

**The School Board of Broward County, Florida
Central Area Advisory Council – General Meeting
Indian Ridge Middle School
December 19, 2024 9:45 – 11:45 am
Minutes**

Chair – Dee Defoe

Recording Secretary – Brie-Anne Pendlebury

Vice Chair – Pamela Taylor

Corresponding Secretary – Midge Royer

Call to order: 9:47am

- Welcome and Meeting Etiquette
 - raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged
 - inform Chair prior to recording meeting to allow those that do not want to be recorded to move from the view of the camera
- Approve November Minutes: Pended for quorum
- Membership Explanations: Must attend monthly meetings to maintain their seat. After 3 absences, the seat is vacated. There are currently several open positions due to non-attendance. An email will be sent with more information prior to new nominations/elections in January.

New Business/Guest Speaker(s):

Ernie W. Lozano, Task-Assigned, Chief Safety & Security Officer

Team Members also present: Chief of Police, Emergency Operator, Director of Safety and Security.

Metal detection: Metal detectors have been implemented at all high schools at all morning entry points and throughout the day at the single point of entry. The metal detectors do not detect 3D printed weapons but would detect metal ammunition.

Random wandering also is a layer of security. Schools are selected the evening before, five days a week. There are approximately 4 classrooms that are wandered at each location chosen. Once a school has been selected, it is removed from the pool to ensure it isn't selected multiple times.

The district is also initiating a K9 program to assist in weapon and drug detection in partnership with local police departments.

One current area of focus is closing front perimeters and improving surveillance. There will not be additional security staff to man these enclosed front gates. Existing security staff will man the gate at all times and lock it only when they need to step away. There is a possibility of adding metal detectors to middle and elementary schools.

A parent shared dangerous traffic concerns at Nova High School.

The public announcement systems are not fully functional at all schools. This is a concern at multiple schools. This is also handled by the IT department.

Lightening Detection and Weather alerts: There are concerns about the functionality of these

weather stations on campuses. This has been brought to the security team per the emergency operator and he is currently working to reinforce the existing weather stations in schools.

There was a request for information regarding records requests and who the records custodian is. There have been multiple public records requests that remain without response. The team will look into this and return to an upcoming CAAC meeting with further information.

The district has purchased wearable panic alert buttons. It will be provided to staff, including substitute teachers and vendors. A button pressed initiates an immediate lockdown sequence including contacting police. The button can also be used to contact in school support for medical situations and student altercations. This will be implemented next school year.

There is a concern that the safer space icon compromises the safety of students that are hiding during a lockdown. These are "safer" spaces, not necessarily safe spaces. They are the best location identified by the district safety department. Teachers and staff are encouraged to use situational judgement in crisis events.

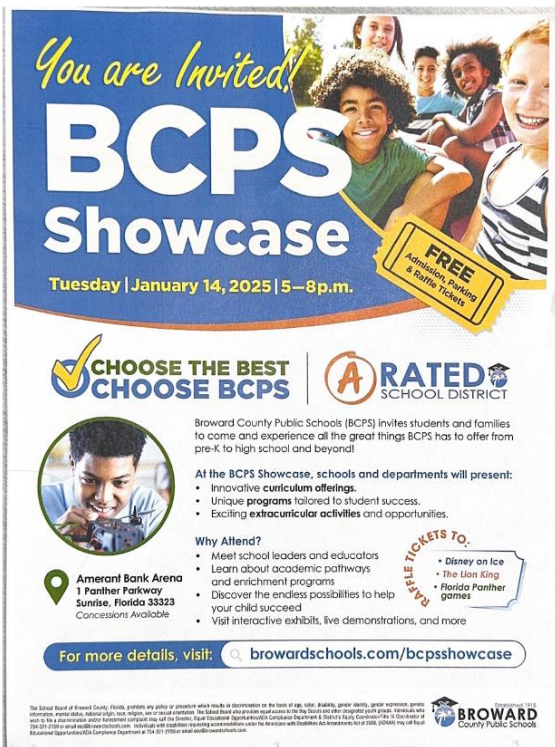
Parents are concerned that the existing procedures for handling bullying incidents are not adequately addressed. They feel that the procedures exist only on paper, not in practice.

