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District Advisory Council

The School Board of Broward County



Questions

General Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, May 13th, 2026, 6:15 pm - 8:45 pm
KCW Boardroom
600 SE 3rd Ave, 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

Meeting called to order at **6:27 PM**.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Housekeeping & Governance

Governance reminders included:

- Policy 1070, Policy 1.2, DAC Committee Bylaws
- Florida Sunshine Laws and Robert's Rules of Order
- Attendance requirement: removal after 3 consecutive absences or 4 in a year
- Ethics training required for good standing

Procedural reminders:

- Members must sign in
- Colored placards used for recognition to speak or vote
- One full round of speaking, second round if time permits
- Questions submitted via QR code
- Members encouraged to be respectful, concise, and time-aware
- Registration for updates: <https://browarddistrictadvisory.ch2v.com/>

Upcoming meeting:

- **June 10, 2026 – Transition Meeting**
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Approval of Minutes

- April 8, 2026 minutes postponed
 - Reason: incomplete transcript due to transmission gap
 - Copilot tool to be used for reconstruction and review
 - Approval deferred to next meeting
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Special Recognitions

Recognitions were given to:

- John Sullivan
 - Alan Strauss
 - Dr. Holness (Board Vice Chair, attendance recognition)
 - Beverly Armstrong (Board representative consistency)
 - Martha G (consistent preparation and attendance)
 - Jacqui Luscombe (congratulations)
 - Lisa Rees (Elementary Subcommittee leadership)
 - Brooke Bordy (recognition)
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Elections

Executive Board Elections

Nominations closed April 22, 2026.

Chair

- Cynthia Dominique nominated, seconded, accepted
 - T. Nikki Watkins nominated, seconded, declined
 - No further nominations
→ **Cynthia Dominique elected by general consent**
-

Vice Chair

- Brooke Bordy nominated, declined
- Dee Defoe nominated, seconded, accepted
- No further nominations
→ **Dee Defoe elected by general consent**

Communications Chair

- T. Nikki Watkins nominated, seconded, accepted
- No further nominations
→ **T. Nikki Watkins elected by general consent**

Recording Secretary

- Linda Fierrara nominated, seconded, accepted
- No further nominations
→ **Linda Fierrara elected by general consent**

Corresponding Secretary

- Antoinette nominated, declined
- Irene Donaldson nominated, declined
- Alan Buskin nominated, seconded, accepted
- No further nominations
→ **Alan Buskin elected by general consent**

Note on Procedure

All uncontested positions were confirmed following closure of nominations and absence of objections, consistent with Robert's Rules of Order permitting election by general (unanimous) consent when no competing nominations remain.

Committee Structure

Committees include:

- Elementary, Secondary, Policy, Training, Legislative
- Task forces: Parent & Community Involvement, Facilities, Audit, Calendar, Discipline, Attendance, Technology

Chair reminder:

- Members are supported in taking on leadership roles
- Training and support will be provided

Presentations & Key Discussions

Student Clubs and Activities Policy (Alan Strauss + Members)

Policy Requirements

- Clubs must be approved by principal
 - Faculty/staff sponsor required for all clubs
 - Faculty sponsor must be present at meetings
 - Non-staff members cannot independently sponsor clubs due to liability
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Sponsor Eligibility & Liability

- Non-faculty participation allowed only under staff supervision
 - Liability concerns prevent external individuals from serving as standalone sponsors
 - Coaches serving in club roles must meet certification requirements
 - Alumni or external partners cannot receive clearance to independently sponsor clubs
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Sponsorship Capacity & Incentives

- Faculty often reluctant to sponsor clubs due to workload
 - Some clubs receive stipends/supplements depending on:
 - School budget
 - Club classification
 - Collective bargaining agreements
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Funding Structure

- Club funding is allocated through school budgets (not fixed amounts)
 - Unspent funds typically remain in club accounts unless club is dissolved
 - If dissolved, funds revert to school internal accounts
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Equity & Access Concerns

