

The School Board of Broward County, Florida  
**District Advisory Council Meeting**  
Draft Minutes  
Wednesday, February 12th, 2020 6:30-8:30pm  
K.C. Wright, 600 SE Third Ave., Boardroom, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Email: [districtadvisorycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:districtadvisorycouncil@gmail.com) Website: Browarddistrictadvisory.ch2v.com

*Meeting started 6:35 pm*

*Approval of Minutes: January 15th 2020 motion to approve the minutes as-is.*

*Attendance Requirements – Area Chairs please check sign-in sheets for non-compliance and please decide if you need to re-elect at next area meetings.*

**Old Business**

*Committee Update – Policy 6000.1 - Follow-up on proposal made that students NOT be allowed to waive/exempt exams.*

*Current policy states (see page 54). A student may exempt provided they have a B or better in all marking periods may waive mid-term or final exam. AP, IB, ACE cannot be exempted per current Policy. Dual enrollment cannot be exempted.*

*There are four (4) High Schools with exam exemptions. Students are not allowed to waive any mid-terms. Cooper City, Everglades, South Broward, Fort Lauderdale High.*

*Several Schools have waivers for Professional Study Days (this is for teachers).*

*Some schools have waivers for EOC classes only*

The more the proposal was discussed, the more questions were raised. Group was consistent in stating that there should be uniformity on waivers as to avoid a disadvantage to students (example – impact on GPA). Clarity on the process of how waivers are requested and voted is also needed.

*Florida State Statute states: 1001.42 School Policy 1403. Schools are allowed via SAC that they can waiver and go against school policy. There must be a community policy meeting and if there is a negative reaction, it must be shared with SAC.*

**Speaker:**

Mr. Todd LaPace and Ms. Priscilla Ribeiro, High School Cadre Directors School Waivers were guest speaker/s.

There are variances in different schools. The goal of PSD is to allow teachers to come together and improve teacher outcomes.

In elementary a teacher has one hour of planning at the end of the day.

In middle schools a teacher has one hour of planning before school.

In high school some teachers are on a block schedule and teach all day.

PSD allow up to 8 days (instructional strategy). Each school determines how they want to implement this. Each school determines the need they have for their school. Not all schools participate. Schools are left to determine their needs and have sole discretion.

**Concerns from Group for Waivers:**

- Be consisting across schools – whatever is implemented.
- Is the waiver policy/steps being executed consistently (i.e. community feedback)
- Unfair advantage for student that must take exam can affect their semester grade.
- Students with waivers now must study for more exams where a student in another school without a waiver would have less classes to study for and this creates an unfair competitive advantage.
- Schools must collect data and share with SAC when renewal of waiver takes place – feedback was that data is not being shared at SAC or the community.
- If waiver for PSD in a school zone, why would similar schools in that area not also implement? Group felt consistency across schools is important. How is this measured. Who monitors what teachers are doing on PSD days.
- We need better communication about the process in general, especially our SAF representatives.

Donna stated that recently three schools put in waiver and two schools stopped after community feedback.

1<sup>st</sup> year community feedback is required. Waivers are good for five years. Each year the school submits their data and teachers vote to continue with waiver.

Waiver – Cannot have a cost associated with it, and any School Board Policy can be waived.

Waiver process is in state statute. Donna confirmed 19 waivers are going to the school board in April. The intent to apply for a waiver is submitted in November. Documentation of and proof of community meeting must be submitted. SAC must discuss and then faculty (teachers) vote.

Continuation of waiver – school collects data and must be presented to SAC. Faculty must vote to continue. Each year they have to update data and it becomes part of SIP.

**Concerns from the Group:**

- What data are schools providing to justify testing waivers?
- Is there a set time line to announce community feedback (3 days per Donna)
- We need to educate our SAF's on this process.
- Lack of consistency between schools and disadvantage being created.

Donna advised the last week of February there is training and the survey will be rolled out soon.

Mr. Jarvis advised the school district acknowledged and honored the employee of the year and wanted to recognize Ms. Cari Rodriguez as Broward County Teacher of the year from Harbordale. Jane Fleming, the office manager at Pioneer Middle School in Cooper City; Fort Lauderdale High School assistant principal, Sean Curran; and Wilton Manors Elementary School principal, Melissa Holtz.

### **New Business - Subcommittee Update – Homework Policy:**

Group began to provide feedback on the proposed homework policy.

Input provided:

Homework is defined as work assigned to students that reinforces standard based instruction and is intended to be completed during non-instructional hours.

Vote – The word meaningful and quality to be taken out when defining homework.

Assignments that include digital submission will require a weekend to accommodate parents.

### **Some concerns to revisit on the homework policy:**

How will teacher communicate assignment to the parent? Suggestion: use the word available to parents.

Method of communication by Teacher – it was agreed this should not be defined in policy.

Wording - Assigned homework must be adequately explained by teacher and clearly communicated to students and available to parents. Concerns raised and discussed, requires teachers to do an extra step? Not all teachers are communicating assignments.

Assignments that require digital submission will include a weekend. Suggestion: verbiage when a student does not have internet access.

With block scheduling, revisit wording to include 'weekend'. (Assignment on Monday would be due on Wednesday (not the following Monday)?)

Meeting had to adjourn before attendees were able to finish.

Meeting adjourned 8:54 p.m.