Due to the many questions and concerns brought forth, the team will be invited to come back to speak on these items again and address the questions and concerns presented.

Updates:

Dr. Toomer, Superintendent Report

Dr. Toomer shared that winter break is upon us. Classes resume on January 6th. The planning day is moved to January 10, 2025 as a result of hurricane dates during the first semester. Please unplug and enjoy the time off. Teachers are not assigning work over the break. He wished all a happy restful winter break. The district is available for mental health support to students, staff, and families over the break at browardschools.com/mentalhealthservices



Dr. Nathalie Lynch-Walsh, Audit, Facilities Task Force and District Advisory Reports

Broward Estates Updates: The school at Broward Estates and Dr. MLK are very low. As a result, there is less funding for student services. Combining these schools would allow for increased student services. Potential renovations would have an increased timeline and cost as the Broward Estates building, constructed in 1957, is out of compliance with existing building/hurricane codes and would therefore have a very high renovation cost.

Dee Defoe, Central Advisory Report

Boundary committee: There was one of the six proposed boundary changes that impacted the central region.

Notes: "Central Advisory Chair Report"

As the Chair, I have the honor of sitting on several committees. Those committees are as follows:

Calendar Committee, Discipline Committee and Boundary Committee.

Today I wanted to share and report out my time on the boundary committee. As many of you may know, the boundary committee was tasked to vote on 6 proposals in relation to the redefining process. There was one proposal that affected the Central Area which was the Broward Estates Elementary and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Montessori Academy: consolidate Broward Estates with MLK and create an Early Learning Center at Broward Estates.

I am disappointed with the narrative that was given during the December 10th school

board workshop meeting regarding this proposal. The narrative was that the Boundary Committee was in direct opposition of the community meeting held on September 17th at Dillard High, yet the community that attended the December 18th meeting at Broward Estates was not in favor of the proposal.

According to Section 3. Duties, Responsibilities, and Guidelines of Resolution No. 25-115; SBC (School Boundary Committee) members must attend the SBC orientation, and training meeting, three (3) regional meetings wherein all proposals for school attendance area boundaries shall be identified to the respective school communities; and finally a SBC deliberation meeting where the SBC shall vote on whether to recommend that The School Board should adopt each of the proposed changes. These 3 regional meetings referenced happened between November 18-20th and not September 17th which was a brainstorming meeting with community members.

I believe the boundary committee did the right thing and voted against the proposal to consolidate Broward Estates with MLK. The community that attended the November 18th meeting wants to remain at Broward Estates and welcomes the Early Learning Center on its campus.

These letters from Broward Estates stakeholders were also share with attendees.

Re: Protect Broward Estates Elementary – Keep Our Students at Their School Inbox x



→ **Iyinka Jones**

Wed, Dec 18, 4:07 PM (9 days ago) ★ 😊 ↩ ⋮

to me ▾

Hello,

I am unable to attend tomorrow's Central Advisory meeting. Since we did not have representation at the most recent meeting regarding voting on keeping Broward Estates Elementary open, as a parent, I am expressing my concerns regarding this matter. Please read this correspondence aloud at all meetings and share it with the appropriate parties.

Kind regards,

Iyinka Williams-Jones

People will always remember how you made them feel! -M. A.

On Wed, Dec 18, 2024 at 3:59 PM Iyinka Jones <iyinkajones@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Broward County Public Schools,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of relocating Broward Estates Elementary students to a different school. As a parent, I believe the following reasons make it clear that Broward Estates Elementary should remain open and continue to serve its students:

1 Exceptional Leadership: We value the strong leadership provided by Principal Freeman and the dedicated staff at Broward Estates. They have worked tirelessly to create a nurturing and effective learning environment for our children.

2 Impact on Students: Moving students to a new school environment can be traumatic. Our children should not be penalized by such a drastic change, especially when they are thriving in the current setting.

3 Staff Consistency: The success of our children relies on consistency in their education. We want our students to continue working with the caring staff at Broward Estates, who have built strong relationships with them over the years.

4 Proposed Solution: We propose that renovations and updates be done while keeping Broward Estates open. The creation of an Early Learning Center and renovations should occur in a way that allows students to remain at their school through their 5th-grade year.

