

Green Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 2026

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

KC Wright Building - 600 SE Third Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale
Pre-Function Board Meeting Room - Lobby Level

NOTES

- I. Call to Order at 4:39 by Dr. Afeefa Abdool-Ghany
 - a. Attendance: Catherine Uden, Dr. Julie Long, Dr. Afeefa Abdool-Ghany, Michael Ross, and Kim Kessler
- II. Approval of minutes from last meeting approved by Catherine Uden and seconded by Dr. Julie Long
- III. Old Business & Actions
 - a. Earth Week activities and school visits – status update
 - I. Catherine Uden went to Beachside Montessori Village
 - II. BCPS student Sophia Busch went to South Plantation High & won a Symposium Award for Composting
 - III. BCPS staff Lisa Milenkovic and Summer Scarlatelli went to Coral Springs Middle
 - IV. P3 Awards
 - b. Incentives/Recognition Initiative
 - I. Follow-up on rewarding classes that recycle the most
 - I. SWA honored three schools during Earth week, and the quarter 3 STEM challenge recognized 3 schools with amazing recycling infographics – Northeast High, Lyons Creek Middle, and Central Park Elementary
- IV. New Business Discussion
 - a. Updates from BCPS Recycling Committee – has been absorbed into Sustainability Committee
 - I. On May 29th several members of the Green Advisory Committee will go tour the new Coastal recycling facility in Pompano.
 - b. Updates from BCPS Sustainability Committee
 - I. June 10, BCPS staff Gianet Puma and Summer Scarlatelli will host a Sustainability PD for teachers at Pines Middle School going over everything Recycling and Sustainability related.
 - II. Custodial Training this summer will include Environmental Conservation and therefore recycling.
 - III. Broward County gave BCPS data, learning how to improve elevation and flood problems at schools. They are working on updating and creating a prioritization school map.
 - c. Updates on checklist ideas for administration to reduce plastic
 - I. Selection of a focused project for the upcoming school year
 - I. Identify one specific, measurable project (more targeted than general recycling)

- II. Define success metrics and end-of-year evaluation approach
 - I. Catherine Uden will send information to Summer who will send to BCPS staff Alison Witoshynsky and will be included in the summer trainings.
 - II. GAC members will work with students from South Plantation High magnet seniors before they begin their senior projects to develop ideas that support the district's initiative.
 - d. Custodial responsibilities for recycling bins
 - I. Alignment with summer custodial training
 - II. Use BCPS recycling guidance as a discussion reference.
 - e. Bylaws updates
 - I. Adding student member and additional members
 - I. Increase the number of members? Would a bigger number of members increase make quorum easier?
 - II. Reach out to Collin Polsky from FAU Environmental College to see if he has any interested faculty.
 - III. Add more teachers to board?
 - IV. Start by reaching out to board members that have not appointed anyone yet and people who may want to fill those positions.
 - f. P3 Awards Updates and winners
 - I. Best Overall School - Winning school received \$2,000 plus gifts from sponsors. Runner-Up received \$1000 plus gifts from sponsors.
 - I. Best Overall School: Beachside Montessori Village
 - II. Runner-Up: New River Middle School
 - II. Special Category School Winners - Each winning school received \$500 plus gifts from sponsors.
 - I. School Grounds Enhancement: Silver Lakes Middle School
 - II. School Sustainability: Annabel C. Perry Pre-K-8
 - III. Curriculum Integration: Sawgrass Springs Middle School
 - IV. Community Involvement: Coconut Creek High School
 - V. Administrative Support: Central Park Elementary School
 - III. Environmental Stewardship Winners - Winning students and staff received cash prizes and gifts from sponsors
 - I. Students: Saxon Brody (Central Park Elementary School), Saniyah Smalls (Annabel C. Perry Pre-K-8) and Valentina Rovito (South Plantation High School)
 - II. Educators: Patricia Frascchetti (Park Springs Elementary School), Brandon Bradley (Bair Middle School) and Dr. Jody Berman (South Plantation High School)
 - III. Custodial: Miguel Rodriguez (Annabel C Perry Pre-K-8)
 - IV. Non-Instructional: Frank Menschner (Beachside Montessori Village)
 - IV. Mini-Grant Recipients - Schools earning mini-grants ranging from \$100 – \$200, plus gifts and in-school field trips.

- I. Coconut Creek K-8 Academy of Excellence, Floranada Elementary School, Hallandale Magnet High School, Margate Middle School, Miramar High School, Nob Hill Elementary School, Park Springs Elementary School, Riverland Elementary School, Sandpiper Elementary School, Silver Shores STEAM Academy K-8 and Virginia Shuman Young Montessori.
 - g. Emerging sustainability and recycling opportunities
 - I. How do we as a committee go in to schools to support and leverage green initiatives at BCPS?
 - I. Create a resolution to administration to reduce single-use plastics at schools and eliminate buying/selling plastic water bottles in the future.
 - I. Catherine Uden will investigate verbiage
 - II. Board members have to bring a B item to the board.
 - III. Make a motion to propose resolution to board member Bulman by Dr. Julie Long and seconded by Michael Ross
 - I. Potentially at a board meeting/workshop meeting in Fall
 - II. Is it through PTA?
 - III. Add to ALL meeting notifications (we will not provide bottled water, please bring your own reusable water bottle to refill) when hosting.
 - IV. How do we improve recycling at sporting events? Involve BCPS director of athletics Patty Brown?
 - V. Town Hall quarterly for Environmental Initiatives to get students involved?
 - h. Open Discussion and Committee Member Updates
- V. Next Meeting?
 - a. August 6th at 4:30 pm
 - b. Officers will be elected
- VI. Adjournment
 - a. Motion to adjourn by Catherine Uden and seconded by Dr. Julie Long.