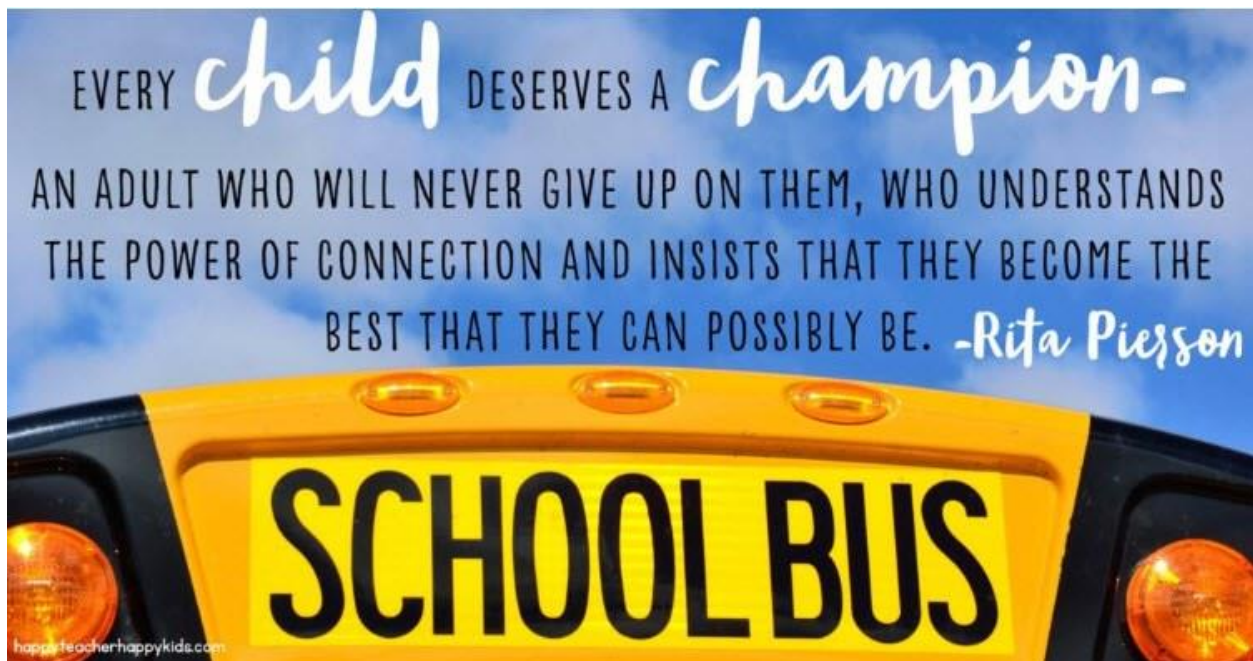
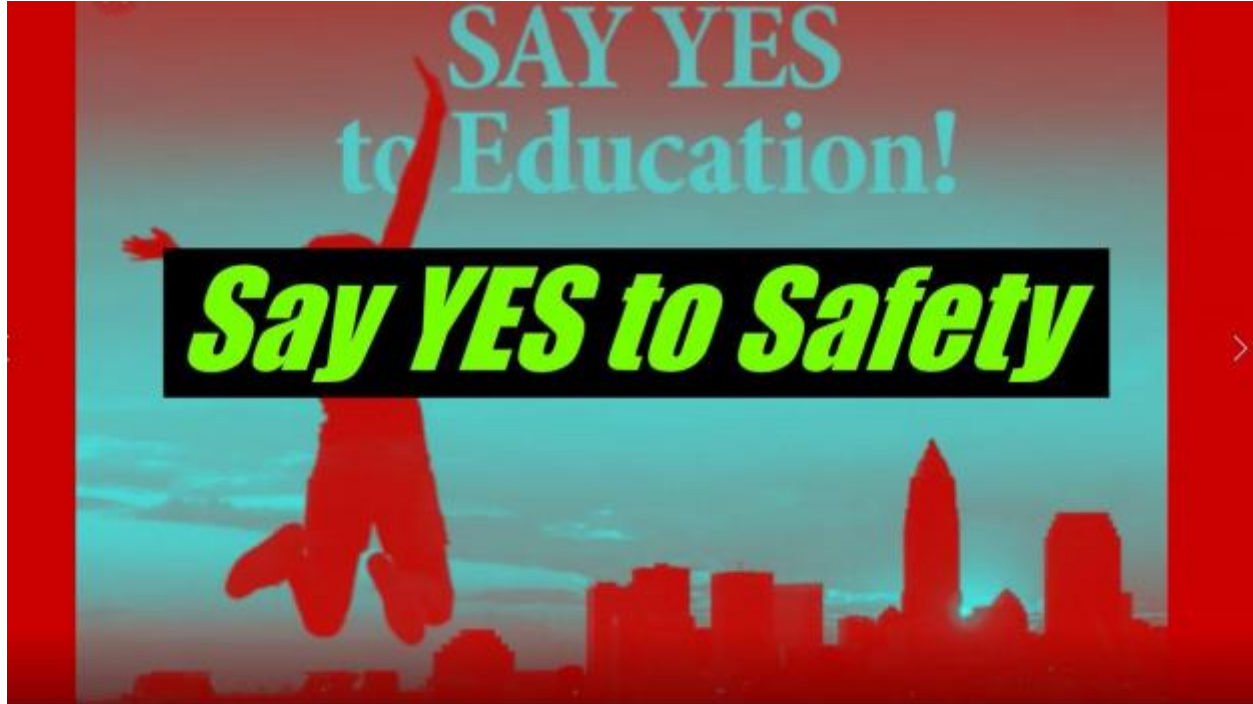




