

MINUTES

**Parent Subcommittee on District and School Budget Priorities
Family and Community Involvement Budget Advisory Subcommittee
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
1450 NE 2nd Ave, Conference Room 916 & Google Meets
Miami, FL 33132**

Monday, November 17, 2025

Voting Members Present:

Ms. Paula De Carolis	Ms. Mina Hosseini	Mr. Elias Seife
Mr. Jose Dominguez	Ms. Janielle Murphy	Ms. Meriel Seymore
Ms. Beverly Heller	Ms. Laura Philpot	

Voting Members Absent:

Ms. Johanna Folland	Ms. Nadeige Theresias-Joisil
Ms. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert	Ms. Ana Rosa Ramirez Toft-Nielson

Others Physically Present/Via Google Meets:

Ms. Dannielle Boyer	Ms. Isabelle Exume	Ms. Maria Norton
Mr. Elias Seife	Mr. James Desgouttes	Ms. Milagros Hernandez
Mr. Ron Y. Steiger	Ms. Holly Zwerling	Ms. Martha Diaz
Ms. Nicole Crooks		

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ms. Beverly Heller at 5:30 PM. Attendees introduced themselves, including voting members, district staff, and community partners. A quorum was not initially present; therefore, introductions and the scheduled presentation proceeded until quorum was established later in the meeting.

II. Presentation

Strategic Planning Process Update

Mr. Alex Ramirez from the Office of Strategic Planning presented an update on the district's strategic planning process. He explained that the current plan is expiring this year and emphasized the importance of aligning budget decisions with strategic priorities. Ramirez provided an overview of community engagement efforts, which have included surveys and focus groups since 2023, such as the "Your Best Choice" survey and an organizational diagnostic. Over 200,000 data points have been collected from parents, students, staff, and community partners. Focus groups were conducted in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole to ensure inclusion of ESOL families.

Portrait of a Graduate Initiative

Mr. Ramirez introduced the Portrait of a Graduate initiative, which identifies the top skills needed for student success. These include career readiness, digital literacy, communication, civic engagement, financial literacy, resilience, and critical thinking. Draft designs and language were shared with the committee, and feedback was requested via survey.

Key Findings from Diagnostic

The diagnostic revealed several strengths, including academic rigor, inclusive services for students with disabilities, strong teacher-principal relationships, and mental health support. Challenges identified were compensation relative to the cost of living, bureaucratic barriers for partnerships, the need for modernization and AI integration, and frequent turnover of principals. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of hands-on learning, internships, mentorship, and civic engagement opportunities. Additionally, research showed that teacher perceptions of school climate strongly correlate with enrollment trends.

Discussion Highlights

Committee members raised concerns about school selection for focus groups and representation of inner-city schools. Questions were asked regarding the cancellation of a diversity grant and outreach to hard-to-reach populations. Suggestions included creating a “Portrait of a Teacher” to better understand educator needs. Members stressed the importance of respectful engagement during meetings and inclusion of vulnerable student voices. Legislative context was also discussed, with an early session anticipated in January and updates planned for the December meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes

Once quorum was established at approximately 7:10 PM, corrections to the minutes from the October meeting were noted. A motion was passed to approve the minutes.

IV. Legislative & Budget Updates

The committee discussed the Schools of Hope collocation bill, which poses significant financial implications for MDCPS beginning in fiscal year 2027–2028. Under the current language, the district would bear costs for maintenance, custodial services, and utilities without receiving revenue offsets. Ninety notices of intent were submitted by charter operators, with approximately 68 deemed valid after review. Advocacy efforts are underway to revise the statute, though a full repeal is considered unlikely. The district also anticipates a projected enrollment decline of 10,000 students next year, equating to a revenue loss of approximately \$95 million. Reserve levels risk falling below the statutory minimum of 3 percent, and the budget balancing process will begin earlier than usual to address these challenges.

V. New Business

The next meeting is scheduled for December and will include legislative updates, budget balancing strategies, and continued strategic planning feedback. Members were encouraged to participate in upcoming public workshops and share surveys with their communities.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:31 PM. Members expressed appreciation for the presentation and reaffirmed their commitment to advocacy and collaboration.