

**The School Board of Broward County, Florida**  
**Central Area Advisory Council – General Meeting**  
**Indian Ridge Middle School**  
**September 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:**

- 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 May and August Minutes: Motion to approve by Pamela Taylor, Joann Simmons seconded by
- Membership Explanations: Must attend monthly DAC meetings to maintain their seat. After 3 absences, the seat is vacated.

**Central Regional Office**

10 min - Introductions of Central Regional Office 754.321.3000

Dr. Ted Toomer, Central Regional Superintendent; Dr. Ducarmel Augustin, Director; Joseph Balchunas, Director (Elementary Schools); Haleh Darbar, Director (Middle and High Schools); Dr. Leo Smith, Director (Middle, Centers and Workforce Schools); Adrienne Dixson-Paul, Assistant Director

Dr. Toomer greeted the attendees and addressed the priorities of the Central Region. He emphasized that maintaining the "A" district rating is a goal, however, he highlighted the critical importance of ensuring that every student receives support and academics. The focus is to improve learning for all.

The social media accounts the Central Region are:

Twitter: @BCPSCentral

Facebook: BCPS Central Region: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564169154339>

Instagram: @BCPC Central

Central Region Successes:

- Croissant Park Elementary School, Stephen Foster Elementary School, Peters Elementary School, and Nova Middle School moved from a C letter grade in 2023 to an A letter grade in 2024.
- Banyan Elementary School earned an A rating for the first time since 2012.
- All Central Region traditional high schools earned an A or B letter grade in 2024.
- Pine Ridge Education Center received a Commendable School Improvement Rating.
- Atlantic, McFatter and Sheridan Technical Colleges and High Schools, College Academy, and Broward Virtual maintained their A letter grade in 2024 with at least 99% graduation dates.

**New Business/Guest Speaker(s):**

***2025-2026 School Calendar, David Azzarito, Chief People Officer, proposed***

The proposed calendar was shared by Mr. Azzarito. This includes the early release returning to the calendar. Thanksgiving is scheduled to be a full week and a two-week Winter Break. Semester 2 starts with a planning day for teachers immediately following

Spring break has moved up one week to have a more even number of days. A survey will be sent out to stakeholders before being brought to the board. It will be open for two weeks and sent out next week.

There was a request to have it available for three weeks. There was also a request that if a third option is proposed by the board, it be brought to stakeholders as the past two years stakeholders provided survey input that did not include the board option that was finalized. There was conversation about reducing days off during the year to end at the end of May as opposed to the current ending during the first week of June.

Addition by Ms. Defoe: The membership wanted an update in regards to available options to comply with the bill for moving the start time of schools by 2026 (HB 733) Membership inquired about Juneteenth being a holiday for staff having to work that day

Option 1:

**85 Day (42/43 Semester / 95 Day (48/49) Semester School Year Configuration**

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.

July, 2025					August, 2025					September, 2025				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	11	12	13	14	15	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	18	19	20	21	22	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	25	26	27	28	29	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	31							29	30			

  

October, 2025					November, 2025					December, 2025				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31						29	30	31		

  

January, 2026					February, 2026					March, 2026				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27	30	31			

  

April, 2026					May, 2026					June, 2026				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12
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27	28	29	30		25	26	27	28	29	29	30			

**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

Semester Exams will occur prior to Winter Break.

**School Calendar Option 1  
Monday School Start**

**Monday School Start (August 11, 2025)**

- Mirrors the current 2024-2025 School Calendar start.

**Thanksgiving Break**

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

**School Winter Break**

- School Winter Break - Monday, December 22, 2025, through Friday, January 2, 2026
- Teachers return Monday, January 5, 2026.
- Students return Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

**Second Semester**

- Second Semester begins Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

**Early Release Day**

- February 13, 2026 - (Early Release Day)
- February 14, 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.

**Last Day of School**

- Students last day, Tuesday, June 2, 2026.
- Teachers last day, Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

**Option 1**

Option 2:

**85 Day (42/43 Semester / 95 Day (45/50) Semester School Year Configuration**

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.

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

Semester Exams will occur prior to Winter Break.

**School Calendar Option 2  
Monday School Start**

**Monday School Start (August 11, 2025)**

- Mirrors the current 2024-2025 School Calendar start.

**October 20, 2025 (Day Off)**

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

**Thanksgiving Break**

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

**School Winter Break**

- Monday, December 22, 2025, through Friday, January 2, 2026
- Students/Teachers return Monday, January 5, 2026
- Planning Day Tuesday, January 6, 2026

**Second Semester**

- Second Semester begins Wednesday, January 7, 2026.

