

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 559 & Google Meets
Miami, FL 33132**

Monday, October 20, 2025

Voting Members Present:

Ms. Dannielle Boyer	Ms. Beverly Heller	Ms. Meriel Seymore
Ms. Paula De Carolis	Ms. Mina Hosseini	
Mr. Jose Dominguez	Ms. Laura Philpot	
Ms. Johanna Folland	Mr. Elias Seife	

Voting Members Absent:

Ms. Nicole Crooks	Ms. Ana Rosa Ramirez Toft-Nielson
Ms. Isabelle Exume	Ms. Nadeige Theresias-Joisil
Ms. Carolyn Nelson-Goedert	

Others Physically Present/Via Google Meets:

Dr. Verena Cabrera	Ms. Milagros Hernandez	Ms. Janielle Murphy
Mr. James Desgouttes	Ms. Peggy Joseph	Ms. Maria Norton
Ms. Martha Diaz	Ms. Ines Meras	Mr. Ron Steiger

I. Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ms. Beverly Heller at 5:30 PM, and a quorum was confirmed. Attendees introduced themselves, including representatives from community organizations, advocacy groups, and district offices.

II. Approval of Minutes from September 29, 2025

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, and one correction was noted. With that correction, the minutes were approved.

III. Enrollment Trends and Mobility Update

Ms. Beverly Heller, committee Chair, opened the floor to Dr. Verena Cabrera to provide updates on enrollment.

Dr. Verena Cabrera presented enrollment trends and mobility. She shared historical enrollment data for the past 20 years, noting a decline of approximately 13,000 students compared to last year. Charter school enrollment growth has slowed to less than one percent, while mobility patterns show withdrawals to other counties, states, and private schools. Foreign-born student enrollment dropped significantly, from about 21,000 in 2023–24 to roughly 14,000 in 2024–25, with top countries of origin including Cuba, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua. Boundary behavior data revealed that 46 percent of students attend their home school, while 26 percent attend charter schools. Private school participation is estimated at around 94,000 students. Additionally, Dr.

Cabrera introduced the A La Carte Program, which allows voucher students to take MDCPS courses for a fee.

IV. Discussion Highlights:

The discussion focused on the impact of immigration policy changes on enrollment and funding, as well as the long-term financial sustainability given declining enrollment and the increasing number of school facilities. Members emphasized the importance of teacher morale and school climate as key predictors of enrollment. Legislative priorities include increasing funding for teacher salaries and improving working conditions, as well as addressing inefficiencies in facility utilization. Questions were raised about co-location under Schools of Hope legislation, the district's strategy for partnerships such as the Barry University hybrid school concept, and transparency in scholarship funding processes.

V. Key Takeaways:

Key takeaways from the meeting included the recognition that enrollment decline is driven by multiple factors, including immigration, birth rates, and school choice. Legislative advocacy remains critical for securing funding and policy adjustments. School climate and teacher engagement strongly influence enrollment trends, and the district is exploring innovative models such as teacher-led schools and partnerships to adapt to the changing educational landscape.

VI. New Business:

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2025. Suggested topics include the financial impact of co-location and Schools of Hope legislation, cost analysis of teacher-led school models, and legislative updates with strategic planning outcomes. The committee agreed to continue monitoring enrollment and reserve levels.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM, and members expressed appreciation for the presentations, discussion, and refreshments.