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



Questions

**Wednesday, January 14th, 2026, 6:15 pm - 8:45 pm**

Kathleen C. Wright (KCW) Boardroom 600 S.E. Third Avenue Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Chair – Cynthia Dominique      Vice Chair – Dee Defoe      Recording Secretary – Michael Pezzicola  
Corresponding Secretary – Antoinette Bailey      Communications Chair – Brooke Bordy

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **6:19 p.m.** by Chair Cynthia Dominique.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by the Chair.

## Housekeeping & Governance Reminders

- Governance documents reviewed: Policy 1070, Policy 1.2, DAC Committee Bylaws, Florida Sunshine Laws, and Robert’s Rules of Order.
- Attendance requirements were reiterated: members missing more than three consecutive meetings or four meetings in a year may be removed; failure to complete Ethics Training results in members not being in good standing.
- Members were reminded to sign in and to raise their placards to be recognized.
- Members were encouraged to submit additional questions via the agenda QR code.
- Registration reminders provided for updates: <https://browarddistrictadvisory.ch2v.com/>

### 2025–2026 DAC Meeting Dates:

- January 14
- February 11 (Indian Ridge Middle School – location to be confirmed if changed)
- March 4
- April 8
- May 13
- June 10

## Committee Appointments & Representation

- **Audit Committee:** High-need committee; accounting background preferred. Muriel Theophin-Atilus volunteered.
- **Parent & Community Involvement Task Force:** Janice Waite appointed.
- **Facilities Committee:** Open; Mario Marcano and Marc Foxwell expressed interest (to follow up with Linda Ferrara). Mario Marcano designated as representative pending confirmation.
- **Attendance Committee:** Linda Ferrara confirmed continued service.

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## Subcommittee Updates

- **Elementary Subcommittee:** Approximately 50 participants attended. Topics included testing, physical education, and staffing. The next meeting will be scheduled in the evening to accommodate working parents.
  - **Middle School Subcommittee:** Formation in progress.
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## Approval of Minutes

### December 2025 DAC Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve by Linda Ferrara; seconded by Muriel Theophin-Atilus.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

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## Recognition

The Chair recognized **Student Representative Landon** on his 18th birthday.

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## District Updates

### Hiring Freeze and Staffing Shortages

**Presenter:** Dr. Veda Hudge, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Transformation Office (STO)

Chair Cynthia Dominique and Dr. Hudge led a detailed discussion regarding the district-wide hiring freeze, staffing shortages, and mitigation efforts.

#### Overview & Rationale:

- The hiring freeze was implemented due to declining enrollment and financial constraints.
- A memo dated December 8 outlined expectations for schools, including reassignment of duties, internal coverage, and use of existing resources.

#### Vacancy Resolution Process:

- Schools enter staffing needs into a database.
- Needs are reviewed by Teaching and Learning Directors.
- Unresolved needs escalate to Regional and Assistant Superintendents.
- A Vacancy Approval Committee meets weekly to allocate available district staff.

#### Deployment of District Staff:

- Certified district instructional staff (estimated 200–300) are being identified for reassignment where allowable under bargaining agreements.
- Notification letters scheduled for **January 16, 2026**.
- Assignments expected to begin in schools on **January 22, 2026**.

**Concerns Raised:**

- Accuracy of staffing counts and inclusion of non-instructional personnel.
- Potential reluctance of principals to request district support versus dissolving classes.
- Lack of publicly available data on how many staff can be deployed versus how many have been deployed.
- Impact of staffing reassignments on district responsiveness and services.

**Specialized Staffing:**

- Ongoing concerns regarding lack of certified teachers for specialized programs, including hard-of-hearing clusters.
- ESE leadership acknowledged the issue and confirmed ongoing communication and support efforts.

**Additional Staffing Topics Raised for Follow-Up:**

- Security personnel shortages (e.g., campus monitors, open gates).
- Custodial staffing gaps.
- Bus driver shortages and whether drivers are included in the hiring freeze.

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## Student Services Updates

**Presenter:** Saemone Hollingsworth, Chief of Student Services

**Additional Staff Present:**

Diane Egan (ESE & Student Services), Jill Mostel (Nursing & Hazel Health), Stephanie Acosta Castro (ESE), Emily Goldstein (Psychological Services)

### Hazel Health Telehealth Program

**Program Overview:**

- Implemented in 2020 via a cooperative agreement.
- No direct cost to BCPS; services billed to insurance when provided by parents.
- Participation is opt-in; services rendered electronically.
- Contract expires **June 30, 2026**.

