



Broward County Public Schools  
**Gifted Advisory Council-General Meeting Minutes**  
Plantation Middle School  
November 4, 2024 @ 6:30PM

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Chair: Karla Figueroa

Vice Chair: Alan Bushkin,

Recording Secretary: Kay Lewis

Corresponding Secretary: Vacant

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- A. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Karla Figueroa at 6:36 PM
- B. Introductions/Meeting Etiquette: The chair introduced GAC Board.
- C. Approval of Minutes
  1. September minutes approved as read. Motion made by Cindy Bulas
  2. October minutes approved as read. Motion made by Yanick Delpino.
- D. Old Business
  1. Update: Motion passed from May & September= ACCEL
    - The recommendation was presented by the Chair: Karla Figueroa to the board and the motion passed in October. The motion is as follows: Students enrolled in elementary school who score a level 5 on the FAST PM1 test will receive information about the ACCEL program.
    - ACCEL program is not a BCPS gifted program
    - The recommendation from the motion will be initiated by the ESE/academic department in the 2025-2026 school year. The deadline for the 2024-2025 school year passed on October 1, 2024.
- E. Chair report
  1. Office of Inspector General (OIG) Ballot information
    - There is a current amendment on the ballot for elections to be held on November 5, 2024, to vote on whether the OIG should have oversight over the BCPS. The chair specifically did not endorse a position.
  2. District Customer Service Initiative
    - The initiative was spearheaded by Dr. Hepburn to improve customer service in school by requesting feedback about the community experience. The data is currently being collected in schools via QR codes.
  3. Cell Phone Policy
    - There will be a board workshop on 11/6/2024 to discuss the content of the surveys that were completed by parents and students related to the cell phone policy. The survey link was disseminated via e-mail to students in middle and high school and parents.
  4. New School Board Member

- November 19, 2024, the newly elected school board members for District 1 Maura Bulman and District 2 Rebecca Thompson will be sworn in. They were previously elected in the August 2024 elections.

#### F. ESE Department Updates-

- The BCPS Curriculum Supervisor for Gifted and Talented, Zuzel Rodriguez reported no updates at this time. There will be resource information shared with the council in the future to include the details of the upcoming STEM Fair.

#### G. New Business

1. Corresponding Secretary Elections- The position entails being able to provide website assistance, update the meeting agenda and minutes, etc. It is preferred that the individual have a technological background. The chair, Karla Figueroa solicited nominees from the floor, none provided. The vacancy will be discussed in the December general meeting.
2. Brace (Broward Advisors for Continued Education) Advising-Please see attached Power Point presentation completed by Dr. Lacresha Cooper- Supervisor of Brace. See below highlights taken from the presentation.
  - There are 6 Brace Advisors in the county.
  - Collaborative effort with the school counselors at the respective schools to prepare the students for life after high school.
  - Key areas focused on by BRACE: Academic Advising, Career Counseling, College Planning and
  - CCLR (College, Career, and Life Readiness)- helping to establish educational goals post high school. The 4 pathways are:
    - a. Enroll- The student enrolls in a College/University or Technical College
    - b. Employ-The student joins the workforce
    - c. Enlist- The student enlists in one of the 6 branches of US military
    - d. Explore- A gap year for the student to explore their interests
  - Xello -on line system located in the students Canvas that assists to help with college and career planning for grades K-12. Parents expressed concerns about not being aware of or having access to the system. Dr. Cooper verified that e-mails were sent via BCPS to the parents which may have defaulted to their SPAM or JUNK e-mail. She encouraged all parents having this issue to reach out to their school counselor to gain access. Furthermore, she confirmed all students have access to the system, yet the respective schools determine how it will be facilitated at their schools. The program provides the below:
    - a. Research on careers, colleges, and majors
    - b. Provides local and national scholarships and enrichment programs, with deadlines beginning at 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The scholarships are updated frequently by the BRACE Team. Dr. Cooper suggested that the submission of the scholarships be completed a month prior to the due date.
    - c. It allows for the student to take an About Me exam that helps the student identify their career interests.
    - d. Builds resumes with information input by the student.
    - e. Statewide collaboration on the program with three counties: Osceola, Orange and Palm Beach.
    - f. The program can be accessed if you move within counties or another state. Contact the Brace office via e-mail to open access to the program.
    - g. The information enclosed in the system remains and builds upon what is inputted by the student.
  - Brace will present at PTA's and Zone meetings
  - Brace provides Webinars every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.
  - Browardschools.com/brace- means to reach
3. EP (Educational Planning) Training- Please see attached Power Point presentation completed by Laura Mallis- Gifted Coordinator. See below highlights taken from the presentation.
  - All students designated as gifted must have an EP or IEP with gifted goals.

- EPs are legal documents that are governed by the state rule 6A-6.030191
- EPs are to be completed Biannually however those that include social/emotional goals are to be completed and reviewed annually. Parents can request the EP's review at any time.
- EPs are not a substitute for parent/teacher conferences.
- EPs current and previous can be found in the FOCUS link under Child info, ESE.
- The EPs should include the listed below:
  - a. Test Score
  - b. Grades
  - c. Strength identified by teacher
  - d. Students input (form)
  - e. Parent input (form)
  - f. Product the student will be creating, at least two measurable goals

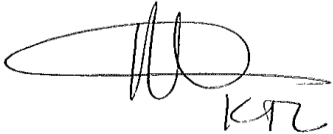
H. Question and Answer

- None

I. Adjournment: The chair, Karla Figueroa adjourned the meeting at 7:53 pm and thanked everyone for attending. The chair reminded members the next scheduled meeting is December 9, 2024. The December meeting topic discussion will be school choice and transportation. School choice opens on December 1, 2024. Additionally, the committee is open to any suggestions for future topic ideas to include those more focused on elementary students' needs.

Approved \_\_\_ as written \_\_\_ as corrected on December 9, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line and the initials 'KAL' written below it.

Kadiya "Kay" Lewis  
Gifted Advisory Council Recording Secretary