

**Office of Community Partnerships, Education & Business Access
 Family and Community Involvement Advisory Committee (FCIAC)
 PTHSBAB Conference Room 559
 September 15, 2025
 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

Minutes

Attendance:

In person:	In Person -Non-Voting Members	Virtual:
Aundrey Adams	Fabiola Jean Pierre	Linda Amica-Roberts
Dannielle Boyer	Peggy Joseph	Marylin Anderson
Laura Crenshaw-Philpot	Ines Meras	Wendy Fernandez
Maria Paula De Carolis	Mariel Seymore	Michael Horne
Valeria Claudia Desarmes	Lisa Thurber	Sheila Jackson
Enrique Escallon		Barbara Martin-Galego
Deborah Gonzalez		Tyler O'dneal
Beverly Heller		Aillette Rodriguez-Diaz
Mina Hosseini		Marisel Sordo
Carolyn Nelson-Goedert		
Wesley Owings		
Reinaldo Palacios		
Maria Ratti Jakoniuk		
Mirena Suarez		
Kari Vidal		
Sharon Watson		
Renee Williams		

Welcome and Introductions

- Meeting called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Carolyn Nelson-Goedert
- Ms. Nelson- Goedert requested a deviation from the Agenda in order to present Legislative updates.

Legislative Updates: Aillette Rodriguez-Diaz

- The school board just passed the priorities for the 2026 state program and rolled over some priorities from last year's program if they were not accomplished and if it is still a priority to the Board.
- Program is designed in 4 sections - priorities, additional issues, policy statements, and 2026 appropriations projects.
- M-DCPS is advocating for the State to fund all full-day VPK programs. Currently, and for the past 20 years, the state has been funding a ½-day AM schedule (which consists of 3 hours per day, approximately from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.). The district is seeking that the additional PM hours be state-funded as well. Additional hours are fee-based or funded through HeadStart grants or Title I Programs.
- M-DCPS would like to see an increase in the K-12 base student allocation commensurate iwth the rate of inflation and cost-of-living increases, but no less than 5%.

- M-DCPS seeks to manage and reconcile FES Vouchers. Step Up is the current organization in charge of this task.
- The 50% add-on FTE for AP, IB, Cambridge, and Dual Enrollment programs was retained, however, this funding was placed under a categorical “Advanced Acceleration Option Supplement.” Since items placed in categorical funding are at risk of being zeroed out at any time, the District requests that this item be closely monitored.
- M-DCPS is requesting the state to continue to invest in instructional personnel compensation by providing an increase in the Teacher Salary allocation.
- A school board member proffered an item to support the property tax limitation for qualified senior citizens on qualified homesteaded property, and district staff is currently working with the tax collector’s office to see how that would financially impact public education.
- The Governor has proposed an elimination of property taxes altogether.
- A new item located under accountability and assessment reform is being introduced to authorize school districts to exempt ESE students who have a full-scale IQ of 75 or below from the fast student assessment after 1 unsuccessful attempt and waive the requirement to take the test.
- Charter Schools of Hope are seeking to co-locate in public schools that are underutilized and have the lowest percentage of student enrollment. This is already law; however, there is an opportunity to provide comments during the rule-making process for co-location and to establish parameters. When charters look to co-locate, K-12 is being considered for student enrollment without taking into account Pre-K student enrollment numbers or the adult education population. The parameters used to determine if a school is underutilized do not account for all the individuals occupying the facility, and the district would like to see all the student population reflected.
- Co-location currently stipulates that the district is financially responsible for costs associated with the maintenance of the building, as well as sharing non-instructional personnel. These costs will impact the district’s budget because the district is financially responsible for a building operating at full occupancy, yet it does not receive financial recognition from FTE for the additional students housed on the premises.
- The district is looking at how land can be occupied, whether it is Workforce Housing, Live Local, or if the complete student population must be considered before charters are permitted to occupy space with public schools.
- A request was made that the community provide the state with comments on the rulemaking of co-location.
- Danielle Boyer requested whether the workforce housing model would contemplate prioritizing residential units for teachers and students to promote increased enrollment. She has been made aware of unsolicited bids and requested more information on those, in addition to transparency in this process.
- Facilities is the department currently responsible for workforce housing applications and the management of public assets.
- Facilities is reviewing workforce housing to be inclusive of M-DCPS staff, and the program is run under capital funding or construction.
- Mina Hosseini inquired about timelines; the rule-making process begins September 24, 2025, at the FDOE Board, for which comments may be submitted online.
- Mina Hosseini requested talking points to avoid duplication and support M-DCPS.
- Knowing the rule-making process begins September 24, 2025, and that the legislative session starts in January 2026, can legislation be amended once the rule-making process has been initiated?
- Talking points and the proposed rules will be shared with the board.
 - To change the requirement for teachers from 6 semester hours to 3 semester hours when teaching out of field or out of grade level for certification. This will help retain and recruit teachers.