5 Children Should Not Be Uprooted: It is unjust and callous to uproot children from a school where they are excelling. Every child deserves to grow and learn in an environment where they feel supported and safe.

6 Advocating for Solutions: Our students should not suffer because adults are choosing not to explore alternatives. We have provided several solutions that allow Broward Estates Elementary to remain open and continue supporting its students while improvements are made. It is disheartening that when this issue was voted on, no one spoke on behalf of Broward Estates Elementary. The staff, students, and stakeholders who have worked so hard to make the school a success deserve a voice in these decisions. We are not opposed to improving the physical building. We simply ask that Broward Estates Elementary remain open while those updates are made, allowing it to continue serving its community. Broward Estates can be reimagined as an Early Learning through 5th Grade Center. With Principal Freeman's leadership and the dedication of the staff, Broward Estates has proven to be a place of excellence. This is a blueprint of success that should be expanded, not closed. Please do not take away the opportunity for our children to continue their education in a place where they are loved, supported, and thriving.

Sincerely,

Iyinka Williams-Jones

Broward Estates Elementary Parent

Fw: Cheryl Hankerson

Janelle A. Newton <janelle.newton@browardschools.com>
To: "caac.chair" <caac.chair@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 18, 2024 at 11:16 PM

From a parent at Broward Estates

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From: Cheryl Hankerson <cherylhankerson0003@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 4:41:36 PM
To: Janelle A. Newton <janelle.newton@browardschools.com>
Subject: Cheryl Hankerson

CAUTION: This email originated from an external source. Use caution when replying, clicking links, or opening attachments.

I don't feel that the school should be joined or closed my now seven-year-old daughter is in the second grade she is the fourth generation to go through Broward Estates and I do not feel like it's fair to take her education away from her the people she grew up with since kindergarten instead of you all closing to build for something else want providing and growing the school with the support of staff and teach with new ideas better pay or emerging other schools from different locations as a magnet school program for Broward Estates I don't think it's the right to take away the education that the children who been fighting so hard to get what they need and the teachers and the staff that provide not just education but family ties and where these kids feel safe and at home but you're not thinking of the mental health or what this will do if you place this kids somewhere new to kids who grew up with these teachers that supported them and different struggles in life it's not only a school is a place that's called home to most kids the aftercare why don't you find better things to make the school a better place or fix the buildings that's been so desperately needed I was always taught a family that pray together stay together at Broward Estate school go beyond for those kids and parents who need welfare and different source of education for those kids. It's never been a shooting at the school or a child life in danger keep Broward Estate open so I know the welfare and safety of my child and education is covered with love with each teacher and staff Broward Estate is home for my child and many other children
Sent from my iPhone

Broward Estates Elem Petition Inbox x

→ **Janell Newton** <jnewton84@yahoo.com>
to me ▾

Wed, Dec 18, 11:15 PM (9 days ago) ★ 😊 ↶ ⋮

Hello,

Attached is a petition I started as a parent and staff member of Broward Estates Elementary. We, as the community, parents and staff of Broward Estates, oppose the proposal to consolidate Broward Estates to Martin Luther King and Plantation Elementary and the redefining BEE as solely an early learning center. I speak for everyone I encounter at work, the SAC meetings and events that this is not what we want. We want to keep the K-5 and add the early learning/VPK portion. So many students have younger siblings that can benefit from having one location for education. There is so much history from the parents who also attended Broward Estates as children and now their kids attends there as well. Why not fix up Broward Estates and do the the necessary renovation to make it a better place for our students to continue and thrive at? Put the money at a place that is a staple and historical center of a community and family oriented place of education. We want better for Broward Estates that doesn't include any sort of permanent consolidation. This was voiced at the meeting at Broward Estates in November as well as the survey given at the same meeting and the 5 days following as well as emails submitted to the school board. We oppose the proposal. Hear us now more than ever.

Sincerely,

Janelle Newton
Mom/ Clerk Typist/Community Member
Broward Estates Elementary (BEE)
352-328-5999
jnewton84@yahoo.com

1/6/25

Announcements:

Option 3 of the school year has been adopted by the school board:

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA Calendar for 196 Day School/Personnel School Year 2025 - 2026

Monday School Start

(This calendar requires additional instructional minutes to be added to the middle school schedule.)

