Green Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 2026
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM
KC Wright Building - 600 SE Third Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale
Pre-Function Board Meeting Room - Lobby Level

Meeting Notes

I. Call to Order at 4:37 pm by Dr. Afeefa Abdool-Ghany
   a. Attendance: Dr. Afeefa Abdool-Ghany, Dr. Julie Long, Frank Menschner, Dr. Alec Bogdanoff, and Kim Kessler

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting approved by Dr. Julie Long and seconded by Kim Kessler.

III. Officer Elections
   a. Nominations
   b. Election of Officers

Position	Nominee / Elected Officer
Chair	Dr. Alec Bogdanoff
Vice Chair	Dr. Julie Long
Secretary	Dr. Afeefa Abdool-Ghany

- All positions received unanimous yes votes. The motion passed.
- Additional Members: Suggest names and send them to Dr. Lisa Milenkovic, Staff Liaison.

IV. Updates from BCPS Recycling Committee
   a. Gianet Puma, Coordinator, Energy & Sustainability, BCPS Sustainability & Compliance Dept.
      I. Reached out to Coastal Recycling, the current vendor, regarding technology, such as outdoor cameras at the recycling bins, to measure how much is being recycled. There is no current technology, but they are looking into it.
      II. There is an increase in recycling supply requests after the school recycling survey went out
   b. Dr. Lisa Milenkovic mentioned that the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) is being asked for a grant for recycling supplies (bins). SWA will adopt a school in each of

their 26 member cities. These schools can be then model schools for recycling. SWA provided funds for the creation of recycling curriculum for teachers, students, and home activities.

c. Current Challenges
    I. Need to develop and document best practices for recycling programs.
    II. Demonstrate program effectiveness through metrics such as:
        I. Program costs over time.
        II. Measurable changes and outcomes resulting from the program.
    III. Students and teachers often do not know what materials can be recycled.
    IV. Opportunity to develop a SWA recycling curriculum to educate students and teachers.
    V. Recycling appears to be a lower priority for schools due to competing demands.
    VI. Declining janitorial staffing may create barriers to successful recycling efforts.
    VII. Need to engage principals to better understand implementation challenges.
d. Recommendations and Opportunities
    I. Incentivize participation among the first 25 schools and use lessons learned to improve the program.
    II. Develop a presentation and pilot program for the School Board, then expand based on results.
    III. Work closely with SWA to support implementation.
    IV. Emphasize specific, measurable goals and outcomes, as the Board has responded well to this approach in the past.
e. Policy and Resolution Discussion
    I. Board policies are evolving, and recycling initiatives should adapt accordingly.
    II. Consider developing a resolution focused on increasing recycling participation district-wide over the next decade.
    III. Dreft Resolution workflow
        I. Draft resolution
        II. Review by Lisa
        III. Review by committee members
        IV. Submit to School Board members
    IV. Resolution should include:
        I. Active recycling goals.
        II. Composting initiatives.
    V. Policy 1070 governs advisory boards and should be considered during resolution development.
    VI. Some existing policies may conflict with one another and require review.
f. Strategies for helping schools recycle more consistently.
    I. Secure buy-in from all key stakeholders, including principals, custodians, teachers, and students.
    II. Food Service requires cafeteria staff to recycle cardboard only.
    III. Schools need clearer guidance on which specific items can be recycled. For example, Kim Kessler has been unable to begin student recycling

efforts at Coral Glades High School because she could not receive clear direction on what materials should be collected.

IV. Ask principals to identify why recycling is not being implemented consistently at their schools and where the disconnect may occur.

V. Custodial responsibilities do not include recycling.

VI. Custodians need supplies and equipment specifically for recycling.

VII. It is unrealistic to mandate recycling at all schools immediately. Begin with selected schools, such as the 26 SWA schools. Identify the root cause, secure buy-in from everyone, and scale up.

VIII. One barrier is that there are less custodians in schools.

IX. Dr. Julie Long brought up the draft Resolution for Campus Environmental Sustainability and Recycling. It was discussed by committee members, and it was decided that a new resolution that ties in the current SWA resolution will be drafted.

V. Updates from BCPS Sustainability Committee

a. Gianet Puma:

I. The Sustainability Committee was established among BCPS staff members from various departments to review district resiliency such as recycling, resilient building, composting, landscaping strategies, etc.

I. With assistance from Broward County, the Heat Map/Flood mitigation county plan is being reviewed.

II. Meets regularly and maintains follow-up action items.

III. Ongoing Work

I. Active sustainability efforts throughout the year.

II. Strong collaboration with Broward County and growing partnerships with the Small Business Program.

III. Reviewing policies and public input requirements.

IV. Expect continued policy discussions into the middle of next year as updates move forward.

b. NatureScape – Victor Suarez

I. For the past 18 years, NatureScape has supported planting of native plants in schools, teacher training, promotion of environmental programs in schools, and student engagement.

II. They support several environmental initiatives, including the Envirothon, a competition for high school students; the P3 Eco-Challenge, a districtwide recognition program recognizing and rewarding schools, teachers, students, custodial staff, and volunteers for their environmental sustainability efforts; and the Youth Climate Summit.

III. Successes

I. Increased teacher involvement and program buy-in.

II. Supported the Eco-Scott program.

III. Assisted with launching and implementing the Coral Springs project.

IV. Helps promote environmental stewardship activities.

IV. Future Opportunities

I. Increase student involvement and participation.

II. Align activities with Climate Compact goals and sustainability initiatives.
III. Focus on practical innovations that students can implement.

c. The 18th Annual Climate Leadership Summit
I. Will be Nov. 4-6, 2026 at the Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale. Everyone can attend the summit; 50 students from 2 high schools are attending.

VI. Update from Training for BCPS Advisory Chairs and Staff Liaisons
a. Frank Menscher and Dr. Lisa Milenkovic attended the Advisory Chair and Liaison meeting on August 31, 2026.
b. The meeting was informational. Counsel provided updates on policies being revised, including older policies and policies that contradict one another.

VII. Discussion: Committee Focus for the Year
a. Dr. Alec Bogdanoff drafted a recycling resolution, which he read to the committee. See attached draft resolution here. He will forward it to Dr. Lisa Milenkovic for distribution to everyone. Comments are due by next Wednesday, September 9, 2026. The resolution will then be sent to the Chief of Staff.

VIII. Adjournment
a. Motion to adjourn at 6:04 pm by Dr. Alec Bogdanoff and seconded by Dr. Afeefa Abdool-Ghany
b. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 1, 2026
c. Any topic to be discussed
I. SWA grant information – Youth Climate Summit venue issue
II. Heat/Flood - Climate vulnerability assessment updates from the Sustainability Committee
d. Recycling is identified as a key focus area for the upcoming year.
I. Example Program
I. South Plantation High School has a model where:
I. Custodians do not sort recyclables.
II. Students collect and sort materials at a centralized location.
III. This approach may serve as a useful example for other schools.