**Discussion Highlights:**

- 250 completed visits serving 179 students.
- Approximately 94% of students returned to class after visits.
- 69 schools currently participate; 6 schools lacked supplies at the time of the meeting (expected by January 19).

- 47 schools currently do not have a full-time nurse.

**Concerns Raised:**

- Transparency and clarity of consent forms, particularly regarding insurance billing.
- Data privacy and sharing of student information.
- Uneven access to Hazel Health across schools.
- Relatively low utilization compared to overall clinic visits.

**Motion:** A motion recommending non-renewal of the Hazel Health contract due to concerns about utilization, transparency, and privacy was made by Brooke Bordy and **withdrawn after discussion** for possible future consideration.

**Follow-Up Requests:**

- Clarification on when consent language was updated.
  - Contact information for parents who receive insurance bills.
  - Redacted invoices/statements provided to BCPS.
  - Comprehensive parent-facing flyer explaining Hazel Health, billing, and consent.
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**Nursing Services**

- Nurse assignments are based on documented student medical needs (IEPs, 504s, health plans).
  - 47 schools currently lack a full-time nurse, primarily elementary schools.
  - The district uses vendor nurses where possible and noted a national nursing shortage.
  - Requests made for historical data on nurse coverage and improved communication to parents.
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**Psychological Services & ESE**

- Psychological evaluations are tracked in Frontline and must be completed within 60 calendar days.
  - District reports no current backlog and over 98% compliance.
  - Current psychologist caseload ratio approximately 1:1700.
  - Each school has designated Section 504 liaisons; members requested clearer visibility of contacts for parents.
  - Medicaid billing requires separate parental consent and is not connected to Hazel Health.
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**Graduation Venues**

Dr. Hudge presented updates on graduation venue assignments.

- 34 of 45 ceremonies scheduled at district-owned facilities.
- Larger schools assigned to external venues (Nova Southeastern University, Hard Rock Live).

**Concerns Raised:**

- Equity and student experience when venue assignments are based solely on enrollment size.
- Perception of unequal graduation experiences.

Further discussion was deferred to a subcommittee.

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## Motions

- **Motion to extend meeting to 9:00 p.m.:** Passed unanimously.
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## Items Not Discussed (Deferred)

- Committee Reports
  - Old Business
    - SAC
    - AICE/AP Funds Update
    - Redefining Update
    - Food & Nutrition Services Update
  - Open Discussion/Public Input
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## Follow-Up Action Items

- Confirm Audit Committee representation.
  - Confirm Facilities Committee representative participation.
  - Schedule evening Elementary Subcommittee meeting.
  - Provide data on deployable vs. deployed district instructional staff.
  - Provide security, custodial, and bus driver staffing data and hiring freeze clarification.
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## Meeting Reminders

**Steering Meeting:** Monday, January 26, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. (Teams)

**Next General DAC Meeting:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 6:15–8:45 p.m.

Location: Indian Ridge Middle School, Davie, FL

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## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately **9:00 p.m.**

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## **Meeting Documents and Resources:**

### **Student Progression Policy 4000:**

[https://schoolinfo.browardschools.com/bcpsweb/displaypdf.html?filename=POLICY\\_4000.pdf](https://schoolinfo.browardschools.com/bcpsweb/displaypdf.html?filename=POLICY_4000.pdf)

### **Policy 1070 Redline as of 12/16/2025**

[https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/3777542/1070\\_Redline.pdf](https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/3777542/1070_Redline.pdf)

### **School Advisory Forum Policy 6030 (Formerly Policy 1.3)**

[https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/3455755/Policy\\_6030\\_Redline.pdf](https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/3455755/Policy_6030_Redline.pdf)

### **Area Advisory Policies 1.21 now Policy 1260**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p6srzrQiLuJcBVKjVtgEYbVzosX2Yhmb/edit?usp=drive\\_link&rtopof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p6srzrQiLuJcBVKjVtgEYbVzosX2Yhmb/edit?usp=drive_link&rtopof=true&sd=true)

### **DAC Policy 1.2 now Policy 1200**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UOEciIZNxTMUrcGb9munJbvRqsRWyCKY/edit?usp=drive\\_link&oid=110069112413619406240&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UOEciIZNxTMUrcGb9munJbvRqsRWyCKY/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=110069112413619406240&rtpof=true&sd=true)

### **SAC Funds, Carryover, and A+ Funds Information:**

<https://browarddistrictadvisory.ch2v.com/>