**Early Release Day**

- February 13, 2026 (Early Release Day)
- February 14, 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.

**Last Day of School**

- Students last day, Wednesday, June 3, 2026
- Teachers last day, Thursday, June 4, 2026

**Option 2**

## **FLDOE Feedback on Local Reproductive Health and Disease Prevention Curriculum**

Current timeline includes:

- The Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) sent out a call for reviewers in December 2023
- Initial verbal feedback provided to District staff in March 2024 to remove the Understanding Gender lesson in Grade 9 in order to proceed with instruction for the 2023-2024 school year
- Selected individuals reviewed all lessons and provided findings to FLDOE staff
- Verbal feedback was provided by a representative from the FLDOE on August 21, 2024
- Submission deadline for the 2024-2025 school year was September 6, 2024; however, BCPS requested and received an extension until October 6, 2024
- District staff began reviewing the curriculum on August 22nd for potential revisions

### **General Feedback for Consideration at All Grade Levels**

- Pictures of external sexual/reproductive anatomy should not be included in any grade level
- Any references to fetal development should be moved to grades 9-12
- Contraceptives are not part of any health or science standard
- Contraceptives may be referred to as “health resources” in instruction; however, pictures, activities, or demonstrations that illustrate their use should not be included in instruction in any grade level
- Using the terms “sexual activity/intercourse” may be appropriate in certain grade levels, but different types of sex (i.e., anal, oral, and vaginal) cannot be part of instruction in any grade level

### **Grade-Specific Feedback**

#### **Kindergarten:**

- Lesson 2: Remove “hugging and kissing”
- Lesson 5: Learning objective two: name, as a group, at least three different types of family structures

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade:**

- Lesson 5: remove the words abuse, consent, and domestic violence and replace with more age or developmentally-appropriate vocabulary. Using language such as talking to a trusted adult when they feel uncomfortable is appropriate.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- Lesson 4: Remove references to “erections” and “wet dreams”

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- Lesson 4: Move to a higher grade level
- Lesson 5, Step 6: Remove bullet that says, “Kiss and do other sexual things”
- Lesson 6: Move to a higher grade level

## Updates:

### ***Superintendent Review Committee (SRC)***

The Superintendent's Review Committee met on September 9, 2024. We were able to finalize the bylaws and elect officers. The structure of the meetings allows a minute for each committee member to comment, followed by a 10-minute open discussion. Once that is complete we vote on what the collective recommendation the Superintendent will be. There are 4 options:

Maintain material as is (meaning all grade levels)

Maintain material but only in middle & high, or only high

Removal from all schools completely

There were 2 works up for review: *Mr. Watkins Chicken's* by Jarrett Dapier and *Killing Mr. Griffin* by Lois Duncan.

*Mr. Watson's Chicken* published in 2021 and recommended for ages 3-5. It is described as a book of rollicking rhythms, nonsensical refrains, and too many chickens to count, this modern classic will inspire unstoppable giggles and endless rereads.

*Mr. Watson* has 456 chickens in the sink, on the bed, in the bread box. When his partner, Mr. Nelson, threatens to leave, Mr. Watson takes his chickens to town to sell only for them to escape! Young readers will follow Mr. Watson all around town as he gathers up his chickens. But, when they're all rounded up, does he have the heart to sell them? Does a different fate await these chickens?

The parent objected to Mr. Watson and Mr. Nelson holding hands and hugging. There are also illustrations of them talking in bed. Following discussion, the 10 members voted to maintain the book in the library/media center, 2 voted to remove

*Killing Mr. Griffin* is "a frightening novel about a group of students who set out to teach their malicious teacher a lesson -- only to learn that one of them could be a killer" - Amazon. Published in 1978, updated and reissued in 2010, it is recommended for ages 12-13. A group of high school students plan to scare their tough English teacher, but their attempt brings on a fatal heart attack.

The parental objection was based on the material not suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented material and are inappropriate for the grade level and age group for which the material is used. Currently the novel is only found in high schools. The committee votes to recommend that the Superintendent maintain the book as is based on the current location. 2 voted to limit to HS and 2 voted to remove entirely

Our next meeting is scheduled for 9/23 at KCW at 4:30pm. The two books that will be discussed are *Ellen Outside the Lines* by A.J. Sass and *Empire of Storms* by Sarah J. Maas.