Welcome Back 2019 - 2020



*1 - August 2019*



In this issue:

- **School's Started Traffic Everywhere**
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- Look For it - New Training from EH&S

## School Has Started; More Traffic – Everywhere!



Submitted by Sandra Kanner, Safety Sapecialist

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*Summer break is over, which means there is a drastic change in driving patterns on the roads. These changes affect every driver, but particularly school staff and parents who drive students to school during busy peak traffic hours. As with the "Back-to-School" newsletter, school Administrators should send out newsletters and routine reminders to parents on common sense road safety rules and on-site school drop-off / pick-up rules often forgotten.*

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### Watch Out for Pedestrians

The beginning of a school year means more buses and bicycles on the road and more kids potentially walking to school. According to the National Center for Safe Routes to School, more children are hit by cars near schools than at any other location. Drivers can prevent accidents by following a few simple rules:

**Leave home earlier!**

**Account for increased travel time and be more aware of traffic conditions around you.**

Slow down appropriately while in a flashing light school zone, and especially when kids are present.

Remember, it's illegal to pass a stopped school bus. Don't risk passing a bus just to shave a few seconds off your commute – the consequences can be deadly and expensive!

**Environmental Health & Safety issued a Safety Advisory - "Directing Traffic" to ensure the safety of all school staff. A copy of the memo can be requested from your school administration.**

**Here are some key things to remember:**



**Directing traffic on school sites:**

School district employees and school volunteers directing traffic within the school gates, must wear school supplied reflective safety vests, have a working and reliable flashlight, in order to be visible to drivers, and should stay safely on the sidewalk.

Students must always be dropped off/picked up at parent drive curb. Parking areas are not to be used for pick-up/drop-off.

**Directing Traffic on Public Roads:**

Directing traffic on public roads must only be done by trained and state certified police officers, community service aides, trained certified flagman and School Resource Officers (SROs). School district staff and school volunteers are not permitted to direct traffic on a public road. If you need assistance with local traffic, please enlist the support of your local municipal law enforcement agency.

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*School crossing guards are not allowed to direct vehicle traffic. School crossing guards must focus on traffic safety of pedestrians within the crosswalk or designated areas only.*

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Students should always be dropped off/picked up on school property, at parent drive curbside, not at the street curb or public sidewalk outside school property.



The School Board of Broward County, Florida (SBBC) recognizes the use of cell phones and other electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle poses a safety hazard and is detrimental to the health, safety and security of its students, employees, parents and visitors. [School Board policy 7015](#) states: . . . **all employees, parents, students, visitors and other individuals accessing School Board Property are restricted from utilizing cell phones and other electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle on school board property.** If your school does not have the posted cell phone signs, request a work order from PPO for the installation of signs. Site administrators should reinforce these requirements to drivers on a frequent basis.

