help mitigate debt.
- If student cannot afford to pay and has not filled out free or reduced lunch application, student is provided with an uncrustable-like sandwich and a cup of water.
- **Future Topics/Revisiting Title I & Nutrition Oversight:** Speakers were invited back in the future to a) provide clarity on Title I questions and food service oversight; repost farm-to-school program initiatives; b) Improve lunch charging procedures and parent communication regarding meal accounts; c) create a concise one-page nutrition and farm-to-school program summary for SAF chairs to share.

III. Administrative Reports & Updates

A. Current Advisory & Committee Update(s):

- **ELEMENTARY: Testing Inconsistency & Autonomy:** Discussion surrounding varied testing reductions across schools, a lack of teacher control over test administration, and ongoing debates regarding mandatory iReady usage. **Testing Culture:** Addressed the stress and competitive environment created by current testing models, banner tracking of student/teacher progress, and the pressing need for better test data support. **Curriculum Access:** Identified resource challenges, specifically the need for Imagine curriculum access for specialized student populations and a proposal to establish district resource centers for standards-based materials. **Indoor Recess:** Addressed concerns over the excessive use of indoor recess and proposed repurposing empty classrooms for active play, alongside questions regarding recess access on PE days. **School Fields & Fencing:** Concerns over the potential sale of school fields traditionally utilized for recess and field days. Discussed how newly installed fencing restricts field access at select campuses, highlighting the need for better coordination with local municipalities for shared field use.

- **ESE:** Transportation issues involving ESE students required BCPS Superintendent intervention/ communication and coordination by ESE Chair. Overview of HB 1279 requirements regarding mandatory makeup plans for missed IEP services. Announcement that the $300 classroom material funds have been reinstated for qualified staff. Emphasis on increasing ESE parent engagement within advisory groups/next meeting information provided to encourage attendance.

B. <u>Open Forum Discussions</u> (Alan Strauss provided real-time responses/explanations where needed)

- **Teacher Copy Policy Impacts:** Reviewed new administrative copy limits requiring administrative approval, which have caused instructional delays and left teachers struggling to produce essential learning materials and student accommodations.
- **Classroom Impact:** Concerns were raised by Teacher of the Year representatives regarding the unavailability of workbooks, forcing reliance on manual copying that drains limited allowances.
- **Extracurricular and Club Sponsorship Issues**: **Sponsorship Challenges:** Discussed difficulties in recruiting and retaining sponsors for school clubs due to increased administrative paperwork, liability concerns regarding social media, and expanded responsibilities. Emphasized that active school clubs are vital for student engagement and competing with charter school options, noting that master sponsorship models may help smaller clubs survive.

IV. <u>Adjournment</u>

- **Next General Meeting:** November 17, 2026 at 6:15PM
- **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approx. 8:35 P.M.