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Broward County Public Schools

**Gifted Advisory Council-General Meeting**

Microsoft Teams

**https://tinyurl.com/GACjan25.**

January 13, 2025 @ 6:30PM

**Email:** **BrowardcountyGAC@gmail.com** **Website:** [**https://giftedadvisorycouncil.ch2v.com**](https://giftedadvisorycouncil.ch2v.com)**/**

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Recording Secretary: Kay Lewis Corresponding Secretary: Vacant

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1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Karla Figueroa at 6:33 PM
2. Introductions/Meeting Etiquette: The chair reminded the attendees about the etiquette related to online meeting with presenters to ask questions via raising your hand in the chat, wait to be acknowledged by the chair and then proceed with asking your question. All questions will be addressed after the presentation is completed.
3. Approval of Minutes
4. December 2024 and January 2025 minutes will be reviewed for approval at the February GAC meeting to be held on February 10, 2025 @ 6:30 PM at Plantation Middle School.
5. Old Business
* None to report
1. Chair report
2. BCBS Showcase/Magnet Open House
* The showcase will be held on January 14, 2025, at Amerant Arena located in Sunrise, FL from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. The chair plans to attend and encourages all to attend to meet with numerous programs to include ESE, clubs, athletic groups, etc. The information obtained from the showcase can assist with school choice, which ends on January 21, 2025.
* The link for the showcase is tinyurl.com/Plantation2025
1. School Choice Application
* The school choice window closes on January 21, 2025. There are only three selections in the window. The selections include Reassignment, Magnet, and NOVA.
1. Next month’s meeting
* February 10, 2025 @ 6:30 PM at Plantation Middle School is in person. The meeting will include a presentation on bullying from BCPS.
1. March 2025 monthly meeting
* The superintendent of BCPS is scheduled to be present at the meeting. The committee is welcoming questions to be directed to him about gifted.
1. New Business
2. District Assessments/Progress Monitoring presented by Mr. Richie Baum. Mr. Baum is the Director of Student Assessment and Research.
* The state adapted the BEST (Benchmark for Excellent Standards Thinking) standards which are assessed by the FAST (Florida Assessment of Student Thinking). FAST is a progress monitoring assessment test.
* FAST is provided and administered three times throughout the school year. PM 1 (Fall); PM 2 (Winter); PM 3 (Spring).
* PM 1 and PM 2 the students have not received all the mastery for the subject matter for the year. PM 3 is administered when the student has received all the curriculum for the school year, which should lead to higher scores.
* The outcome of the FAST is a level from 1-5. 5 being the highest that can be achieved, defined as mastery of the level.
* The first test is administered in 3rd grade and thereafter the test adapts to the student who takes the test, on their grade level giving them more difficult or less difficult questions based on the testing.
* It was notated that in grades 7-8th there is a drop in the math PM 3 scores due to those students who are gifted not taking the FAST exam as most of those students are enrolled in Algebra and taking the end of the year exam rather than FAST exam.
* Two links that elaborate further on the FAST and the adaptability of the test are listed below:
1. <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/20102/urlt/2023-24-Understanding-Florida-Statewide-Assessments-Reports.pdf>
2. <https://files.portal.cambiumast.com/florida/Media/FLCAT/FLCAT.html> (adapting testing)
3. Test Anxiety Presentation- Susan Teller, Gifted Program Specialist.
* Students take ques from adults. Adults need to be mindful not to create or add on to the stress for their students. It’s important to explain what mindfulness is and practice it with your student.
* Methods to reduce stress videos were shown for both elementary and secondary students to include breathing techniques as an example blowing bubbles, etc.
* Before test: Teach & Review time management skills; Test Preparation; Teach note taking skills.
* After Testing: process the test taking with your student.
* The parents were provided with websites to assist.
1. Questions & Answers
* Several questions asked by parents about their individual students related to their gifted educational needs were addressed by Zuelle Rodriguez and/or her team from the Gifted and Talented department.

Adjournment: The chair, Karla Figueroa adjourned the meeting at 7:46 PM and thanked everyone for attending. The chair advised that all the above presentations should be available to the members. She also reminded members the next scheduled meeting is February 10, 2025, at Plantation Middle School. She further encouraged attendance at the BCBS Showcase tomorrow and lastly reminded all attendees that the school choice window ends next week.

Approved \_\_\_ as written \_\_ as corrected on February 10, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



Kadiya “Kay” Lewis

Gifted Advisory Council Recording Secretary