

James S. Rickards Middle School

Welcome

SAC (School Advisory Council) Meeting Minutes – September 3, 2025

-2023-2024 SAC Committee Officers

- Mr. Rubinchik and Ms. Fatima DeLeon Co-chairs
- Lisa Smith-Lopez Secretary

-Call to Order

- A Rickards Middle School Advisory Council meeting was held in person on September 3, 2025. Co-chair, Mr. Rubinchik, called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m.

-Pledge of Allegiance

-Principal's Report – Mr. Gurreonero

- Enrollment has increased, we were projected to be at 745 but we are at 835. We are way over our enrollment and are at capacity for the current location.

- New BSO officer is Deputy Osborne, and we welcome her to Rickards. She implemented a safety initiative in crossing the street and there is no more jaywalking. Thanks to Commissioner Gordon, we will be getting at least one crossing guard.

- Construction Update – In the beginning of the year, the staff was given a tour of the new building. They were able to go up to the third-floor media center. The building is slated to be completed in April of next year.

-PM 1 Testing begins tomorrow. This is a very important test for our students and will provide data to help us guide instruction for academic growth.

- Rickards has become a P.B.I.S. (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) Model School for the district thanks to the hard work of Ms. Fatima DeLeon and her team.

- We had a District Instructional Review, which is when individuals from the district come to Rickards. We had Dr. Flemming and my director, Mr. La Pace, in addition to several support and curriculum facilitators from the district. The purpose is for the district to become acclimated to our school and classroom environment. We give a presentation as to where we are as a school

and then afterwards, we go on a tour of our classrooms. Upon completion of the tour, they provided us with some feedback as to what they observed. The feedback is valuable relative to areas in which we can improve. By way of review, the district noted in part that there was engagement in the classes and a positive learning environment, productive classrooms with consistent teacher facilitation and teachers making real world connections.

Approval of Minutes

- There was a motion to approve the minutes for May 2025 by Lisa Smith Lopez and seconded by Jack Donnelly.

-Request to vote for funds to help pay for lunches for students in need.

Students will now have to pay for lunches this year. So, to help the Cafeteria Manager, Ms. Moreland is requesting funds to help the students pay for lunches. The amount requested is \$2,000 (\$500 per quarter) in case of emergency. A quorum was present and thus a vote followed the request. The request was approved unanimously by the voting members.

- S.E.S.I.R. – School Environmental Safety Incident Report

School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting for 2024-2025 school year through April 30, 2025:

Alcohol Possession-1

Bullying-2

Drug Possession/Use-19

Fighting-19

Harassment-1

Physical Attack-8

Sexual Harrassment-1

Threat/Intimidatiuon-4

Tobacco-5

Other Major Offenses/Non-drug related-3

Unsubstantiated Bulying-2

Ms. Ellis' Broward TU Report:

Staff will be voting on the Memorandum of Understanding related to Teacher Planning and Early Release Days. Additionally, the Faculty Council for the 2025-2026 school year has been formed. The Council, in conjunction with the School Advisory Council, is in the process of finalizing the School

Discipline Plan. Upon finalization, faculty will vote to approve and upon approval, the Discipline Plan will be forwarded to the Broward Teacher's Union as required by Article Eleven entitled Student Discipline.

Oakland Park Report – Jack Donnelly

Science report – Ms. Deleon

The 2025-2026 department wide goal is for a minimum of fifty-one (51%) percent of tested students to demonstrate proficiency on the eighth grade Statewide Science Assessment.

-We are working to support both students and science teachers to ensure we meet the goal for this year.

-We are providing teachers with the strategies they need to support their students to reach proficiency on the science end of the year assessment.

The next School Advisory Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

- **Motion to adjourn.**
 - The motion to adjourn by Ms. De Leon at 6:04 pm was seconded by Mr. Donnelly and was approved unanimously.

Submitted by,

Name of Recorder: Lisa Smith Lopez

Name of Position on Board: SAC Secretary

Approval Date: