Broward County Public Schools

North Area Advisory Council

GENERAL MEETING

MONARCH HIGH SCHOOL

September 17, 2026

6:15-8:45 P.M.

DRAFT MINUTES

Email: NorthAreaChair@gmail.com

Website: http://northareaadvisorycouncil.ch2v.com/

A. Call to Order 6:22 p.m. est

B. Meeting Etiquette- SAF Chairs, please remember to sign in so that your attendance is recorded, a Guest Sign in is also available. When speaking, ask one question or make one comment at a time to ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate. Guests may speak if time permits. Please be respectful throughout the meeting.

C. Introduction of New North Area Advisory Board and North Area

Mario Marcano-Chair
Brooke Panagakos-Co Chair
Nicole Diamas-Recording Secretary
Alan Strauss-NA Superintendent
Michele Stein-Assistant Director
Meredith Weiss-Schnur-Regional Director
Joe Balchunas-Regional Director
Teresa Hall-Regional Director

D. Next Generation Referendum:

Presenter unable to attend will discuss at October meeting

- Purpose: The referendum is a renewal of the existing one-mill property tax, not a new tax.
- Election: Voters will consider the renewal on November 3, 2026.
- Duration: If approved, it would continue for four school years beginning in 2027/28.
- Expected revenue: Approximately $358 million annually across Broward public schools, including charter schools.

- Primary uses:
    - Teacher and eligible staff compensation supplements
    - School Resource Officers and other school safety personnel
    - Mental health professionals and services
- The current referendum, approved by voters in 2022, is scheduled to expire.
- Current referendum funding supports approximately $173 million annually in compensation supplements, more than 393 school safety personnel, and 224+ mental health professionals.

  How the Funds Would Be Allocated
- 90% or more: Compensation supplements for teachers and eligible staff.
- Up to 10%: School safety personnel, SROs, mental health services and personnel.
- The School Board determines annual allocations through the formal budget process, with public comment available.

  Cost to Property Owners
- One mill = $1 per $1,000 of taxable property value.
- Example average homeowner: approximately $418/year ($35/month).
- Example average condominium owner: approximately $230/year ($19/month).
- These amounts are based on taxable value and can change annually.

  If the Referendum Is Not Renewed

  BCPS states it would lose approximately $358 million annually, which currently supports school safety and mental health positions as well as compensation supplements.

  District Highlights

  The presentation also reports that BCPS:
- Has been rated an “A” district for three consecutive years.
- Had no D or F district-operated schools for the third consecutive year.
- Reported a 97.5% traditional high-school graduation rate and 91.4% rate across all schools.
- Was named Cambridge District of the Year for 2025/26.
- Has 236,667 students, 325 schools, and 27,848 employees.

E. Bus Patrol Program:

Presenter: Chief Gregory Stuart and Lieutenant Harvey Jacques

Program Overview:

- Stop-arm camera enforcement became active September 9, 2026, following a 30-day warning and public-awareness period.
- Approximately 1,100 BCPS buses are equipped with AI-powered camera systems that detect potential illegal passing of stopped school buses.

- The program operates under Florida Statute §316.173 and related school-bus stopping laws. It is not simply a district-created policy.

How the System Works:

1. **Detect:** Cameras activate when the bus stop signals are displayed and AI flags a possible violation.
2. **Transmit:** Video, photographs, license plate information, GPS and time data are securely sent to law enforcement.
3. **Review:** A **BCPS Police Officer personally reviews the evidence** and determines whether a violation occurred.
4. **Notice:** If confirmed, a Notice of Violation is mailed to the vehicle's registered owner.
5. **Resolve:** The owner can pay, submit an affidavit, or request an administrative hearing.

Key point: The camera identifies potential violations, but **a person—not the camera—makes the final determination.**

Penalty:

- The total civil penalty is $225: $200 civil penalty + $25 administrative fee.
- The amount is established by state law, not determined by BCPS.
- No points are assessed against the driver's license.
- The violation is not a criminal charge or an arrest.

When Drivers Must Stop:

- Drivers must stop when a school bus displays its stop signal and remain stopped until the bus moves or the signals are turned off.
- On roads without a raised barrier/median, **traffic in both directions must stop**.
- On a divided roadway with a qualifying raised median, **oncoming traffic may proceed** while traffic traveling with the bus must stop.

If Someone Receives a Notice:

The recipient has three options:

- **Pay** the $225 penalty.
- **Submit an affidavit** if specific circumstances apply, such as the owner not being in possession/control of the vehicle or the vehicle being stolen.
- **Request an administrative hearing** to contest the violation.

Ignoring the notice can result in escalation to a **uniform traffic citation**.

Privacy & Program Safeguards:

- The system is **not intended for remote surveillance**.
- The capture is described as narrow, with identities obscured.
- The vendor is **not paid per ticket**.

- Funds are restricted to transportation safety purposes.

  In conclusion:

  The Bus Patrol program is designed to **reduce drivers illegally passing stopped school buses and improve student safety**. Cameras flag potential violations, but **BCPS Police Officers review every case before a notice is issued**. The enforcement program went live September 9, 2026, with a **$225 civil penalty and no driver's-license points**.

F. Approval of Meeting Minutes-May 16, 2026

Approved with following corrections school name correction for Ms. Reas and correction of middle school representative's name Lumi Parvu
Motion to Approve: Nicole Kearney
Second: Nancy Fry

G. Elections-Positions Available

Corresponding Secretary -**Nomination for Nicole Davisson passed**
Communications Chair-**Nomination for Karla Figueroa passed**
High School Rep-**Vacant**
Parent at Large-**Vacant**
Business Rep -**Vacant**
Student Rep-**Vacant**
Parliamentarian-**Vacant**
Teacher Rep-**Vacant**
ESOL Rep-**Vacant**

H. SAC Rollover Funds

Mr. Joe Balchunas advised SAC rollover funds are with the budget office to prepare accounting, funds should be released after October.

I. Upcoming Dates/ Important Reminders

Steering Meeting Via Teams: 10/08/2026 at 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. est
North Area General Meeting: 10/15/2026 at 6:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. est

J. Adjourn: 8:23 p.m. est