



PEMBROKE LAKES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

School Advisory Forum (SAF)

Date: 9/29/26

Print Name:	Sign:
Tonia Fernandez	
Jessica Kufayle	
Jasmine Muvico	
Victoria Bazar	
Kisha Palacios	
John Sardenes	
Jackie Benicio	
Jennifer Minnin	
Rosanna Orrett	
Rose Fultz	
Enrique Rodriguez	

South Area Advisory Meeting Notes

Broward County Public Schools | September 16, 2026 | Prepared for Pembroke Lakes Elementary

About this summary

These highlights were prepared from attendee notes and checked against current BCPS information. They are intended to help the school community stay informed and are not official meeting minutes. Referendum information is provided for informational purposes only.

MEETING	South Area Advisory Council
TIME	9:30-11:30 a.m.
LOCATION	Pines Collegiate Academy 6-12
PURPOSE	Connect families, schools, District leadership and the School Board; share information and bring forward community concerns.

TEDxMiramar Youth 2026

- The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the Miramar Cultural Center.
- The theme is Growing Up Online, with youth and adult speakers discussing identity, friendships and the future in the digital age.
- Meeting presenters described a months-long preparation process in which youth speakers develop their ideas and practice with coaches.
- Schools were encouraged to share the event flyer and ticket information with families. Seats are limited.

Redefining Our Schools

- BCPS is continuing its effort to rightsize the District's physical footprint as enrollment declines and school capacity changes.
- Presenters emphasized that redefining school sites and redistricting are separate processes.
- Enrollment affects funding, staffing and facility planning; the discussion noted that District funding is closely tied to student enrollment.
- Community meetings and feedback are part of the process before final recommendations and School Board decisions.

District Highlights

- Superintendent Dr. Howard Hepburn thanked teachers, staff, volunteers and families for supporting students.
- BCPS earned an A grade from the state for the third consecutive year. For the third year in a row, District-operated schools included no D- or F-rated schools.
- The 2025 federal graduation rate reached a historic high of 91.4%, the first time in at least 25 years that the District exceeded 90%.
- Declining enrollment and unused capacity continue to affect the District's budget, staffing and facility planning.

2026 Referendum Renewal

For informational purposes only

The Secure the Next Generation Referendum renewal is scheduled for the November 3, 2026 general election ballot. It is a proposal to continue the existing one-mill property tax levy from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2030; it is not a new millage rate. A simple majority of votes cast is required for approval.

- BCPS estimates the renewal would generate approximately \$358 million annually, including about \$283 million for District-operated schools and \$75 million for charter schools, covering four school years beginning in 2027/28.
- The intended allocation is 90% or more for compensation supplements to recruit and retain teachers and eligible staff, with up to 10% for school resource officers, school safety staff and programs such as mental health services and personnel.
- BCPS states that current referendum funding supports approximately \$173 million annually in employee compensation supplements, 393 school safety personnel, \$1.7 million in wearable panic-button safety software and more than 224 mental health professionals.
- If the referendum is not renewed, BCPS states it would lose approximately \$358 million annually currently supporting these positions, programs and supplements.

Screen Time, Artificial Intelligence and Digital Learning

- The District is reviewing guidance related to student screen time, artificial intelligence, digital learning tools, assessments and online safety.
- Parent feedback may help shape future revisions, including concerns about ease of use and families' ability to understand and manage technology.
- Guidance is expected to be shared with principals and families so the process and expectations are clearer.

Additional Notes

- School Board meetings and workshops are recorded and available for the public to review.
- SAF and Area Advisory representatives were encouraged to listen to community concerns, follow Board discussions and bring relevant issues back to their schools.
- The South Area Advisory Council serves as a connection between families, schools, District leadership and the School Board.

Official Resources

[South Area Advisory Council](#)
[Redefining Our Schools](#)
[BCPS Screen Time Update](#)
[School Board Meetings and Agendas](#)

[District Advisory Council and Calendar](#)
[Secure the Next Generation Referendum 2026](#)
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