

**Everglades High School
School Advisory Forum (SAF)
Minutes
General Meeting
February 27, 2024 – 3:00 PM**

Call to Order

Approval of January 2024 Minutes

Motion to approved by Vuliette Denis, 2nd by Miesha partee

Guest Speakers:

1. Zoie Saunders – Chief Strategy & Information Officer (Redefining our Schools)
 - School board looking at redefining some schools that are being underutilized.
 - Over the past 10 years, enrollment has drop. Will look at the reasons
 - There are 68 under enrolled schools, leaving open 50,000 empty seats. (Some schools are over enrolled)
 - Enrollment is tied to the school budgets, so under enrolled schools face budget problems. Have fewer electives
 - The district lost \$207 million due to decreased student enrollment.

Redefining Options: Effective 2025-2026 school year

- Change school boundary
- Merge/combine schools
- Full choice schools
- Close schools/repurpose schools for community use.
- Lease or sell schools/properties. Ex: Community housing for teachers

Community conversations are being held to get input from the community. Meetings set for February, March, May and June 2024. Meetings are usually at 6pm. February meetings: 2/8/24 at Fort Lauderdale H.S., 2/15/24 at Taravella H.S., 2/22/24 at Charles Flannigan H.S. Next session will be in March. Date, time and place will be announced later. Meetings are usually at 6pm and are Livestream at www.becon.tv/redefining. Can check the South Area Advisory Council websites for updates. Website is: <https://southareaadvisory1.ch2v.com> June will be when the Board vote and will start planning for the 2025-2026 school year implementation. There was a breakout session where members at the SAAC meeting discuss the concerns, challenges and the reasons they think enrollment has decrease. We also discuss the opportunities and possibilities.

Possibilities includes:

- Enhance programs for students / Offering more programs
- Improving facilities
- Increase teacher/staff salary
- Become and A-rated District

Challenges/concerns includes:

- Boundary changes
- Low enrollment schools where students are striving
- Transportation
- Potential staff/teacher layoff
- Teacher/staff reassignment
- Class size

2. Dual Language – Idalina Orta, Program Administrator (754-321-2594)

- Governed by Policy 1440. Academic contents are taught in both Spanish and English. Uses the 50/50 model. 50% of instruction in Spanish and 50% in English.
- Started with 3 schools, now has 39 schools. One (1) Early Learning Center, 27 elementary, 9 middle schools and 2 High schools (Cypress Bay and McArthur)
- Special need students are included. Says students in the Dual Language enrollment score higher on tests, even out scoring students in advance classes/programs.

Create SAAC Nominating Committee for 2024-2025 School Year

- Will vote in May for new committee members. If interested in a position, please contact Chairperson – Carmelo Borges. *Email: browardsoutharea@gmail.com*

Legislative Affairs Presentation at the March 20th Meeting

- Will be discussing the updates that affects the school district.

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Minutes submitted my Maxine Linton, SAF Chair.