

# MINUTES

**Parent Subcommittee on District and School Budget Priorities  
Family and Community Involvement Budget Advisory Subcommittee  
Miami-Dade County Public Schools  
1450 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Conference Room 559 & Google Meets  
Miami, FL 33132**

**Monday, December 15, 2025**

**Voting Members Present:**

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

**Voting Members Absent:**

Ms. Dannielle Boyer	Ms. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert	Ms. Nadeige Theresias-Joisil
Ms. Nicole Crooks	Ms. Maria Norton	
Ms. Johanna Folland	Ms. Ana Rosa Ramirez Toft-Nielsen	

**Others Physically Present/Via Google Meets:**

Mr. Elias Seife	Ms. Isabelle Exume	Ms. Janielle Murphy
Mr. Ron Y. Steiger	Mr. James Desgouttes	Mr. Tony Ullivarri
Ms. Ines Meras	Ms. Martha Diaz	Ms. Lissette Fernandez

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ms. Beverly Heller at 5:30 PM. A quorum was not initially present; therefore, introductions and the scheduled presentation proceeded until quorum was established later in the meeting.

**II. Legislative Updates**

Members were informed by Mr. Tony Ullivarri that the upcoming legislative session is scheduled to begin on January 13, 2026, and will run for 60 days. Several bills were highlighted for their potential impact on public education. Senate Bill 424, filed by Senator Rousson, seeks to repeal provisions of the Schools of Hope statute, including free facility use and attendance zone requirements, and was considered favorable for the district. Conversely, Senate Bill 824, which would require school districts to offer vacant land to charter schools without compensation, was strongly opposed. Additional bills discussed included Senate Bill 318, which introduces greater oversight of scholarship programs; House Bill 345 and Senate Bill 512, which propose increased funding for VPK programs; and Senate Bills 320 and 630, which address administrative efficiency, teacher certification extensions, textbook adoption timelines, and controversial assessment requirements for exceptional students. Property tax reform proposals were also reviewed, with members expressing concern about the potential for significant revenue losses and the absence of clear legislative solutions.

**III. Budget Updates**

Budget updates followed, with Ms. Diaz & Mr. Steiger presenting the governor's proposed budget. While the plan includes a modest increase of approximately \$293 per student, the district faces ongoing financial challenges, including a projected enrollment decline of 9,000 to 10,000 students next year and an anticipated shortfall of at least \$120 million. Strategies under consideration to address this gap include reducing the downtown administrative footprint, adjusting class sizes and master schedules, reviewing exceptional student education programs, and evaluating the school portfolio. Members discussed the difficulty of balancing the budget without compromising educational quality and expressed concerns about the long-term sustainability of current funding models.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Once quorum was established at approximately 6:33 PM a motion was passed to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on November 17, 2025.

**V. Community Engagement**

The committee also addressed issues of community engagement and advocacy. Several participants noted the lack of visible representation from school board members at recent delegation meetings and emphasized the need for improved communication with parents and stakeholders. Suggestions included hosting town halls, reinstating joint meetings with principals, and reviving programs such as parent ambassadors to strengthen community involvement.

**VI. New Business**

Under new business, the committee agreed to schedule upcoming meetings for January 26, February 23, March 16, April 20, and May 18, 2026. Members requested that the superintendent be invited to a future meeting, with the understanding that clear objectives and discussion points should be established beforehand. The possibility of adding a standing agenda item for updates on principal committee activities was also discussed.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM. Members reaffirmed their commitment to advocating on behalf of public education and collaborating on solutions to address fiscal and policy challenges.