



School Advisory Forum (SAF) Meeting

Riverside Elementary School

March 30, 2026

2:30-3:30 PM

MINUTES

- **Update on Testing/Assessment**
 - The Elementary subcommittee continues to address issues of over testing and pacing in K-5 classes.
- **Update on Accountability Funds**
 - Expectations clarified around annual spending versus rolling over funds:
 - Schools should use allocated funds each year.
 - Consistently unspent funds may indicate a lower funding need.
 - Accountability Funds Memo sent out that funds are being rolled over again from 25-26 to the 26-27 school year
- **School Choice**
 - Many SAF Chairs reported issues and inconsistencies in the School Choice application and notification this year. The communication to parents was not clear.
 - A request was made that the district post the number of seats per grade at each school on the BCPS website, consistent with past practice, to provide greater transparency.
 - Additional discussion will take place at the April 16 meeting.
 - Principal Balint stated that principals have no influence on school choice. If a family gets one student into a school of choice, they can apply for hardship to the district to get their siblings in the same school.

- It was also discussed that Broward's school choice decisions typically take a month longer than private schools' decision to accept students. This delay may have an impact on parents' decision on whether their children attend public vs. private schools.
- **SAF Elections**
 - The officers shall be the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Recording Secretary
 - Anyone who wishes to run for a position must declare their candidacy before or at the second-to-last meeting of the school year.
 - Our current chairperson is a 5th grade parent and will not be here next year.
- **Future Topics** - What concerns would you like brought to the North Area board? None coming from our school at this time.

An additional topic that was discussed included who is implementing In School Suspensions (ISS). Currently this task is often done by the Administration. Some schools have a position dedicated to overseeing students in ISS. There is also an AES, which is a suspension at a different school location. The district would like suggestions on this topic. They are also looking at redoing the current discipline matrix.

Some reasons for suspensions/expulsions at Riverside were reviewed including substantiated bullying, hitting a teacher, or bringing a weapon to school. It was noted that there typically are more reasons/sticter policies for suspensions once a student attends middle and high school.