



Broward County Public Schools  
**Gifted Advisory Council- General Meeting**  
Plantation Middle School  
September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, @ 6:30pm

**Email:** [BrowardcountyGAC@gmail.com](mailto:BrowardcountyGAC@gmail.com)

**Website:** <http://giftedadvisorycouncil.ch2v.com/>

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Chair: Karla Figueroa              | Vice Chair: Alan Bushkin              |
| Recording Secretary: <b>Vacant</b> | Corresponding Secretary: Diego Britto |

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**Meeting Minutes**

- A. Call to Order** – Gifted Advisory Chair, Karla Figueroa, called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.
- B. Introductions/ Meeting Etiquette** – Chair introduced herself, Gifted Advisory Board, as well as district staff from the ESE department.
- C. Approval of May Minutes** – motion to approve minutes by Lucie DiCapua, and seconded by **Lumi Paryle**. Motion for approval of minutes pass unanimously.
- D. New Business**
  - 1. Focus:
    - Dana Rubinstein, the assistant director of training, adoption, and continuous improvement with the PTAC department, introduces herself.
    - Dana provides detailed steps on creating a parent portal account, including the need for exact student information and the same email address used during enrollment.
    - Dana demonstrates how to navigate the Focus parent portal, including creating a parent portal account, adding additional students, and accessing student information.
    - Dana explains how to find and view IEPs and EPS in the Focus parent portal. She clarifies that current IEPs and EPS for the current school year are available in the Student Services section. Dana addresses questions about accessing archived IEPs and EPS from previous years.
    - Dana demonstrates how to view student grades in the Focus parent portal, including elementary and secondary grade formats. She explains how to navigate the grade portal to see detailed information about assignments and grades.
    - Dana mentions the availability of the Focus parent portal in multiple languages and how to change language preferences. She explains how to



access and view Florida statewide assessments and test scores in the parent portal. Dana addresses questions about accessing after-school activities, groups, and clubs through the parent portal.

- Dana addresses common technical issues parents might encounter, such as logging in from multiple devices and accessing test scores. She provides contact information for the Focus communications team to assist with any technical issues or questions, [focuscommunications@browardschools.com](mailto:focuscommunications@browardschools.com).
- Dana explains the process for accessing and viewing 504 plans and how they are managed separately from the Focus parent portal.
- She clarifies the calculation of GPA for students enrolled in high school courses in middle school.
- Dana recaps the key points of the presentation, including creating a parent portal account, accessing student information, and using the Focus parent portal app. She emphasizes the importance of completing back-to-school forms and the availability of the Focus parent portal in multiple languages. Dana encourages parents to reach out to the Focus communications team for any further assistance or questions.

## 2. Elections- Recording Secretary

- The floor opened for nominations for GAC Recording Secretary. No nominations from the floor currently. Item tabled for next month's meeting.

## E. Chair Report

1. District Policy updates (School Boundary-8010, School Choice-6400, Name, Image, and Likeness- Policy 5800)
  - The GAC Chair provided updates on these policies and their current status. School Boundary policy 8010 and School Choice policy 6400, are going before the school board tomorrow (09/10/24) for discussion. There is concerns with removing community input with these policies. These policies affect "Redefining Schools".
  - Many of the Advisory groups have provided input on School Choice policy, requesting that the school choice window opens on Oct 1<sup>st</sup> versus in December. This allowed parents sooner planning of school choice option for the following school year. Additionally, as seats in the schools are filled, they will close that window of opportunity as capacity of seats is met.
  - Policy 5800, Name Image and Likeness, new policy that occurred over the summer of 2024. It specific to high school student athletes stating they can be compensated for their name, image, and likeness; however, the Broward school district cannot have any part of it. The student athletes cannot mention or say the school, team, number, jersey, etc. or anything having to do with Broward Schools.



## 2. Technology Advisory Updates (*Need a Rep*)

- GAC has a seat in Technology Advisory. We are looking for someone to be the Rep for Gifted and report back during our meeting.
- Update: District is short on laptops as there are more students than laptops. Many were turned in not functioning. Also, the student code of conduct is being updated to reflect the use of Ai. Students are not allowed to use Ai for the use of writing their papers as it can be considered plagiarism.

## 3. Redefining Schools

- Community meetings for Redefining Schools begins next week on Sept 16<sup>th</sup>, first meeting at Dillard High School. The Chair encouraged parents to attend the meetings. The topics for these meetings include repurposing certain schools, and protentional reconfiguration to K-8 or 6-12.

## 4. 25-26 Proposed School Calendar (Calendar Committee)

- The Chair discussion the proposed 25-26 school calendar option. As of now, this is the only option available. The proposed first day of school is Aug 11, 2025, and the last day June 2, 2026, which would be an early release day. The Chair opened the floor for discussion to bring back to the calendar committee.
- Parents asked reasons of starting on a Monday vs a Weds. Many parents preferred the Monday. Another parent asked about early release days. Some parents preferred no early release due to having to find childcare.
- Parent asked about holiday and spring break times. Another parent asked about testing windows and chair explained the 9wk semester breakdown, and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester ending prior to winter break.

## **F. Old Business**

### 1. Update: Motion passed at April Meeting

- Chair provided update on the motion passed at the April meeting regarding Gifted

### 2. Cogat Testing (Contract Update)

- The district no longer uses Cogat for Gifted Testing. It is now replaced with the STAR Assessment.

### 3. ACCEL/ Motion passed at May meeting

- Zuzel Rodriguez discussed the ACCEL program. The program is not owned by the gifted department but is part of the elementary learning department. The program allows students to skip grades or specific content areas based on their performance. The process involves meeting with a counselor and scoring high enough in assessments for whole or content grade skipping. The guidelines for ACCEL are available on the district's website and are updated annually.

## **G. Exceptional Student Education Department Updates**



- Zuzel Rodriguez discussed organizational changes, with the gifted program now under the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) department. Key updates include a lowered IQ threshold for Plan B eligibility to 112, aligning with other counties, and defining low SES students based on Title I school enrollment. Universal screening for second graders will use the STAR assessment, replacing the Cogat due to COPA law requirements.
- The qualifying IQ for Plan B has been lowered to 112, aligning with other large counties. The definition of low SES has been updated to include students enrolled in Title I schools.
- Consent from parents is now required for online assessments, as mandated by the COPA law

**H. Q&A** – no other questions asked

**I. Adjourn** – The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:13pm and mentioned subject was EP training.

**Next General Meeting: October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Plantation Middle**