

Sunrise Middle School (0251)

School Advisory Council Minutes

August 25, 2026

Attendance

Irlene Borgela	Ambry Johnson	Christina Louis	Daniele Vitanza	Erin Gohl
Laura Green	Rachael James	Johnnie Wilson	Georgia Evaul	Erica Burrows
Megan Grant	Joriela Dorcin	Zeenat Ledr	Catherine Sanghera	Elmo Siggia
Danielle Ferrell	Jebony Parris	Katie Jensen	Emily Owen	DJ Griffin
Claudia Cristiani	Jennifer Surless	Medgine Jauques		

Call to Order: The School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting was called to order at 4:33 pm.

Principal's Report

- Administration reported a successful opening of the 2026-2027 school year.
- Sunrise is an A-rated school under the updated accountability scale. The instructional focus to maintain the "A" is strong Tier 1 instruction, classroom observations, support for struggling students, and enrichment for high-achieving students.
- Staff completed professional learning during preplanning. Continued teacher development will support stronger classroom instruction and student achievement.
- Upcoming activities include Hispanic Heritage Month programming, Breast Cancer Awareness activities, Multicultural Night in December, STEM Night, and a magnet meet-and-greet.
- Current enrollment is approximately 1,039 students, which is above projection. Administration will verify the reported capacity figure. Recruitment will focus on feeder-school outreach, social media, mailers, and sharing Sunrise's programs and accomplishments.
- Falcons Sports Academy: Students will explore sports marketing, media, management, fitness, health, and nutrition while the school awaits completion of the athletic field.
- XR Lab: Teachers completed training on the donated Meta Quest equipment. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new XR lab is scheduled for the following day (August 26, 2026).
- FAST Testing: Testing will begin Tuesday, September 1. Additional sessions will take place Wednesday through Friday of the following week. The schedule and parent letter will be distributed through ParentLink.

SESSIR

- The report covered June 2026, when students attended school for two days.
- No incidents involving alcohol, bullying, major disruption, serious fighting, drug possession, or drug sales were reported.
- One harassment incident and one weekend trespassing incident were reported. Fort Lauderdale Police addressed the trespassing incident.

School Accountability Funds

- Most available funds were used during the previous year for student pullout programs, particularly for students in the lowest quartile.
- ELA performance increased 18 percentage points from PM2 to PM3, allowing the school to recover from an 11-point PM2 decline and finish even with the previous year.
- The school will continue focusing on lowest-quartile proficiency and learning gains. Additional funds may become available through unspent teacher allocations.

Title I

- Title I funds will support student interventions and Saturday SWAG Camp.
- Families must complete required income and federal-program surveys even though Sunrise provides free breakfast and lunch through the Community Eligibility Provision.
- Survey participation affects the school's Title I eligibility, federal resources, programs, and approximately five teaching positions.
- Available extra teaching periods will be used for short-term intervention groups lasting approximately three to four weeks.
- Federal Programs Parent Training will be held September 17 at 7:00 pm at the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center.

Open House

- Open House will be held Thursday, August 27. Parent engagement activities will take place from 5:30 to 6:00 pm.
- School clubs, community partners, uniform vendors, PTSA, magnet programs, the Falcons Sports Academy, 5000 Role Models, and other organizations will be represented.

Department Updates

Social Studies: Sixth- and eighth-grade courses are on pace. Civics achieved 79% proficiency on the 2026 EOC, a 13-point increase and the highest result in school history. The 2026-2027 goal is 85% or higher. Students will participate in benchmark assessments, project-based learning, Heroes Day, Constitution Day, and student government activities.

Math: The department ended 2026 with 60% proficiency, a three-point increase from 2025. Geometry achieved 100% proficiency. Sunrise offers 11 sections of Algebra 1 and two sections of Geometry. Program requirement letters were sent to families and will also be available at Open House. Sixth- and seventh-grade students will take FAST PM1; Algebra 1 and Geometry progress will be monitored through course assessments and the BSA assessment which will be administered in October.

Science: All six science content areas are on pace. Biology and Physical Science students will complete common formative assessments the following week. Each content area established a SMART goal focused on increasing achievement.

Reading: The reading department is completing MAP testing. Results will be used to place students in appropriate instructional groups and provide targeted support.

ELA: Teachers are finalizing common formative assessment dates, beginning their first instructional units, and preparing students for FAST PM1.

Assessment Discussion: Members discussed differences in the number, frequency, platforms, and grading of common formative assessments across subjects. Administration will explore more consistent, parent-friendly communication of assessment results and how to access.

New Business

- Composition Board voting will take place on September 15, 2026.

Next Meeting Date & Time: September 15, 2026 4:30pm

Meeting Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:22 pm