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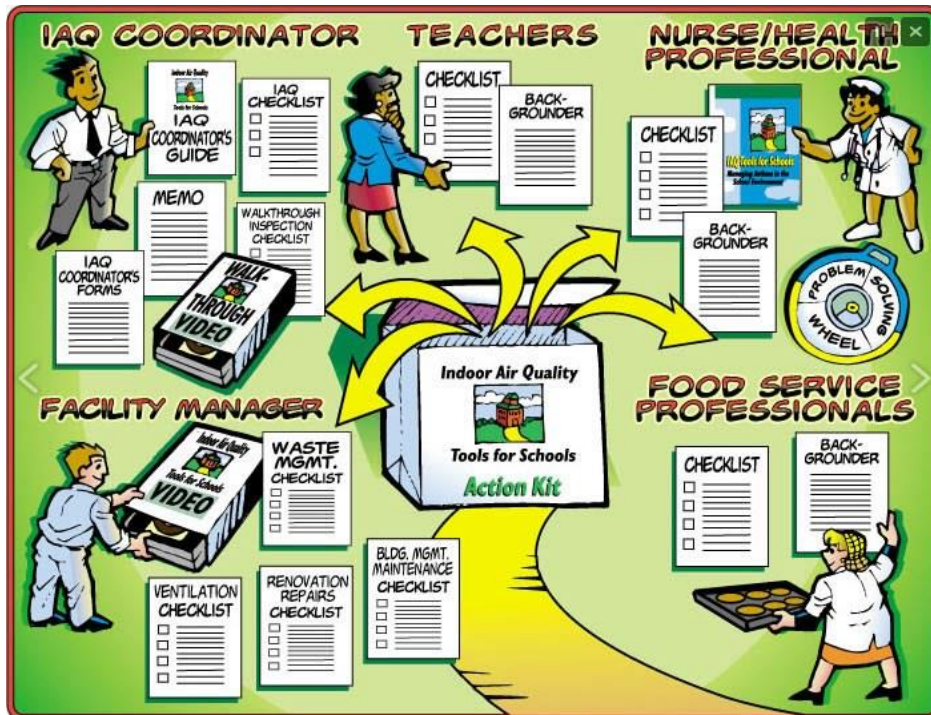
*“Safety applies with equal force to the individual, to the family, to the employer, to the state, the nation and to international affairs. Safety, in its widest sense, concerns the happiness, contentment and freedom of mankind.”*

– William M. Jeffers, former President, Union Pacific Railroad Co. (1946)

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## The Air We Breathe . . .



2 - image source: Sociedad Española de Sanidad Ambiental ([SESA](#))

Submitted by Alison Witoshynsky, Coordinator, Environmental Compliance

### INDOOR AIR QUALITY AT THE START OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

It's the start of another school year, which usually means many Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Assessments for the EH&S team. **Our team wants to remind all teachers, staff, building maintenance staff, and administrators, that there is a process in place to address IAQ concerns and it starts with YOU.** Each staff member has an important role to play in making sure that their space remains safe and healthy for all occupants. Please follow the recommended Roles & Responsibilities identified below. If an unusual condition is observed, please report this to Administration or Head Facilities Service Person ASAP.

Poor IAQ is caused by **Pollutants** (pollen, animal dander, insect debris, dust, dust mites, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and mold spores) and **Pollutant Pathways** (movement of outside air into the indoor space via mechanical systems, open doors, or from one person's home to classroom/office).



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**Mold Spores are a common component of household and workplace dust. We cannot prevent the presence of mold spores because they are EVERYWHERE. We can prevent the growth of these mold spores (think of them like grass seeds). Mold spores need a food source and moisture to grow.**

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- **Dust is a food source.** Cleaning excess dust and debris from surfaces also removes mold spores, mold food sources, and other allergens from the building.
- **Correct water intrusion problems.** Eliminate moisture sources, clean up spills and leaks, remove wet paper materials. Call in work orders to repair leaks ASAP.
- **Maintain HVAC systems to keep humidity below 60-65%. Keep doors and windows closed.** Additional information is available on the EH&S Website. A webpage is devoted to Indoor Air Quality, <https://www.browardschools.com/Page/39362>. This page includes additional resources as well as the IAQ Assessment Request Form. An anonymous Reporting Form is available as well, <https://www.browardschools.com/Page/40678>, but please be sure to provide as much information as possible to guide us to the specific complaint. Additional IAQ Resources:
  - IAQ Reference Guide
  - IAQ Response Protocol (Includes 5 STEPs to Respond to Complaint)
  - IAQ Resource Guide
  - Assessment Request (online submittal)

All past IAQ Assessments are available for review on the EH&S website. The assessments can be searched by location type and location name. The individual reports are then organized by date and room or FISH number. <https://ppofm01.browardschools.com/fmi/webd/IAQDatabase>.

### **Get Involved!**

Over the course of the last 2-3 years, EH&S has worked with school administrators, teachers, and union representatives to reinstate School-based **IAQ Teams**. **These School-based IAQ Teams are an integral part of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "Tools for Schools" Program, providing an opportunity for Site-based staff to discuss new concerns, track updates on the resolution of previously identified IAQ concerns, and be educated on the process of promoting good IAQ.**

Since January 2019, an **IAQ Committee** consisting of representatives from SBBC departments (Risk Management, Physical Plant Operations, Worker's Comp, EH&S), CADRE Directors, Principals, Directors, Teachers, Union representatives have met to discuss the IAQ Program. The Committee is working to develop better outreach, training and community/staff engagement to facilitate understanding of IAQ issues, current roadblocks, and processes to manage/prevent new issues. Everyone within BCPS should recognize and ensure that her or his own practices, as well as those of others, create a safe and secure learning & working environment, and comply with BCPS safety policies.