- To include Pre-K Staff in the definition of Instructional Personnel.
- The district continues to advocate and request funding to provide 1 school nurse for every school.
- Require private and/or external instructional personnel to adhere to school board policies and procedures while on school property, and allow districts to establish parameters for private instructional personnel that limit disruptions to the instructional environment.
- Request the flexibility on the use of Impact Fees for school renovations to better serve students.
- There are 13 new requests for appropriations; last year, the district was successful in receiving 5 appropriations.
- Supplemental funding for the establishment of community hubs to amplify assistance for parents.
- Please visit <https://intergovaffairs.dadeschools.net> for Legislative Updates and information.
- Enrique Escallon inquired about Federal Legislative Items. It was explained that they were being discussed at the moment, and should Title I or any other Title Program be impacted, we would be notified.
- Beverly Heller inquired about funding for summer school and after-school. The district continues to request funding for summer school programs; however, they remain optional and are not listed as a priority.
- Beverly Heller inquired about safety and the relationship of school size to the number of police present. Currently, every school has one resource officer assigned, irrespective of school size, and municipalities provide additional assistance at their discretion.
- Mari Ratti reiterated the importance of advocating for an increase in salary for non-instructional staff, since they are just as important in school operations as instructional personnel.
- Mina Hosseini requested an update on the referendum, which will be expiring next year, since it helps us sustain at a local level, and work needs to be started early.
- Maria Ratti shared that M-DCPS Police Officers receive Sensitivity Training.

Old Business

- **September 18, 2025, Minutes**
 - Mirena Suarez, correction
 - Page 3, second bullet under DAC Title I Administration - The First DAC Executive Meeting date is October 9th, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., located at 1450 NE 2nd Ave, Miami, FL 33132, in Room 559, and is open to the public.
 - Page 3, third bullet under DAC Title I Administration - From September through December, training and orientations will be provided for all CIS and CLS of Title-I Schools.
 - Fourth bullet under DAC Title I Administration - Videos are being created to help navigate the website, educate on language, and provide parent-friendly content to better understand Title I schools.
 - Mina Hosseini, omission
 - Page 4, under new Business - A request was made to understand the process to create a new subcommittee.
 - Minutes approved as corrected.

Region updates and announcements

- South Region Representative - Wendy Fernandez
 - Our Social Workers Wendy Fernandez and Kassidy Gamble work with the schools and parents to ensure Parent Choice Applications are processed in a timely manner and coordinate with the North and Central Regions to process requests for schools in their regions.
 - Our office collaborates with our ESE Service Center staff to ensure that students with an IEP or 504 plan are accommodated and have access to their education adequately.
 - Our Advocates are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; the phone number is 305-251-4870.
 - School Board Member Luisa Santos, District 9 Community meeting is on Thursday, September 25th - 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Arthur and Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts in Goulds, FL.
 - Cutler Bay's third annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration will take place on September 27 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Cutler Ridge Park.
 - Magnet Applications window opens October 1st and remains open until January 15th.

- Central Region Representative- Deborah Gonzalez
 - Booker T Washington Senior High School received an “A” for the school year.
 - Schools are currently in preparation for the upcoming Parents' Night / Open House Events
 - Athletic Spotlight for Coral Gables Sr. High School
 - Alexis Monti – Lead Cavaliers Bowling Team to victory over South Miami, bowling a personal best 244 in one game!
 - Montrey Buckner powered the Cavaliers Football Team over the ABF Academy 20-0. Montrey had 6 carries for 83 yards and 2 touchdowns!
 - Bianca Benson led the Cavaliers Volleyball Team to victory over the South Dade Buccaneers. Bianca had 8 digs, 12 kills, served 3 aces, and 1 block.