Innovative Learning Department: <https://www.browardschools.com/Page/39359>

2024-25 SRC Meeting Schedule:

<https://www.browardschools.com/cms/lib/FL01803656/Centricity/Domain/13491/BCPS%20Book%20Objections.pdf>

***SAF Policy Review: Policy 1280***

The proposed changes were sent out prior to the meeting. Policy 1280 was reviewed including redline changes and later recommended changes.

Added by Ms. Defoe: Motion or recommendation was made to add due process to SAF policy and bylaws. Due process verbiage below:

Removal of Committee Members Other than School Board Appointees.

In the event that the actions, conduct or circumstances of a committee member other than a School Board Member appointee are found to conflict with applicable law, rules, School Board Policies and/or committee bylaws, the Superintendent may recommend the removal of that committee member from office for the current year and/or one additional year. The Superintendent shall provide the committee member, any entity represented by the committee member, and the Chair of that committee with written notice of such proposed committee member removal. The notice shall specify all grounds for which removal of membership is proposed. The proposed member removal shall be placed upon an agenda of the committee and all sides shall be heard upon the proposed removal. By an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the committee members, the committee may choose to suspend or remove a member. This language appears to have never been shared with the School Board.

Proposed by Nathalie Lynch- Walsh, seconded by JoAnn Simmons  
Passes unanimously

***Title I***

There are 198 current Title I schools in BCPS currently. There are no high schools included. Please remind parents that even if they are part of a school community that is receiving universal free breakfast and lunch, it is critical that they still complete the Free and Reduced Lunch application because this provides essential funding to their schools.

Added by Ms. Defoe: Additional resources are available when parents complete the free/reduced lunch application such as test waivers.

The following upcoming events:

PTA Orientation, September 19, 2024, at Atlantic Technical College - Arthur Ashe Campus, 7 pm  
Dad's Challenge, October 19, 2024, North Lauderdale Elementary School, 10 am

***Discipline Committee***

There is a request for a member to join the committee from the Central Region. Please contact Ms. Dee Defoe if interested.

### ***Redefining Our Schools Community Meetings***

Meetings will be held, including one tonight. Please see District communication for the dates, times and locations. Please attend and voice the concerns of your community.

### ***Focus Parent Portal***

There some parents with access issues that remain. Suggestions were made to have a face-to-face hands on FOCUS parent training for older and less tech savvy guardians. Also, some graduation information that was available in Virtual Counselor is not currently part of the Parent Focus Portal.

Added by Ms. Defoe: Parents requesting visibility of Academic Core GPA

### ***Facilities Task Force*** Added by Ms. Defoe

New Chair, Kimberly Burke-Mohome

Vice Chair, Ryan Reiter

Secretary, Dr. Nathalie Lynch-Walsh

### **Announcements and Open Discussion:**

**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/GetInvolved)

### **Dates to Remember:**

DAC General Meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 6:15 pm

Website: Browarddistrictadvisory.ch2v.com

Central Advisory General Meeting on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 6:30 pm (evening meeting)

Location: Indian Ridge Middle School Media Center

**Adjourn: 11:55 AM**

### **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](https://centralareaadvisorycouncil.ch2v.com)  
**General email:** [CentralAreaAdvisoryCouncil@ch2v.com](mailto:CentralAreaAdvisoryCouncil@ch2v.com)  
**Chair email:** [CAAC.Chair@gmail.com](mailto:CAAC.Chair@gmail.com)

**The School Board of Broward County, Florida  
Central Region Advisory Council - Steering Meeting  
Indian Ridge Middle School  
September 19, 2024  
Minutes**

Called to order: 12:19 AM

Members Present: Dee Defoe, Pamela Taylor, Brie-Anne Pendlebury, Brooke Bordy

Agenda Items:

- Today's meeting had very good pacing and allowed for discussion. There will be further clarification of the calendar options as we move forward to the survey and board approval process.
- Focus overall and Focus as related to ESE remain areas of concern.
- October will be OIG presenting legislative updates and upcoming ballot information.
- We would like to also have a Middle School Symposium as we had last year. Ms. Defoe will follow up with Dr. Toomer to schedule.
- October: We would also like to invite representatives to address FOCUS as related to ESE together.
- Monthly izeone spotlights will be one zone per meeting moving forward.
- We would like to have SAF chairs meet at the close of the general meeting to collaborate and plan ahead.
- November: Redefining to discuss the revised potential schools for closing and repurposing. We would like to have a representative address the disconnect with the new list and the existing information and schools listed on the Broward Schools Redefining website.

Adjourned: 1:05 PM