For more information on the Indoor Air Quality Program or other Environmental Compliance/Health & Safety issues please visit the Environmental Health & Safety Website, <https://www.browardschools.com/Domain/13473>.

## EH&S Partners with Others = Busy Summer for EH&S



Submitted by Hyacinthe Lafontant, Specialist, Safety Training

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*The great news is that EH&S believes and practices TEAM Work! For one individual or department, it would be impossible. Partnerships makes it possible!*

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## PPO's 2019 Pre-Apprentice Summer Interns Get Exposed to Safety Practices



3 - PPO Summer Interns with some EH&S Staff

This is the second consecutive year that the Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) team was asked to partner with Physical Plant Operations (PPO) **Pre-Apprentice Summer Intern program**. Nine students from Plantation High School embarked on a journey of discovery and exposure to the world of "trades" (i.e. carpentry, plumbing, HVAC, electrical, etc.). EH&S Energy Conservation & Utility Management, Manager, Rob Jindracek, who is also the Chairman of the District's Apprenticeship Committee, along with Jim Silvernale, (FOPE Representative), and Mark Arruda (Committee member), welcomed the interns on their first day with EH&S. Their message to the students was direct:

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*There is a solid and secure future in pursuing a trade as a career goal. The SBBC's Pre-Apprenticeship program is a great opportunity to gain first hand experience in several different trade disciplines. This program can be a jump start into the Apprenticeship Program; make use of this great opportunity.*

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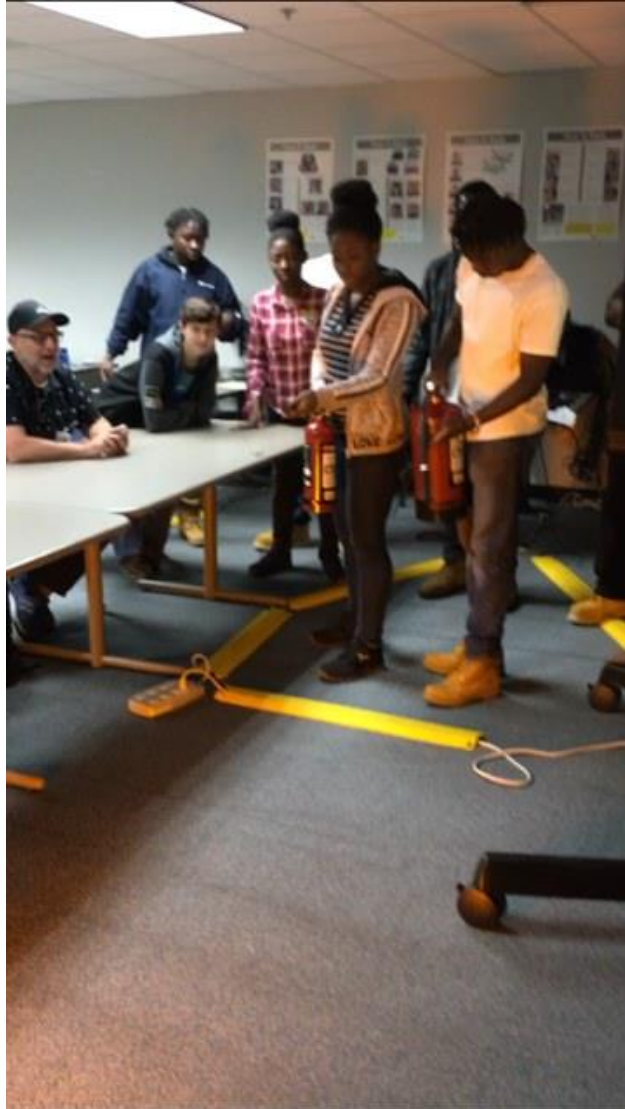
The interns spent three days with EH&S staff members: Bailley McDonald, *Coordinator, Health & Safety*; Carol Gagnon, *Project Manager*; Hyacinthe Lafontant, *Specialist Safety Training*; and Alison Witoshynsky, *Coordinator Environmental Compliance*. Each staff member provided an awareness level training, topics included Hazard Awareness, Heat Stress, Lifting, and Ergonomics to name a few. Interns also participated in two regular District trainings: Lock Out/Tag Out and Asbestos Awareness along with Facilities Service staff that are required to take these courses. However, I think they would all agree that the "Jeopardy" game, that tested their memory of all the training they had participated in was definitely one of the highlights. They really enjoyed the friendly competition.



*4 - Jeopardy winning team*



*5 - Interns shown with CPR infants*



*6 - Interns practice using Fire Extinguishers with simulator equipment after learning about Fire and Extinguisher Safety*

**Finally, all interns were trained and are now certified in CPR/AED/First Aid. Thanks again to our training partnership with Transportation's Instructors team.**

Working and seeing the development of these young adults, continues to be an experience that EH&S staff welcomes. We value the opportunity to share our message of recycling, safety and health at this point of their development, so that these values can be instilled as they grow into their careers.

