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District Advisory Council

The School Board of Broward County



Questions

Monday, December 1st, 2025, 8:00am -10:00am

Virtual on Teams

Attendees:

- Brooke B
- Cynthia (Committee Chair - DAC)
- Lin Ferrara
- Nicole Morst
- Michael Pezzicola
- Jacqui Luscombe
- Alan Bushkin

Housekeeping & Opening Discussion

- Members joined from various locations; casual opening conversation about holidays, school return, and weekend activities.

Agenda Planning for December Meeting

- Committee confirmed purpose of meeting was to determine December agenda items.
- Reviewed district calendar: boundary workshops on Dec 8–9, Roundtable on Dec 9.
- Noted discrepancies in district calendar postings, missing training entries.

Boundary & Redefining Schools Update

- Board expected to discuss redefining schools primarily on Dec 8, overflow on Dec 9.
- No additional information provided to DAC despite expectation.
- Members requested clarity on missing demographic data and criteria for deliberation.

December Agenda Topics Confirmed

- Safety & Security
- Academics
- Boundary update (no guest required)

Academics – Key Issues & Questions

Testing Volume Concerns:

- Significant discussion on excessive testing, especially for K–2.
- Teachers feel pressured by district staff; parents expressing frustration.
- Request: Provide list of required vs optional tests.
- Request: Clarify teacher autonomy under BTU contract.
- Request: Address testing culture and stress placed on children.
- Request: Compare Broward testing load with neighboring districts.

Performance Matters Platform:

- Widely described as clunky and difficult for students and teachers.
- Questions for district:
 - What is being done to resolve platform issues?
 - Why was it adopted without proper rollout or communication?
 - When will families receive training/communication on its use?
 - Are teachers fully able to access data?

Computer Literacy & Typing:

- Follow-up requested on long-promised typing instruction.
- Concern that students must test on computers without proper preparation.

Other Academic Topics

- ACE expansion: Committee requested cost details for middle vs. high school.
- Concerns raised that principals are unaware of available funding for expansion.
- Noted large amounts withheld by district (example: ~\$400k at one school).

Technology & Platform Concerns

- Members observed repeated pattern of district adopting tools without adequate implementation (Here Comes the Bus, Maximo, Focus).
- Request: Confirm whether Performance Matters allows parents to view itemized test results.
- Request: District must provide proper rollout, training, and communication.

Requests & Action Items

- Provide written clarification of required vs optional testing.
- Provide BTU contractual requirements related to testing and autonomy.
- Obtain comparable district testing loads (Palm Beach, Miami-Dade).
- Confirm attendance of academic leads (Guy + elementary representative).
- Request summary of improvements planned for Performance Matters.
- Confirm ACE expansion funding amounts and timelines.
- Verify whether DAC needs to create survey on testing culture.

Future Meetings

Next Steering Meeting: January 6, 2026 (Teams)

Next DAC General Meeting: January 14, 2026 (KCW Boardroom)

Key December Dates: Board Redefining Workshops December 8–9; Roundtable December 9