

**Office of Community Partnerships, Education & Business Access
 Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee (FCIAC)
 PTHSBAB Conference Room 559
 Monday, November 17, 2025
 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Minutes

Attendance:

In person:	In Person -Non-Voting Members	Virtual:
Aundrey Adams	Linda Amica-Roberts	Dannielle Boyer
Falicie Dirosier	Verena Cabrera	Laura Crenshaw-Philpot
Deborah Gonzalez	Ron Stieger	Valeria Claudia Desarmes
Beverly Heller	Ines Meras	Enrique Escallon
Michael Horne	Mariel Seymore	Wendy Fernandez
Mina Hosseini	Lisa Thurber	Alina Gallego
Barbara Martin-Galego		Sheila Jackson
Carolyn Nelson-Goedert		Marisel Sordo
Tyler O'dneal		Aillette Rodriguez-Diaz
Reinaldo Palacios		Tony Ullivarri
Maria Ratti Jakoniuk		
Mirena Suarez		
Sharon Watson	Excused:	
Kari Vidal	Maria Paula De Carolis	

Welcome and Introductions

- Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairperson Carolyn Nelson-Goedert.
- Meeting was paused for ten minutes to provide time to reach quorum.
- Meeting resumed at 9:40 am without quorum.

Enrollment and Financial Impact Presentation – Dr. Verena Cabrera and Ron Stieger

- **Enrollment trends:** Data showing 25-year enrollment trends was shared in detail.
- **Family Empowerment Scholarships (FES):** Movement is tracked by the month of students receiving FES for private schools.

- **Tracking withdrawal:** Private school, out of county, and out of state are the only codes we can use to track withdrawals, as they are set by the state. There is no code for out-of-country.
 - **Tracking mobility:** This tracks movement from public to public, traditional to private, traditional to charter, and traditional to home.
 - **Exit survey findings:** Over 50% of parents reported the primary driver for withdrawing was moving to another residence.
 - **Out-of-country enrollment trend:** There has been a decline in students enrolling from other countries over the last three years.
 - **Educational Enterprise Asset Development Team:** Meets every two weeks; they manage district-owned assets and ensure cross-department collaborative efforts are aligned with board policy.
- Meeting was paused for 10 minutes due to technical issues.

- **Issue:** The district faces significant "enrollment differences" and a large number of students leaving, making declining enrollment the primary driver of revenue loss. Losing 10,000 more students could result in a **\$95 million loss**, forcing difficult decisions that may hurt academic programs.
- **Reasons for Decline:**
 - School choice, which is highly encouraged by Florida laws, is a major factor causing student mobility.
 - One school (Michael Krop) saw a significant drop after changing from an eight-period to a six-period day.
 - Parents are choosing home education or moving children to seek athletic opportunities.

School Choice and Community Outreach

- **Strategy:** Students are drawn to schools with more course offerings and magnet programs (e.g., medical, IB, aviation).
- **Advocacy:** A suggestion was made to advertise the district's programs more effectively and arm the community, particularly the PTA, with a "fact sheet" to advocate for public schools.
- **Upcoming Events:** Choice expos and school showcases are scheduled for December 13th and January 10th to promote programs.

Facilities and Repurposing

- **Challenge:** The district has many underutilized facilities and insufficient funds to maintain existing buildings, especially after sharing funds with charter schools.
- **Repurposing:** The legislature has created multiple routes to repurpose underutilized buildings. This includes handling unsolicited proposals (e.g., for workforce housing) and partnering with institutions like the South Florida Autism Charter School.
- **Schools of Hope:** The state's "Schools of Hope" laws allow qualified charter operators to file a notice of intent on a building, limiting the board's authority. There were 90 notices submitted, with 68 valid facilities identified.

Reports

- **Title I Committee:** First annual "Empower and Engage Community Partnership Fair" is scheduled for January 22nd at Miami-Dade College Padron campus.
- **Head Start:** The program is actively seeking enrollment for babies and collecting toys.
- **Superintendent's Panel for Children with Exceptionalities:** Next meeting is January 15th to discuss relevant legislation.

- **Dade County Council PTSA:** Scholarship season begins in February; students must be PTA members prior to application.
- **Budget Subcommittee:** The meeting for the FCIAC's budget subcommittee is tonight at 5:30 in the same room.
- **Legislative Update:** The process has been slow, with property tax reform being the main topic. Appropriations filings are due this Friday. There is discussion about bills to amend or repeal "Schools of Hope" laws.
- **Parent Academy:** Community hubs have upcoming family resource days and weekly webinars. They hosted the PTA last week and are partnering with Common Threads this week for a presentation on cooking with kids.

Announcements

- Carolyn Nelson-Goedert: The January meeting will include further presentations, the finalization of bylaws changes, and addressing two sets of minutes.

Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned by Ms. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert at 11.30 a.m.