## Facilities Service Persons Leadership Conference



The Third Annual Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) Facility Serviceperson (FSP) Leadership Conference was held at South Plantation High School on July 17 and 18, 2019. Under the leadership of Mr. Benjamin Osborne, *FSP Supervisor*, his team, and several departments (**Employee Relations, Benefits, Talent Acquisition - Non-Instructional, Risk Management and Environmental Health & Safety**) came together to collaborate on the planning and development of this year's event. The two-day conference hosted both Head and Assistant Head FSPs.

The focus of the event was to provide Head and Assistant Head FSP's with information/training to enhance their ability to safely and properly maintain our school board buildings and enhance their skills in managing their staff. It was also an opportunity for potential vendors, who are also sponsors of this event, to showcase their products and interface directly with those who utilize them.





7 - Mark Dorsett, PPO Zone 1 Manager, spoke of self determination and drive



8 - District Leadership Acknowledgement Awarded to - (l-r) Dr. Osgood, Board Member, Mr. Runcie, Superintendent, Dr. Wanza, Chief School Performance & Accountability Officer



9 - Alison Witoshynsky, EH&S Coordinator, Environmental Compliance reviews Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Protocol





10 - CPR Training - 73 FSPs Certified in CPR/AED/First Aid - YEAH!



11 - Vendors' & Benefit's Hall - Vendors sponsor this event; share new products and equipment.



12 - Head and Assistants FSP begins to fill Auditorium for general session.



*13 - Mr. Brian Katz, Chief Safety, Security & Emergency Preparedness- delivered message of empowerment*



*14 - Mr. Benjamin F. Osborne, FSP Supervisor, Conference Planning Committee lead, Master of Ceremonies*



*15 - Dr. Deborah Posner, Chief/Executive Director Strategic Initiative Management, Spoke of the "new" Strategic Plan and offered an open door for suggestions and feedback as plan is developed for the next 5 years.*



*16 - District Leaders congratulate Assistant Head FSP, Willie McFadden, who has served the District for over 42 years*





*17 - Recognizing Mr. Michael Kuhn, for 45 years of service. (He was not available on day one for photo-op with District Leadership)*

The two-day event was opened on the first day with a general session where participants were addressed by representatives from District Leadership: Superintendent, **Mr. Robert Runcie**, **Dr. Valerie Wanza**, **Chief-OSPA**, **Dr. Rosalind Osgood**, **Board Member** District 5. Each leader addressed the group with their very personal and individual styles. Mr. Runcie quoted from one of his favorite authors, Dr. Osgood used basketball analogies accompanied by a cheerleader chant, and Dr. Wanza spoke to the “individuals” to illustrate the four main points of her message, yet all the messages echoed the same general themes.

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*Facilities Servicepersons are the “foundation”, the “backboard” (basketball analogy), the “collective of individuals”, that makes everything else in the District work!*

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Guest speaker, **Mark Dorsett, PPO Zone 1 Manager**, spoke to the group about “drive and motivation”. He recounted his personal story of growth, development and persistence that has led to his current role in the District. His goal in sharing was to give others concrete evidence and motivation that, you do not need to stay where you are, if you want something more, go after it, “. . .**GO GET IT.**”

The second day was opened with a general session where Mr. Osborne introduced staff from departments to speak to the actual reality of FSP roles in creating safe and inviting learning and working environments. **Dr. Deborah Posner, Chief/Executive Director Strategic Initiative Management**, delivered the “cliff note” version of the District new Strategic Plan. She informed FSPs that their previous input has been incorporated and encouraged all to communicate with her to ensure that the plan was as comprehensive as possible.

An update on the status of the new Work Order system, MAXIMO, was provided by Mr. Adam Lerner, Physical Plant Operations (PPO).

**Ms. Alison Witoshynsky, Coordinator-Environmental Compliance**, Environmental Health and Safety reviewed the Indoor Air Quality Protocol (IAQ), reminding FSPs of how much they can do and steps to improve the health and wellbeing of our building occupants. **Our FSPs are the first line of defense/first responders to IAQ complaints. It is imperative they are notified of complaints and are part of the solution.**

**Mr. Brian Katz, new Chief Safety, Security & Emergency Preparedness Officer** (and EH&S Leader) was the final speaker for Day 2 general session. Mr. Katz reiterated the fact the FSPs know the layout of their schools better than anyone else; **he empowered them to feel free to call code RED/YELLOW, etc, if they feel the situation warrants it.** He advised that some FSPs will be incorporated with an active role in “safe school” project and if not, that their priority during a security situation is to be safe. Mr. Katz’s announcement about adding campus monitors to all schools brought applause as he stressed that this addition would not only add to the security aspect, but it would allow FSPs to focus more on their actual tasks and less on opening gates.