This calendar is established for personnel who are paid for 196 days which includes six (6) paid holidays. The employees earn ten (10) days of sick leave based on Florida State Statute 1012.61 of one (1) day per month of their calendar.

84 Day (42/42) Semester / 96 Day (46/50) Semester School Year Configuration

July, 2025				
0 Work	Days	School 0		
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	
End 1st 8 weeks				
August, 2025				
20 Work	Days	School 15		
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			
End 2nd 8 weeks				
September, 2025				
20 Work	Days	School 20		
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			
End 2nd 8 weeks				
October, 2025				
21 Work	Days	School 20		
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31
End 2nd 8 weeks				
November, 2025				
14 Work	Days	School 14		
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
End 2nd 8 weeks				
December, 2025				
15 Work	Days	School 15		
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		
End 2nd 8 weeks				
January, 2026				
19 Work	Days	School 18		
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30
End 2nd 8 weeks				
February, 2026				
19 Work	Days	School 19		
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
End 2nd 8 weeks				
March, 2026				
17 Work	Days	School 16		
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			
End 2nd 8 weeks				
April, 2026				
21 Work	Days	School 20		
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	
End 2nd 8 weeks				
May, 2026				
20 Work	Days	School 20		
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29
End 2nd 8 weeks				
June, 2026				
4 Work	Days	School 4		
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			
End 2nd 8 weeks				

Please Note: Semester exams will occur prior to Winter Break.

Thanksgiving Break - Monday, November 24, 2025 through Friday, November 28, 2025.

School Winter Break - Monday, December 22, 2025 through Friday, January 2, 2026. Students return Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

Early Release Day - Friday, February 13, 2026, "A Day of Service and Love"

School Spring Break - Monday, March 16, 2026 through Friday, March 20, 2026. Students return Monday, March 23, 2026.

FTE Survey 2 - October 6 - 10, 2025 FTE Survey 3 - February 2 - 6, 2026

Codes Used on Calendar	
◀	Begin 196 Day Personnel
▶	Last Day 196 Day Personnel
●	Day Off
■	Paid Holiday
▲	Teacher Planning
Ⓡ	Early Release
Ⓢ	FTE Week
Severe Weather Make-Up Days: 10/10/25, 12/19/25, 3/12/26, 5/22/26 & 6/3/26	

Note: In the event of school closures due to severe weather, Early Release Days may be extended to ensure that the district meets the state's required hours of instruction for the school year. If additional time is needed, the district will utilize the make-up days listed below.

Day 1: Monday of Thanksgiving Week

Day 2: Tuesday of Thanksgiving Week

Note: When Schools & Administrative Offices are closed, "Black-Out-Days" are identified by The Division of Teaching & Learning and extracurricular activities will be restricted or will not occur.

Sunshine Law and Ethics Training (10 minutes for returning members; 45 minutes for new members): <https://www.browardschools.com/Page/41329>

Volunteer Application

[Get Involved with BCPS / Volunteer Services \(browardschools.com\)](https://www.browardschools.com)

Dates to Remember:

DAC General Meeting on January 8, 2025 at 6:15 pm Website: Browarddistrictadvisory.ch2v.com

Central Advisory General Meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 9:45 am
Location: Indian Ridge Middle School Media Center

Adjourn:

2024-25 Meeting Dates

August 15, 2024	9:45-11:45 am
September 19, 2024	9:45-11:45 am
*October 16, 2024	6:30-8:30 pm
November 21, 2024	9:45-11:45 am
December 19, 2024	9:45-11:45 am
January 16, 2025	9:45-11:45 am
*February 19, 2025	6:30-8:30 pm
March 20, 2025	9:45-11:45 am
April 17, 2025	9:45-11:45 am
May 15, 2025	9:45-11:45 am

*Evening meeting from 6:30-8:30 pm

Sign-up to receive emails:centralareaadvisorycouncil.ch2v.com

General email: CentralAreaAdvisoryCouncil@ch2v.com

Chair email: CAAC.Chair@gmail.com