- Significant disparities in club availability across schools

- Some schools offer extensive extracurriculars; others have few or none
 - PTA partnerships suggested as supplemental support
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Communication Issues

- No standardized district communication system for clubs
 - Parents often rely on:
 - Student communication
 - Social media or messaging apps (e.g., Remind/WhatsApp)
 - Concerns raised about:
 - Schedule changes not formally communicated
 - Lack of consistent parent notification system
 - Reliance on student-only communication channels
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Key Example Raised

- Western High School debate team reportedly unable to attend a major tournament due to funding/process breakdown and timing delays
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Requested Actions

- Booster Club guidelines to be distributed (Linda)
 - Standardized process for fund disbursement
 - Review and publication of standard practice bulletin (Alan Strauss)
 - Provide most current club policy documentation
 - Clarify sponsor certification and funding questions (Level 2 concerns noted for follow-up)
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Referendum Discussion (November 2026 Renewal)

Overview

- Renewal of 2018 referendum discussed
 - Funding allocated across three categories:
 - Employee compensation
 - Supplemental support
 - Safety and mental health
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Financial Context

- Safety and mental health funding gap estimated at ~\$29M deficit under current structure
 - Concerns raised regarding sustainability of unarmed security and related services
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Communication Rules

- District cannot advocate for or against ballot outcomes
 - Only informational materials permitted
 - Toolkits will be provided for schools and advisory members
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Transparency Concerns

- Members emphasized need for public trust and clarity
 - Strong support for improved financial transparency
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Motion

Motion: We recommend that BCPS create a public facing dashboard for referendum nov 2026 renewal showing intended and actual spending to include definition of millage rates and other referendum related information.

Seconded

Carried unanimously

Policy 1070 Discussion

Status Update

- Policy review paused due to district partnership with Neola
 - Full district-wide policy rewrite anticipated
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Key Discussion Topics

- Committee size and quorum standards
 - Formalized removal procedures for members
 - Standardized pathway for committee recommendations to the Board
 - Tracking and transparency of Board responses
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Governance Concerns

- Need for consistent policy development process
 - Concerns about repeated vendor-driven policy revisions
 - Clarification of roles and authority needed
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Compliance & Structure

- Removal processes must be equitable and consistent
 - Alignment with Sunshine Law and legal standards required
 - District employees may not serve as committee chairs due to conflict of interest concerns
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Neola Update

- Neola will:
 - Rewrite district policies
 - Provide templates for bylaws and procedures
 - Allow committee input in revised structure
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Organizational Chart & Staffing Allocation

Key Issues Raised

- Updated organizational chart not yet released
 - Delay attributed to staffing and administrative availability
 - Members expressed concern about transparency
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Staffing Allocation Model

- Requested since October
 - Based on enrollment and FTE projections
 - Essential for staffing and budget planning
 - Confirmation of access provided via Mr. Whitney
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Elementary Subcommittee – EdTech & AI White Paper

Overview

Presentation on elementary education technology concerns.

Key Findings

- Potential compliance concerns with student data privacy laws
 - Difficulty ensuring informed parental consent for digital tools
 - High cost of 1:1 device program implementation
 - Mixed academic effectiveness of edtech platforms
 - Concerns about screen time impacts on learning outcomes
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AI-Related Concerns

- Risk of overreliance on AI tools in early education
 - Misunderstanding of AI limitations in school environments
 - Need for stronger parent communication and education
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Recommendations

1. Student Data Bill of Rights (opt-in/opt-out model)
 2. Analog-first instruction in elementary grades
 3. Teacher autonomy in instructional methods
 4. Reduction of algorithm-driven and passive digital content
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Motion

- Motion to extend meeting by 15 minutes until 9:00 PM
 - Passed unanimously
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Meeting Reminders

General Meeting

- June 10, 2026 – Transition Meeting (KCW Boardroom)

Subcommittees

- Elementary Subcommittee
 - Policy & Bylaws Subcommittee
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Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 9:00