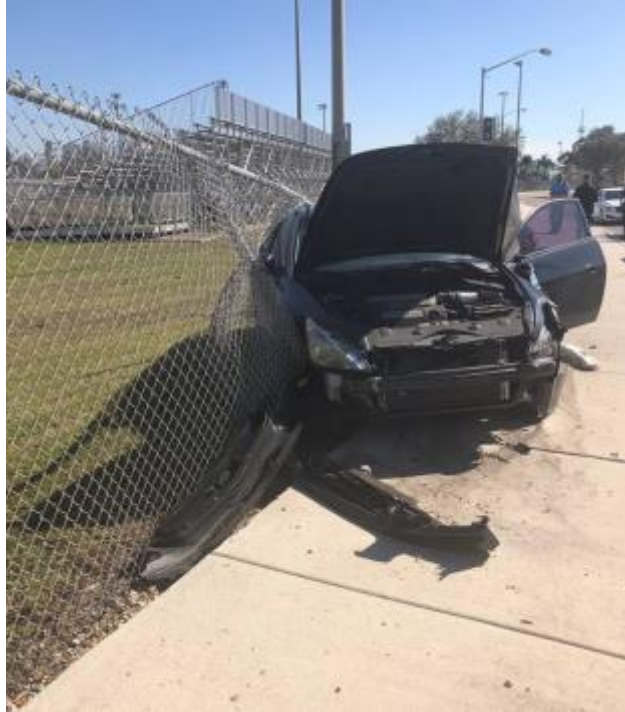
*EH&S staff not only served on the planning committee, but also facilitated a course, “Everyday Hidden Hazards”. In this course, we explored the hidden hazards in executing the facility service persons' daily tasks. We discussed everyday situations/conditions/hazards in work and home activities. We hoped to sharpen FSPs skills by working in teams in generating solutions to address these daily risks.*

## EH&S Helps Makes a Way for new Guardrail at Flanagan High School



Over the past few years, there is a certain stretch of road (129th Ave) near Flanagan High School that has been the site of several car accidents. School Board member, Ms. Patricia Good elevated this concern to Superintendent Runcie due to the potential that any accident at this location could be detrimental to our students, staff and/or visitors on property. The area of concern is close to Flanagan's track and field and bleachers area. Since it was determined that this is a city road, the City of Pembroke Pines and several District departments, including Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) partnered and put their heads together to find a "fix" to minimize the safety concern.

A car accident in January, 2019 which tore through the school's perimeter fencing and ended on the actual field area, seemed to be the catalyst that moved the "concern" from hypothetical/potential risk to a concrete reality.



18 - Accident that takes down fencing near Flanagan's track and field area



19 - same accident different view





*20 - same accident different view*



*21 - new guardrail installed*

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*"Once again, in the same area on SW 129th Avenue, yesterday, Monday, January 21, 2019 there was another accident at the Charles W. Flanagan High School stadium. . . .*

*Had this been almost any other Monday during the school year, students would have been using the area to do the long jump. With the field, bleachers, and long jump right there, in my opinion, a serious injury to one or more bystanders is just a matter of time."*



It has been a lengthy process, and Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) has been involved from the beginning.

**EH&S is happy to report that a traffic safety guardrail and additional signage are now installed at that location.**

We hope that drivers in this area will observe the new signage and use additional care and caution. This has been a combined effort that involved numerous players. Thanks to all, SBBC can feel a sense of accomplishment in successfully enhancing the safety of all on the Flanagan field.

## **EH&S's New Chief Makes New Partnership Possible**



*22 - Training Team (l-r): Richard Mijon(SIU), James Polk (Security Specialist), Hyacinthe Lafontant, (EH&S), Victor Smith, (SIU), Catalina Bruno, (Security Specialist), Fred Davenport, (SIU), Shirley Wright, (Security Specialist), Charley Bush, (Security Specialist), Anthony Emmanuel, (Security Specialist).*

*Security Specialists -Greg Benjamin, and Roberto Bruno not pictured*

This year's SBBC Organizational Chart, reflected a new reporting structure for the Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) Department as well as other departments. EH&S is now incorporated under new leadership, Mr. Brain Katz, Chief, Safety, Security & Emergency Preparedness. The other departments now under Mr. Katz's leadership include: Risk Management, Special Investigative Unit (SIU), Safety & Security Operators and Chief Fire Official. With this new alignment, partnerships were fostered to support the District's expanded the School Security force.

