

**Office of the Superintendent**

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Broward County, Florida**

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Dr. Vickie L. Cartwright  
Superintendent of Schools

1/25/2023

Dear Vice Chancellor Strauss,

I am writing to address the concerns raised in your letter regarding Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) alleged failure to comply with requests for documents from the Office of Safe Schools. I want to correct the record and address inaccuracies stated in your letter.

First, I would like to state the letter is factually inaccurate because it stated we were missing seven items. As you and Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) staff indicated in my office after the letter was released, there were only four missing items. Furthermore, the Office of Safe Schools (OSS) never provided me or anyone on my leadership team with a list of outstanding items before the January 23, 2023, visit so we could promptly resolve the concern.

Additionally, when the OSS visited BCPS on September 1, 2022, we provided all requested items as they were asked for exactly as we did during your unannounced visit on January 23, 2023. On the September 1, 2022, visit, OSS personnel left with two full boxes of documentation demonstrating our compliance. The OSS never presented their request for additional documentation in writing, which would have allowed BCPS to have a list to verify that the entire request was satisfied. Providing a written list versus verbal request ensures a common understanding of the items to be provided.

I also want to express trepidation that if the OSS was aware of any outstanding items that would impact the lives and safety of students and staff in BCPS, why wasn't it brought to our immediate attention rather than after four and a half months after the initial visit. This delay in communication could have potentially jeopardized the safety of our students and staff if the missing documentation impacts school safety.

Furthermore, OSS personnel who conducted unannounced site visits said the visits went exceptionally well. This statement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the BCPS staff in ensuring the safety and security of our students and staff.

In conclusion, I want to assure the public that Broward County Public Schools takes the safety and security of our students and staff very seriously; and we have always been fully cooperative with the OSS requests and school visits. We formally request that the OSS provide us with a written list of any outstanding items so we can address them promptly and continue our collaborative efforts with your department to accomplish our common goal of creating safe learning and working environments for our students and staff.

Sincerely,



Vickie L. Cartwright, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Broward Public Schools

c: School Board Members  
Cabinet