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**District Advisory Council**  
The School Board of Broward County



Questions

## **DAC Steering Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 6, 2026**  
**8:00am – 10:00am**  
**Virtual (Teams)**

### **Attendees (as referenced):**

**Cynthia (Committee Chair – DAC)**  
**Brooke Bordy**  
**Nicole Morst**  
**Michael Pezzicola**  
**Lin Ferrara**  
**Jacqui Luscombe**  
**Pamela Taylor**  
**ESE Chair(s)**  
**Technology Advisory Chair**  
**Additional committee members**

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## **Housekeeping & Opening Discussion**

- **Members exchanged New Year greetings and informal discussion regarding illness over winter break.**
- **Brief commentary on ongoing district issues and leadership developments.**
- **Discussion acknowledged significant district activity over the break with little pause.**

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## **District Leadership & Governance Concerns**

- **Discussion regarding Wanda Paul's resignation, including timing, use of accrued leave, and acceptance process.**
- **Noted upcoming school board activity and heightened public scrutiny.**

- **Strong criticism of district leadership decisions, communication, and accountability.**
  - **Concerns raised about:**
    - **Administrative raises and bonuses amid budget constraints.**
    - **Perceived misuse of voter-approved referendum funds.**
    - **Teachers leaving due to pay, workload, and lack of support.**
  - **Members reiterated belief that district priorities are misaligned with classroom needs.**
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## **January Agenda Planning & Unfinished Business**

- **January meeting framed as opportunity to:**
    - **Address unfinished business from December.**
    - **Determine priorities and focus areas for remainder of the year.**
  - **Acknowledged outstanding motions and follow-ups still requiring resolution.**
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## **Academics – Testing Follow-Up**

- **Committee awaiting response from Academics regarding the board-referenced testing “work group/task force.”**
- **No confirmation received on:**
  - **Membership of the group.**
  - **Timeline or deliverables.**
  - **DAC input or representation.**
- **Noted feedback had been provided informally to Guy Barmoja during area meetings.**

- **Decision reaffirmed to handle testing concerns via subcommittee, with emphasis on:**
    - **Elementary school testing burden.**
    - **Student stress and resistance to computer-based testing (including kindergarten).**
  - **Discussion reinforced:**
    - **Confusion between instructional assessments vs. mandated testing.**
    - **Child experience does not distinguish between “evaluation” and “testing.”**
    - **Teaching increasingly framed around tests rather than learning.**
  - **Concern expressed about district pressure driving excessive testing rather than teacher choice.**
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## **Teacher Autonomy & Retaliation Concerns**

- **Discussion on one-year teacher contracts and perceived vulnerability to retaliation.**
  - **Members expressed concern that:**
    - **Teachers may feel compelled to comply with optional testing.**
    - **Non-compliance could affect renewal decisions.**
  - **Reinforced earlier request for:**
    - **Written clarification protecting teachers from retaliation.**
    - **Clear district communication distinguishing required vs. optional testing.**
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## **Student Services & Hazel Health (Major Discussion Topic)**

### **General Concerns**

- **Significant concern raised regarding Hazel Health telehealth implementation.**
- **Members expressed confusion, frustration, and distrust regarding:**
  - **Purpose of the service.**
  - **Deployment consistency across schools.**
  - **Communication to parents and staff.**
- **Many principals, nurses, and staff reportedly unaware of or unable to utilize Hazel Health.**

### **Implementation Issues**

- **Reports that:**
  - **Some schools have iPads but no supplies.**
  - **Nurses lack medications or materials Hazel providers recommend.**
  - **Utilization appears minimal or undocumented.**
- **Questions raised about:**
  - **Which schools actually offer Hazel Health.**
  - **Whether Hazel is used instead of standard clinic procedures.**
  - **Whether schools are being encouraged to route minor ailments through Hazel unnecessarily.**

### **Consent, Billing & Transparency**

- **Major concern regarding insurance billing practices:**
  - **Hazel Health now requires insurance information; prior consents did not.**
  - **Parents previously consented without disclosure of insurance billing.**
  - **“Free” language in district communications viewed as misleading.**
- **Clarified contract language:**

- Hazel does not bill BCPS directly.
- Hazel may bill third parties (including Medicaid).
- District covers costs not reimbursed by insurance.
- Concerns raised about:
  - Potential out-of-pocket impacts (deductibles).
  - Sharing of insurance information with third parties.
  - Ethical (though not necessarily illegal) billing practices.
- Members questioned whether parents were adequately informed of changes.

### **Contract & Oversight Questions**

- Contract noted as renewed for 7/1/25 – 6/30/26 via letter.
  - Committee requested:
    - Review of full contract and any amendments.
    - Utilization data (clinic visits vs. Hazel visits).
    - Cost transparency and billing impact.
  - Concerns expressed about possible ulterior motives, lack of oversight, and startup-driven incentives.
  - Members emphasized this issue as part of a broader pattern of poorly managed district partnerships.
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### **Requests & Potential Action Items**

- Pull and review full Hazel Health contract and renewal documents.
- Request detailed utilization data:

- **Number of clinic visits.**
  - **Percentage involving Hazel Health.**
  - **School-by-school usage.**
  - **Clarify:**
    - **Consent changes and retroactive implications.**
    - **Insurance billing disclosures.**
    - **Schools equipped vs. operational.**
  - **Consider inviting Student Services back for Q&A only, with:**
    - **Specific written questions.**
    - **No presentations.**
    - **Focused accountability.**
  - **Continue testing concerns through subcommittee work.**
  - **Reframe DAC narrative toward district capacity, oversight, and resource allocation.**
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## **Overarching Themes**

- **Repeated pattern of district initiatives lacking:**
  - **Clear purpose.**
  - **Implementation readiness.**
  - **Transparency.**
  - **Measurement of effectiveness.**
- **Strong sentiment that administrative complexity and partnerships divert resources from classrooms.**

- **Consensus that DAC must remain persistent, focused, and data-driven.**