Training of our recently hired and existing security personnel required a collaborative effort – delegated to Risk Management, Coordinated by Talent Acquisition Non-Instructional Professional Development team, and trained by members of SIU, EH&S and selected school Security Specialists.

Environmental Health & Safety's, Specialist Safety Trainer, Hyacinthe Lafontant, participated in 2 Train-the-Trainer events: "AMD" Anger Management/De-escalation Training and "CPI" Non-Violent Crisis Intervention. Having successfully completed the trainings and obtained the required certifications, Ms. Lafontant became part of the training team.

Hyacinthe would like to extend her gratitude for the awesome opportunity to be part of the efforts to implement additional safety measures spearheaded by EH&S's new Chief, Brian Katz.

Partnerships work!



## "Text-Neck Syndrome"



"Text Neck" is the "new" tech-induced body ailment. The term "text neck" describes the effects of repetitive stress on your neck from having your head hung forward and looking down, (creating poor posture) while using media devices, especially cell phones.

- This condition is a collection of symptoms that often manifests as neck & back pain, shoulder tension, stiffness and headaches.
- "Text Neck" can result in damage to the spine.



<https://sway.office.com/aqBQYORMcoRvk8Pr#content=VFYUMSzJ66JeUd>

Text Neck syndrome impacts our children also. This position is not new. Before this technology, we hung our heads to peruse books or take tests, etc., but then we'd get up and go about our days. Today, our children close their books and then get back into that posture texting, browsing and emailing, so, the position is nonstop. If you are a parent, teacher, grandparent, etc. - watch out for them.

I know everyone has seen parents who now use cell phones, etc. to keep their children "quiet". The innovators of this technology don't give these devices to their children. What do they know that is not being shared with you?

**This technology is here to stay, so we need to become more educated on how their use impacts our health.**



23 - poor posture





**What Can You Do? A few suggestions . . .**

- Be aware of your posture
- Stretch: move head from left to right, turn head to look over each shoulder a few times
- Hold your devices higher, so you bend your neck less

***EH&S will be sending out "Safety Alerts" to remind you to take time for your health. Being "BUSY" is not an excuse to ignore "Best Practice" concerning your physical and mental well-being. Your "health" makes what you do, possible. Be the Best you can be!***





## The Beat Goes ON . . .

### 1. *Reduce painful trips and falls use cord covers*

submitted by Sandra Kanner

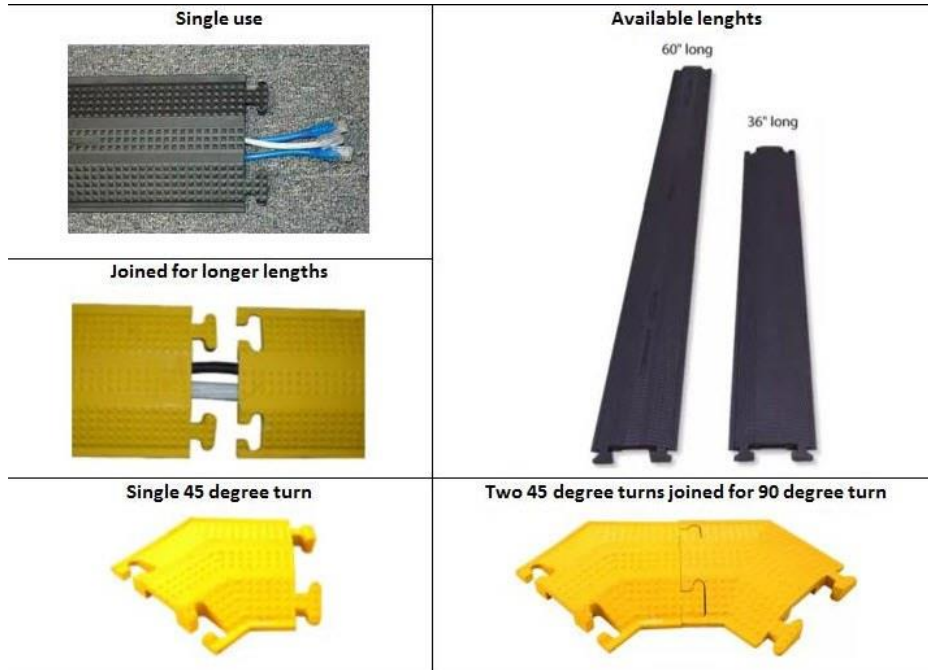
**Reminder: Environmental Health & Safety has cord covers available for distribution. Covers will be provided on a first come/first served basis and are subject to availability. ANYONE CAN REQUEST THEM. Get yours now.**

Cord cover request procedure:

1. All cord cover requests must be made via **email to Sandra Kanner: [sandra.kanner@browardschools.com](mailto:sandra.kanner@browardschools.com)**.
2. The request must be made either by the school principal, or by the head facility service person, office manager, or IT/computer specialist, with the principal copied in all email communications regarding the cord covers.
3. Provide each FISH number where each cord cover(s) will be placed.
4. Indicate the quantity of each type of cover required (5-foot, 3-foot, 45 degree or 90 degree) for each FISH number. For example, if a room needs an 8-foot long cover, specify a 5-foot & 3-foot covers for that FISH number.
5. If 45° or 90° turns are needed, indicate whether the turns are right handed or left handed for each FISH number.

