

SAF Meeting Minutes 1/24/24

Meeting called to order 6:40 pm

South Area Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 17th

McArthur High School

Agenda Items discussed:

1) Presentation by IT Department re: FOCUS Implementation

- FOCUS is a new student information system
- This does not replace CANVAS which is for content/learning. FOCUS would have student information like grades, IEP, etc.
- Benefits include one login if you have multiple kids, live data
- Timeline for full system to go live for August 2024
- Current data (and data going back 15 years) will be migrated into new system
- There will be a FOCUS tab on Clever
- Parent portal app “BCPS Connect” is currently available for download, but there is no information on there. You can check things like schedules, grades, attendance, discipline issues, special services. Has information in multiple languages.
- Leading up to system going live the following support will be available:
 - o Parent Links with directions
 - o Parent University o FOCUS webpage (www.browardschools.com/sis)
 - o Videos, webinars, and resource hub
 - o IT service desk with new staff added to help school staff learn system

- o Schools will have at least 1 employee fully trained so they can assist parents
- There is an existing BCPS app, that data will eventually be migrated into FOCUS

2) Legislative Update

- Laws discussed will go into effect July 2024
- SB7004 – changes regarding ELA student performance in 10th grade, essentially makes it easier to graduate high school
- HB49 – hours of work allowed for minors changing. With this law, students 15yrs or younger may not work before 7am or after 7pm or more than 15 hours; and students 16-17 years old may not work before 6:30am or after 11:00pm or more than 8 hour shift. Previous language said “shall” not “may” so less protections for minors.
- SB460 – deals with at what age a minor can work in different hazardous occupations with certification (ex. construction) alongside and under supervision of person 21+ with certification will now be 16-17 yrs old. Changes previous safety guidelines.
- Other legislative updates can be found on BCPS website

3) School Police Voted Down

- BCPS will not have its own school police force (similar to Miami-Dade and Palm Beach)
- Still will have SRO and campus monitors
- There wasn't enough funding for BCPS police force, negotiations will need to continue with municipalities

4) DAC Updates

- Next SAF Meeting 2/21 (South Area)
- Calendar of upcoming events reviewed. Parents can check BCPS engagement events on browardschools.com/calendars
- o Community Conversations about Redefining Our Schools – See flyer, local meeting at Flanagan High on 2/22; this meeting they will discuss items like combining schools, repurposing old schools, etc.

- o Upcoming Title I seminar on 1/27 – schools may be reaching out for parent reps to attend

- o Superintendent Book Review on 1/22 – “Forever” by Judy Blume and “Choke” by Chuck Palahniuk will be discussed. These meetings happen regularly, check BCPS site for future dates

- o Upcoming Parent/Student/Community Summit – date in February TBD

- Broward PTSA looking for officers to fill entire Board, check their website if interested

Meeting adjourned 6:59 pm

Next SAF Meeting: 2/28/24 following the 2:20 pm SAC meeting. In Lakeside’s Media Center.