

The School Board of Broward County, Florida
Central Area Advisory Council – General Meeting
Indian Ridge Middle School
March 12, 2026, 9:45 – 11:45 am
Draft Minutes

1. Call to Order & Welcome

- The meeting was called to order by **Adrienne T. Dixson-Paul** at 9:50 am, who welcomed attendees and acknowledged principals, district leadership, parents, and community stakeholders. Participants were thanked for their continued engagement and advocacy on behalf of students and schools.

2. Zone Updates

Fort Lauderdale Zone

- Third-grade testing preparations underway, including support initiatives.
- Broadview Elementary announced a **Mental Health Awareness Walk-A-Thon** scheduled for **May 30**.
- Schools reported being in the “final stretch” of the academic year with celebrations planned around testing readiness and student achievement.

Nova Zone

- Eisenhower Elementary hosted a successful **STREAM Night** and a **Black History Month Wax Museum** presentation by third graders.
- Eisenhower Engineering Team placed **5th in the state** and ranked **900 out of 6,000 teams globally**, nearing qualification for a world tournament.
- Nova Blanche Elementary hosted a Math Night and distributed books via a vending machine.
- Nova Middle School’s **eSports Minecraft team** earned **2nd place**.
- Nova High School achievements included:
 - State Debate Champions
 - State Wrestling (8th place)
 - Successful spring drama production
 - AI Academy partnership with **Microsoft**, highlighted via BCPS and Nova High School social media.

Piper Zone

- Successful **Read for the Record** initiative with city partners.
- Bear Middle School celebrated reopening and ongoing campus upgrades.
- Piper High School qualified **two wrestlers (one male, one female)** for state competition for the first time in over 20 years.
- Schools participating in debate tournaments and the “**Toons and Trucks**” initiative with the City of Sunrise.

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Plantation Zone

- Sawgrass Elementary hosted **Special Olympics Young Athletes** for Pre-K students.
- PTA fundraising raised approximately **\$20,000** to support classroom initiatives.
- Multiple upcoming events including dances, debate competitions, family nights, esports championships, and academic celebrations.
- Plantation High School highlighted:
 - Aerospace Engineering Program with **NASA partnership**
 - Highest number of industry certifications in the district
 - Advanced academic programs (IB, Cambridge, AP, Dual Enrollment).

South Plantation Zone

- Athletic achievements across wrestling, soccer, basketball, bowling, band, DECA, and foreign language competitions.
- Academic highlights included:
 - **93% acceleration rate**
 - **99% graduation rate**
 - Magnet School of Excellence Award.

Stranahan Zone

- New River Middle School students recognized by the **Marine Industry Association of South Florida**.
- Environmental initiatives including the **Trash Bash Cleanup**.
- Student awards in writing and recycled art competitions.
- Seagull Middle reported a **98% completion rate** for resiliency education.

Western Zone

- Western High School students qualified for national championships.
- Writing assessments scheduled for grades 7–8.
- Upcoming academic and enrichment events across multiple schools.

3. Regional Office Presentation

Presented by:

Dr. Angela Fulton, Deputy Superintendent

Dr. Ted Toomer, Central Region Superintendent

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Key Topics Covered:

- Purpose and structure of **Regional Offices** (North, Central, South).
- Benefits of decentralizing services to improve parent access and responsiveness.
- Historical overview of district organizational models.
- Introduction of the **School Transformation Office (STO)** supporting persistently low-performing schools.
- Evidence of success:
 - Elimination of failing schools (D/F)
 - Reduction of “C” schools
 - Increased A/B school ratings
 - Improved districtwide ELA and Math performance.

4. Parent Engagement & Communication

- Parents were encouraged to:
 - First contact schools with concerns
 - Escalate unresolved issues to the Central Regional Office
- Contact information shared:
 - Phone: **754-321-3000**
 - Email: BCPSCARESCRO@browardschools.com
- Commitment to response within **24–48 hours**.
- Parent concerns are logged, tracked, and analyzed for trends to improve district practices.

5. Mental Health Services Presentation

Presented by:

Mental Health Assistance Allocation Resource Team (MHART)

Topics Covered:

- Definition and importance of **self-esteem** and **resilience**
- Types of self-esteem and their impact on student wellbeing
- Strategies for parents and schools to:
 - Build resilience
 - Support emotional regulation
 - Encourage healthy coping skills
- Emphasis on trusted adults, restorative practices, and collaboration between home and school.
- Overview of district mental health resources and crisis response supports.

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6. Legislative & Budget Updates

- Legislative session updates shared, including:
 - AI-related legislation impacting schools
 - Budget deficits and potential school realignments
- Parents encouraged to remain informed, attend DAC meetings, and engage with legislators.
- Discussion on transparency in funding decisions, particularly regarding student travel, certifications, and extracurricular opportunities.

7. Nominations & DAC Participation

- Announcement of upcoming **DAC nomination process**.
- Encouragement for parents to serve as representatives.
- Emphasis on in-person participation for voting and engagement.
- Training opportunities for SAC/DAC members discussed.

8. Public Comments & Q&A

- Questions raised regarding:
 - Funding approvals for student trips
 - Scheduling transparency for middle and high school students
 - Data tracking for industry certifications and related student opportunities
- District leadership committed to follow-up and improved communication.

9. Adjournment

The meeting concluded with appreciation extended to presenters, parents, and staff. Attendees were wished a safe and restful Spring Break. Meeting adjourned at 11:43 am.