

**OFFICE OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee
(FCIAC) WLRN CONFERENCE ROOM**

Meeting ID: 817 3255 4079

Passcode: FCIAC2526

MINUTES

Monday, August 18, 2025

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Attendance:

In person:	In Person -Non-Voting Members	Virtual:
Aundrey Adams	Yanelis Guerra Valdez	Barbara Martin Galego
Maria Paula De Carolis	Lisa Thurber	Alina Gallego
Valeria Claudia Desarmes	Ines Meras	Enrique Escallon
Wendy Fernandez	Linda Amica-Roberts	Aillette Rodriguez Diaz
Deborah Gonzalez		Tony Ullivari
Beverly Heller		Sheila Jackson
Mina Hosseini		
Brittany Lambert		
Carolyn Nelson-Goedert		
Tyler O'dneal		
Reinaldo Palacios		
Marisel Sordo		
Maria Ratti Jakoniuk		
Leonora D Stafford		
Mirena Suarez		
Kari Vidal		
Sharon Watson		
Renee Williams		
Shanin Perel		

Welcome and Introductions

- Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Lisa Thurber.

Review of Bylaws - Lisa Thurber

- Bylaws were reviewed with the group.
- Overview of Sunshine Law was presented

Elections of Officers

- **Chair:** Carolyn Nelson-Goedert, nominated by Beverly Heller, vote passed unanimously
- **Vice-Chair:** Tyler O'Dneal. Nominated by Aundrey Adams, Sharon Watson was nominated by Carolyn Nelson-Goedert.
 - **Vote by ballot** – Tyler O'Dneal was elected.
- **Recording Secretary:** Maria Paula De Carolis, nominated by Mina Hosseini, vote passed unanimously.

Following the Election, Carolyn Nelson-Goedert assumed facilitation of the meeting.

Region Updates and Announcements

- North Region Representative - Reinaldo Palacios
 - Processed many transfers. Online transfers are available – parents can go online through the parent portal to do their transfer; they do not have to go to home school
 - Parent advocates are available from 9:30 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. for any matters.
 - Mina Hosseini requested to invite the representative from FASCO - Dr. Cabrera (Assistant Superintendent for Federal and State Compliance Office) to report on FISH capacity and provide reports of transfers, specifically to understand the movement of the student population across districts and regions.
 - Paula De Carolis requested an update on Exit Surveys to further understand the reasons for transfers and movement of the student population.
 - Paula De Carolis requested a report on whether the MDCPS Online Programs grew in student population, to better understand if immigration policy and safety could be determining student participation at the school site.
 - Leonora D. Stanford requested to look into the Archdiocese to identify if there is an increase in student population as compared to previous years, and if protections offered by religious institutions that are not available from the public sector are affecting enrollment.
 - Leonora D. Stanford requested to gather information on how MDCPS is promoting itself to attract more families outside the 2-mile radius.
- South Region Representative - Wendy Fernandez
 - The South region received information that enrollment is low, observed district-wide.
 - The region works tirelessly for parents to feel safe.
 - Parent advocates are available to address any issues every day.
 - Venetian Park Academy is a new magnet school: currently opened for Pre-K-1st grades, accepting students, and will grow to expand and accommodate more grades.
 - Maria Ratti: There is a need for additional information on bus information and enrollment numbers.
 - Mina Hosseini requested that the region consider the opportunity for principals to engage in a conversation with parents prior to the execution of automatic transfers for retention purposes.
- Central Region Representative- Deborah Gonzalez
 - Central Region is processing parent choice applications and transfers, eliminating barriers and streamlining the process to help parents reach the goal of being where they would like to be.
 - The directors have been working for a smooth start to the year, processing applications and transfers.
- Legislative Updates - Assistant Superintendent Office of Intergovernmental Affairs - Tony Ullivari
 - The following amounts have been secured for specific projects as follows:
 - \$ 500,000 for classical education
 - \$500,000 Miami Arts Studio
 - \$500,000 New World School of the Arts
 - \$450,000 district-wide visual arts program
(distributed equally; 50,000 for each district)
 - \$350,000 space hub at Booker T. Washington High School

