

**Everglades High School
School Advisory Forum (SAF)
Minutes
General Meeting
October 31, 2023 – 3:00 PM**

Call to Order

Approval of May 2023 and September 2023 Minutes

- Ms. Dennis and Ms. Frank-Bernard 1st and 2nd the motion for approval

SAF By Law (see attached)

- Ms. Dennis and Ms. Noel 1st and 2nd the motion for approval
- Outline duties which are advisory in nature. Must meet at least 2x per year with the school SAC. No changes in the By Law from last year.

Guest Speakers:

1. Transportation

- Rolando Alvarez -Director and Dr. Clowers
- There is a shortage of bus drivers. To adjust for this, the district had been removing routes and making minimum stops.
- Currently have 92 driver vacancies. They are aggressively hiring drivers. Offering \$1,000 sign on bonus. Current bus drivers get \$300 for referring someone. Hiring full time and part time drivers. The minimum salary is \$18/hour, with a minimum guarantee of 7.5 hours per day. Hiring bus attendants also and they will get the bonus too. Bus drivers need t have a CDL license.
- They had 250 vacancies after the pandemic (Covid). So they came up with Double back riding, and had student register in order to ride the bus. Prior to that, they use to assign every eligible student (over 90,000) to ride the bus. However, they were only transporting up to 70,000 students. By having students register to ride, it kept the district from wasting resources they did not have.
- They are currently 875 bus routes, down from 995.
- Typical hours for bus drivers are 5:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. School trips, and certain events requires earlier or later hours.
- The bus driver shortage is a national issue, not just a Broward County issue.

2. South Region Directors

- Alan Strauss – South Regional Superintendent. Assistant Superintendent is Khandia Pinkney. There are also four directors under him. They are:
- Tom Ferrel – has 19 schools, Elementary and Middle. Does Hallandale , McArthur, Cooper City and West Broward Zones
- Katie – has 18 schools, all elementary. Has Weston, South Broward, Hollywood Hills Zones

- Ms. Johnson – oversees 17 elementary schools in the Miramar and Everglades Zones
- **Ms. Teresa Hall** – has all 10 High schools in the south region, and 9 middle schools.
- Khandia Pinkney states all calls are put in the database to see trends. Calls are sent back to the schools to the person's (who the complaint is about) supervisor. The supervisor handles the situation and reports back to the regional office as to the resolution. They encourage the parent to contact the school first to try and resolve the issue. If not getting anywhere, then call them.
- There are a total of 73 schools under the South Regional Director.

Calendar Survey for 2024-2025 school year

- There are two (2) versions. Option 1 starts on a Monday, 8/19/24 and option two starts on a Wednesday, 8/14/24.

Promise Program

- The school board voted to get rid of this program on 10/17/23. The Civil Citation part is gone but will keep the support part. The services will remain. Student will have an alternative to suspension. External suspension will be at Lanier James Center for 7th – 12th grades; and Pine Ridge for K-6th grade.

Naviance to Xello

- The school board is switching from Naviance to Xello. The school was paying money to use Naviance, but won't with Xello as this is state own. Student can request transcript, recommendation letters via Xello.
- Xello is currently for 6th to 12th grade, but is being piloted in six elementary schools. They are pushing Xello out to the students through Canvas. BRACE is also working with the student on this.
- Xello will replace Pinnacle next year also.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Title I Parent Representative Orientation – November 1, 2023 at Apollo M.S., 7pm-8pm
- -- School to Prison pipeline meetings: 11/2/23 at 4 p.m. and 11/13/23 at 5 p.m. Both meetings at K.C. Wright Administration Center.

ADJOURN

Minutes submitted by Maxine Linton, SAF Chair