When assessing the quantities per room, keep in mind availability is limited. Equipment and furniture should be placed in such a way as to minimize the quantity and lengths needed.

Unless the quantity of covers is very small (which can be sent to the school via pony), the cord covers need to be picked up at Environmental Health & Safety, located at 4200A NW 10th Avenue, Oakland Park, 33309.



24 - CORD COVERS

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*Safety First is Safety Always . . .*

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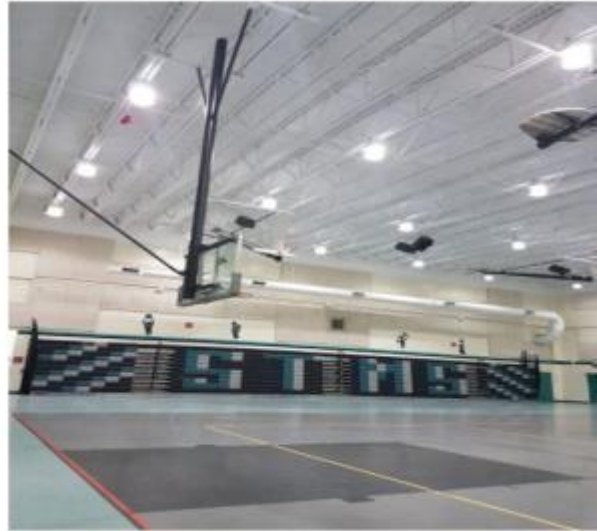
**2. Schools Continue to Get Brighter- Silver Trails Gets LEDs**  
submitted by Gianet Puma, Energy Conservation & Utility Management

## Lighting Change

Before:



After:



25 - Before and after images

EH&S's Energy Conservation and Utility Management has been quietly making big differences in visibility throughout the District. Things not only get brighter with these installation projects, but they also represent a cost saving to the District.

**The average cost in Florida per KWh is \$0.12 and each new LED light consumes an average of .243kW less per hour.** The gym lights are ON for an average 12hrs per day; this average is based on time ON during the school week, which is usually more than 12hrs a day, and time ON during the weekend (for team sports events and practices), which is less than 12hrs a day. This data would give you a total savings of:

90.52kWh per month per fixture \$2.45 per week per fixture

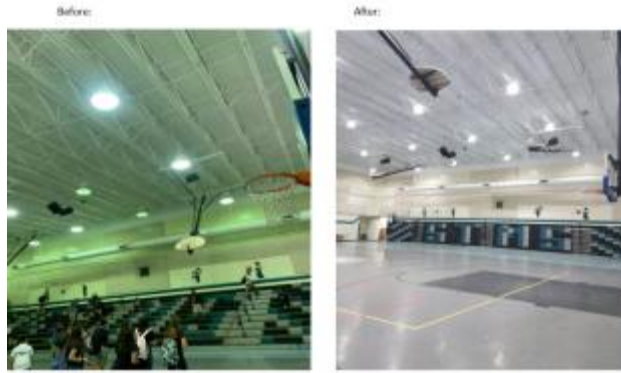
\$10.50 per month per fixture

\$127.72 per year per fixture

Total fixtures Qty. 36

36 x \$127.72 = **\$4,597.92 Per year\***

As funds are made available, additional projects are on the way.



26 - Silver Trails



Look For It . . .



Next month and shortly thereafter, EH&S will launch two courses "**Supervisor Safety Awareness**" and "**Safety Best Practices**".

Both courses will be required learning for specific target audiences to meet compliance with the State Requirement for Educational Facilities (SREF), Rule 6A-2.0010.

Each of us is responsible for our own safety AND also the safety of others around us. The information that will be shared is for your own well being and safety. EH&S's goals align with the District's Strategic Plan in providing you a healthy and safe environment for learning and working. **SAFETY starts with YOU.**

The new EH&S Manual and EH&S Best Practice Handbook will be distributed to you after completing each respective training.

**Smiles are free, and kind words cost nothing, but they can be worth the world. Be inspirational, promote health and safety as you navigate this new school year.**

Environmental Health & Safety Department

4200 A NW 10th Ave

Oakland Park, FL 33309

754-321-4200

hlafontant@browardschools.com

Visit us on the web at <https://www.browardschools.com/Domain/13473>.