

**Davie Elementary School**  
**7025 SW 39<sup>th</sup> St, Davie, FL 33314**  
**School Advisory Forum (SAF)**  
**Title 1 School**  
**April 24, 2025 · 7:30 am · Media Center**

**Meeting Agenda**

**Chair:** Carmelo Borges III, SAF Chair

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- Greet attendees and outline the meeting's objectives.

**2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- Review and approve minutes from the last SAF meeting.

**3. District-Level Updates**

**a. School Repurposing and Closures**

- **Background:** BCPS is addressing a significant decline in student enrollment, with over 45,000 empty seats district-wide. This decline is attributed to factors such as increased competition from charter and private schools, as well as demographic shifts.
- **Recent Developments:** On January 22, 2025, the School Board voted to close Broward Estates Elementary School in Lauderhill due to under-enrollment (222 students in a facility designed for nearly 700). The school will be repurposed as an early learning center for pre-Kindergarten children.
- **Future Plans:** The Board has approved a plan to close at least five schools by the 2025-2026 school year. Specific schools have not yet been named; decisions are expected around September. The district aims to repurpose under-enrolled schools by changing grade levels, combining schools, or closing them.
- **Financial Impact:** BCPS currently employs approximately 31,691 staff members to serve around 251,106 students, resulting in a staff-to-student ratio of about 1:8. This high staffing level, amidst declining enrollment, presents financial challenges for the district.

**b. Superintendent's Task Force on Advisory Committees**

- **Formation and Purpose:** Superintendent Howard Hepburn established a task force to evaluate the structure and effectiveness of advisory committees, aiming to enhance community engagement and transparency.
- **Resignation of Task Force Chair:** The appointed chair of the task force resigned, citing concerns about the task force's direction and effectiveness. In his resignation letter, he emphasized the need for genuine community involvement and questioned whether the task force would lead to meaningful change.
- **Next Steps:** The district is expected to appoint a new chair and continue efforts to assess and improve advisory committee structures.

**c. Resignation of School Board Member Brenda Fam**

- **Resignation Details:** School Board Member Brenda Fam announced her resignation, citing a "toxic" environment and a lack of transparency within the Board. In her resignation letter, she expressed concerns about the Board's direction and decision-making processes.
- **Impact:** Her resignation leaves a vacancy on the Board, prompting discussions about appointing a successor and the potential impact on upcoming decisions, including school closures and district policies.

#### 4. South Area Advisory Council Highlights

- **Recent Meetings:** The South Area Advisory Council has addressed several issues pertinent to our region, including:
  - **School Safety:** Discussions on enhancing safety protocols and emergency preparedness in schools.
  - **Student Mental Health:** Initiatives to increase access to counseling services and support student well-being.
  - **Traffic Concerns:** Efforts to improve traffic flow and safety around school zones during peak hours.
- **Community Engagement:** The Council encourages increased participation from parents and community members to address these ongoing concerns effectively.

#### 5. State and National Education Policy Updates

##### a. Florida Child Labor Law Changes

- **Legislation Overview:** Florida has enacted legislation allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to work more than 30 hours per week during the school year with parental or school superintendent approval. They may also work overnight shifts and longer hours on school days.
- **Concerns:** Critics argue that these changes could lead to exploitation of minors and negatively impact their education and health.

##### b. Expansion of School Choice Programs

- **House Bill 1 (2023):** This legislation established universal school choice in Florida, eliminating financial eligibility restrictions and enrollment caps for scholarship programs.
- **Impact on BCPS:** The expansion of school choice programs may lead to further declines in public school enrollment, affecting funding and resource allocation within BCPS.

##### c. Rollback of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives

- **Senate Bill 266:** This law prohibits the use of state funds for DEI programs in public colleges and universities.
- **Potential Impact on BCPS:** While the law directly affects higher education, it may signal a broader trend that could influence K-12 education policies and practices related to DEI within BCPS.

##### d. Federal Education Policy Changes

- **Current Administration's Stance:** The federal administration has indicated a shift away from DEI initiatives and is promoting school choice and parental rights in education.
- **Implications for BCPS:** Potential changes in federal funding priorities and educational guidelines may affect BCPS programs and policies, particularly those related to equity and inclusion.