- MDCPS is gathering proposals to develop 2026 state and federal programs, which will be presented at the September 10 School Board Meeting. After finalization, proposals will be presented in Tallahassee and DC. Proposal lists could be revised during the process.
- *Important Dates Legislative Session (Tallahassee):*
October 2025 - December 2025 - Committee meetings are in session.
Jan 13, 2026-March 6, 2026 -Legislative Session (90 days) if no extensions are required.
- Standing Committee Reports: DAC (District Advisory Council) Title I Administration
 - DAC will hold 3 General Meetings (2 in person + 1 online).
 - The First **DAC** Executive Meeting date is October 9th, 2025, at ~~6:30~~ **6:00** PM, located at 1450 NE 2nd Ave, Miami, FL 33132, in Room 559, and is open to the public.
 - From September through December, training and orientations will be provided for all **CIS/CLS of Title I Schools**.
 - Videos are being created to help navigate the website, to educate on language and parent-friendly videos, and to better understand Title **I** schools.
- HeadStart Program -Barbara Martin Galego
 - HeadStart is a free program for income-eligible families and is receiving applications from all families; income-eligible families have a higher priority. Please contact Ms. Barbara Martin Galego bmg@dadeschools.net / 305-995-7632
 - HeadStart serves 33 schools across the county and is a comprehensive wrap-around program where children from 0 to 5 years of age receive services to prepare them for kindergarten education.
 - HeadStart has many services like early interventionists, mental health, nutrition coordinators, and education coordinators to help the child and family and link them with the services they need.
- Parent Academy -Alina Gallego
 - Parent Academy is a district office that offers parent training at the school site and in person, and hosts a series of webinars
 - Current Webinars include “Welcome Back Academy” in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole, offered at 9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. Please consult the link to register parentacademymiami.com
- The Children’s Trust - Audrey Adams
 - Backpacks are available filled with school supplies. Please contact him at 305-962-7586 to coordinate delivery.
- Superintendent’s Panel for Exceptional Student Education -Beverly Heller
 - The upcoming board meeting will set up the calendar for 2025-2026 as well as subcommittee meetings.
 - Please consider joining a subcommittee where issues are discussed at a detailed level. The upcoming board meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2025, at 11:30 am, Room 326Y
 - Enrique Escallon requested additional training for law enforcement officers and police about intellectual disabilities, where kids may become aggressive if confronted improperly, and where law enforcement needs to be trained to learn how to manage these situations.

- Enrique Escallon stressed the importance of the identification of special needs in the early steps of the developmental process.
- DEEAC -Beverly Heller
 - DEEAC will be renamed, item upcoming at next board meeting.
 - Greater participation is expected after DEEAC is renamed.
- Citizens' Coalition -Beverly Heller
 - Meets right after FCIAC at 12 noon.
 - Ailette Rodriguez from Intragovernmental Affairs provides legislative updates.
 - The coalition makes suggestions and proffers new legislative items and amendments to be included and presented to the school board.
 - The meeting is open to the public, and larger participation is requested.
- PS 305 -Mina Hosseini
 - PS 305 is hosting a meeting on August 28 at 6 pm in partnership with FIU School of Education and Human Development; the meeting is located at the United Way Ryder Conference Room.
 - The meeting seeks to provide access to information, to understand the financial future of Dade, and to engage organizations and the community to actively organize for the betterment and preservation of public education.
- United Way - Tyler O'dneal
 - If you know of a family in need of stability or financial support please reach out to me at odnealt@unitedwaymiami.org
- Parent Subcommittee on District and School Budget Priorities- Mrs. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert
 - Those interested in participating, please see Mrs. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert.
 - The first meeting is scheduled for September 29 at 5.30 pm in room 916.
- Office of Community Access- Lisa Thurber and Ines Meras
 - Next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2025

New Business: Adoption of Schedule

- **Mina Hosseini requested information on how to create a subcommittee.**
- Meeting Schedule: A motion was made by Beverly Heller to maintain the schedule of committee meetings on the third Monday of every month. Mina Hosseine seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion carried.
 - August 18, 2025
 - September 15, 2025
 - October 20, 2025
 - November 17, 2025
 - January 12, 2026
 - February 9, 2026
 - March 16, 2026
 - April 20, 2026
 - May 18, 2026

Adjournment – 11:45 a.m.