- North Region Representative - Reinaldo Palacios
 - Starting Oct 2025, high school student-athletes in M-DCPS will be participating in mandatory EKG screens. This new requirement prioritizes early detection, prevention, and peace of mind for families, schools, and communities, while aligning with national best practices.
 - Magnet Schools application process will start in October 2026.
 - Online Choice Application 2025-2026 school year.
 - Parents can go to the MDCPS webpage, “Parent Portal,” and choose the “Choice Application” tile, which takes them to the application page. Parents can visit the Federal and State Compliance Office (FASCO) webpage for information, procedures, and a step-by-step video in English, Haitian-Creole, and Spanish.
 - NRO Parent Advocates are available to aid NRO school parents with school-related matters or concerns. Contact Ms. Shirley Watson (M-Th.) 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 305-572-2800 Ext. 217 or Ms. Lidia Leichtman (M-F) 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 305-572-2800 Ext. 221

- Standing Committee Reports: DAC (District Advisory Council) Title I Administration
 - **Title I DAC General Meetings:** Our first General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **November 13, 2025, 6:30 p.m.** at G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School. During this meeting, staff from the Division of Student and Family Support Programs’ Finance Unit will conduct a presentation to inform participants about the allocation of Title I funds to

schools and the parent and family engagement activities supported with Title I, Part A federal funding. Additionally, the Department of Early Childhood Programs will provide information on the benefits of Early Childhood Education and the various programs available for the 2025-2026 school year. Additionally, Project UP-START will provide critical information to parents about student eligibility criteria, how to enroll, and the benefits offered to participating students and their families. We also expect to invite staff from the Share Your Heart Program to inform parents about the support services available to students and families in crisis or distress. The meeting will also feature students' artistic performances, and participants will have an opportunity to visit resource tables displaying information about the district's programs and community partners' services. As in previous years, the expected number of participants will be between 400-500 parents, families, students, and community partners.

- **Title I DAC Executive Meetings:** Our first Title I DAC Executive Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **October 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Perla Tabares Hantman School Board Administration Building, Conference Room 559. At this meeting, the new Title I DAC Executive Board will be installed, and we will provide other useful information and updates.
- New and updated Title I DAC and PAC Calendars are now available on the Division of Student and Family Support Programs' website.
- **Publications:** The first issue of the DAC Talk News for Parents is scheduled to be published at the end of the month of October. As a reminder, this publication can be found digitally on the Division of Student and Family Support Program's website. Additionally, printed copies are sent to Title I schools so CIS/CLS can have them in their Parent Resource Center/Area for easy access by parents and families.
- **Publications:** The first issue of the Parent Bulletin is scheduled to be published by the end of the month of October. As a reminder, this publication can be found digitally on the Division of Student and Family Support Program's website. Title I Schools' CIS/CLS are highly encouraged to make copies and have them at their Parent Resource Center/Area for easy access by parents and families.
- **Professional Learning sessions** for Title I Community Involvement Specialists (CIS)/Community Liaison Specialists (CLS) and Title I School-Level Compliance Facilitators are now underway. These sessions mark the beginning of a yearlong technical assistance initiative and will continue throughout the school year to ensure ongoing support, growth, and alignment with program goals.
- **Connection Essentials Digital Series:** The Parent Connection The Division of Student and Family Support Programs will develop and post on its website, a series of videos aimed at providing useful information to parents and families regarding main topics such as:
 - Get Involved with DAC and PAC
 - Annual Parent Meeting About the Benefits of the Title I Schoolwide Program
 - DAC Talk News for Parents
 - Title I Parent Bulletin
 - Navigating the Division of Student and Family Support Programs Website
 - Navigating M-DCPS: Parent Resources
- HeadStart Program -Barbara Martin Gallego
 - HeadStart is actively enrolling and receiving applications.
 - Please contact us for more information.

- Superintendent’s Panel for Exceptional Student Education -Beverly Heller
 - Please consider joining a subcommittee where issues are discussed at a detailed level.
 - The upcoming board meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2025, at 11:30 am, Room 326Y at the Annex.
 - The gifted subcommittee drafted its goals:
 - Goal 1: ESE Gifted panel supports increasing identification of underrepresented students in gifted education
 - Goal 2: ESE Gifted panel supports increasing professional learning for all school staff, including teachers, teachers in the gifted, administrators, and other staff members, on instructional resources and strategies to address the needs of gifted learners.
 - Goal 3: Share important gifted updates and other important information to community members and parents on how families can work with their children to successfully materialize their children’s potential.

- Educational, Opportunity and Access Committee (previously DEEAC) -Beverly Heller
 - DEEAC has been renamed for greater participation.
 - Dr. Amica-Roberts will share the board policy for information on changes made to the committee.

- United Way - Tyler O’dneal
 - This year, United Way is implementing the 1st year of the 5-year strategic plan, and once able, it will be shared with the committee, but what can be anticipated is that United Way's aligned priorities with those of MDCPS.
 - If you know of a family in need of stability or financial assistance, please reach out to her at odnealt@unitedwaymiami.org

- Citizens’ Coalition -Beverly Heller
 - Meets right after FCIAC at 12 noon.
 - Aillette Rodriguez from Intergovernmental Affairs provides legislative updates, and the group works towards supporting and promoting items.

- PS305 -Mina Hosseini
 - PS305 wants to invite the group to the September 25 meeting in partnership with the FIU School of Education and Human Development.
 - PS305 is working to capture the story of parents and families through testimonials to be shared with the public; to support and shift the narrative that M-DCPS provides choice, and parents have continued to choose M-DCPS.
 - If you want to provide testimony, please contact Mina.

- Parent Subcommittee on District and School Budget Priorities- Mrs. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert
 - Those interested in participating, please let Ines Meras know.
 - The first meeting is scheduled for September 29 at 5:30 p.m. in room 916.

- Community Access, Ines Meras and Lisa Thurber
 - This week is Fathers in Education and Fathers in Action; there are more than 20 workshops being presented at select schools
 - Fathers in Education Day is officially on Thursdays. Schools have the option to host the event on any day during the week to accommodate their particular schedule.
 - School Board Chair Ms. Mari Tere Rojas has sponsored this item for 13 years.

- All Pro Dad Clubs are launching a various schools this week.
- Friday is the Dad, take your child to school day.
- New Business: FCIAC Priorities and Presentations
 - Priorities were discussed and will continue to be identified.
 - The recommendations provided last year were reviewed and considered.
 - The district's priorities list was also considered in creating new priorities.
 - The Office of Community Partnerships, Education, and Business Access will coordinate with departments to provide an update on the recommendations provided last year to discuss if these must roll over or have been sufficiently addressed.
 - The items that were discussed and requested for follow-up during the August 18 Meeting (under North Region Updates) will be included.
 - Members provided their top priority:
 - Mina Hosseini: Understand enrollment tied to the fiscal responsibility of the district. Supported by Beverly Heller, Mariel Seymore, Enrique Escallon, Wesley Owings, Sharon Watson, and Renee Williams.
 - Dannielle Boyer: Workforce Housing
 - Ray Palacios: suggested that Customer Service is revisited as a factor related to student retention.
 - Aundrey Adams: What is being done to maintain public education?
 - Sharon Watson: Immigration and ICE's impact on enrollment.
 - Online members submitted priorities on the chat.
 - Number One Priority: **Enrollment data tied to the fiscal viability of the district.** Related Action items are as follows and will be incorporated by the presenters if feasible:
 - How do the current enrollment numbers affect the budget?
 - What are the current trends in the movement of students out of the district, to private, and to charter?
 - What do the parent exit surveys reflect?
 - Is there growth in our online programs because of immigration?
 - How is our enrollment affected under the current ICE situation?
 - In what areas are we losing the most population?
 - Are we providing early communication and discussion of the repurposing of schools?
 - Presentations from Dr. Cabrera and Mr. Steiger will be requested for the next meeting.
 - During the October meeting, the next topic will be selected.
 - In preparation for the following meeting, Ms. Ines Meras will send a link for committee members to submit questions on or before September 22.
 - Mina Hossieni requested the process and policy to establish a subcommittee.
 - Next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2025.

Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert at 11:30 a.m.