



Tropical Elementary School
School Advisory Council/School Advisory Forum Joint Meeting
Agendas Below
September 1, 2026

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review/ Approve Minutes from last meeting, May 2026
3. Attendance: 95.9% Daily Average
4. Budget Update
 - a. Accountability Balance: These funds are not available at this time.
 - b. A+ Funds:
5. SESIR Update:
6. Membership Composition for 2026-2027
 - a. Principal, Teachers, BTU Steward, Non-Instructional
 - b. Parents, I-Zone Representative, SAF Chair, ESOL Representative, ESE Representative,
 - c. SAC Co-chairs, SAC Secretary
7. Tentative Dates for the year: 1st Tuesday of the month except December
8. School Improvement Goals for 2026-2027
9. Behavior Plan, Attendance Plan, MTSS Plan,
10. Dr. Brown:
 - a. Technology Usage for Students- i-ready/Assessments
 - b. Intervention Groups
11. Principal Updates
 - a. **Welcome New Staff**
 - Andrea Yancy- Kindergarten
 - Taylor Yoeman - Grade 2
 - Christina Garcia- Grade 3
 - Kelly Duncan - Grade 4
 - Sharin Leff-ESE Support Facilitator
 - Elaine Camps Del Toro- SLP
 - Rijan Nixon TSS
 - Kara Kenny-Music
 - John English-Art
 - b. Theme - Level Up Your Success
 - c. Customer Survey Results 2025-26
 - d. Clubs for 2025-26 - Art, Music, Fitness, Legos, Sculptures, Crafting, Yearbook, Kindness and others soon to come!
 - e. Open House

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f. Class Size

Calendar Week of 8/24-28

- 8/25 and 8/26 – District Health Screenings Grades K, 1 and 3
- 8/26- Open House for Grades 3, 4 & 5, Cayuso, Gordon, Yeoman and Duncan 6:00 p.m.
- 8/28- School Spirit Day!

Upcoming Calendar Dates

- 9/1- SAC/SAF Meeting at 8:30 a.m.
- 9/7- No School- Labor Day Holiday
- 9/9- Interims
- 9/9- PTA General Meeting- 8:30 a.m.
- 9/14 - 9/18 Book Fair and Family Book Night
- 9/21-No School Holiday
- 9/23 Peace Day Celebration
- 9/28-10/2 Toucan Store
- 10/1 Individual Pictures

SAC Meeting Minutes

September 1st, 2026

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review/Approve Minutes from Last Meeting (May 2026)

Motion to approve by Ms. Brooks; seconded by Ms. Bilynsky.

3. Attendance: 95.7%

4. Budget Update

Balances are currently not available until October. The only difference from the balance in May is the tutoring funds deducted from that amount.

a. Accountability Balance:

b. A+ Funds:

5. SESIR Update

No updates since the end of last year. Tropical did not have any incidents that were required to be reported.

6. Membership Composition for 2026–2027

a. Principal, Teachers, BTU Steward, Non-Instructional

- Ms. Hernandez – SAC Chair
- Ms. Villasis – SAC Secretary
- Ms. Thomas – BTU Steward
- John Peach – Community Representative
- Jacqueline (Leo and Noa's mom) – ESE
- Danielle Cohen (Keira's mom) – I-Zone
- Kelsey McGrane (Macksen's mom) – Gifted
- Jessica Bilynsky – non-instructional

b. Parents, I-Zone Representative, SAF Chair, ESOL Representative, ESE Representative

c. SAC Co-Chairs, SAC Secretary

7. Tentative Dates for the Year

Meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month, except December. Motion to approve the meeting time by Ms. Bilynsky; seconded by Ms. Brooks.

8. School Improvement Goals for 2026–2027

The goals are listed on the school website. Our goal for this year is to increase math learning gains by increasing the lowest percentile of students from 43% to 48%. For ELA, the goal is to increase learning gains for K–2 from 67% to 70%. We also have other plans that fall under the SIP, which are available on the school website.

9. Instructional Support and Intervention Plan

Ms. Antunez, who is a great resource in math, will work with teachers to help bridge learning gaps so that we can achieve better learning outcomes. Ms. Brooks expressed concern about how effective i-Ready is in helping students in the lowest percentile and ensuring that they do not fall behind.

Tropical has put a plan in place to address students who are in the lowest quartile. We have configured the master schedule to begin Specials later, giving us the ability to include a 30-minute intervention first thing in the morning. During that time, students will work in small groups and receive targeted interventions.

Our reading and math blocks will be uninterrupted, and this plan is directly based on data. Our goal is for every student to “win,” whether they are in a small group or participating in another learning activity.

Dr. Brown explained that this plan was carefully prepared so that the entire school will be successful. She, along with Mr. Schneider, will conduct walkthroughs and ensure that the plan is working. This is a school-wide plan that includes not only students but also feedback from teachers.

Mr. Schneider believes our most effective tool is our teachers and emphasizes the importance of giving them the tools they need to move forward successfully.

Ms. Brooks asked whether volunteers could be sent to a class to support teachers and students, provided they are not assigned to their own children’s class. Mr. Schneider replied that this would be offered to teachers at their discretion if they would like to have a volunteer in their class.

10. Behavior Plan, Attendance Plan, MTSS Plan, and Technology Updates

Kindergarten and first grade will have no screen time for learning except for STAR testing. When testing occurs, students will have a 1:1 computer.

i-Ready cannot be assigned for homework and is turned off after 3:30 p.m. and during weekends. Grades 2–5 have a limit of 49 minutes per subject for reading and math.

Ms. Siegal asked whether, if teachers feel it is worthwhile to address keyboarding issues for K–1, she could bring the topic to community and school meetings.

Ms. Brooks also added that having programs such as i-Ready does not take away from computer literacy and that students should not be made to fear that they will not become computer literate because of limited technology use in the classroom.

Ms. Whitton has sent out flyers encouraging reading and the use of Beanstack to log reading minutes and earn prizes.

11. Principal Updates

Welcome back, everyone. Our enrollment is projected prior to the end of last year.

Customer survey results: 85% of cafeteria concerns were related to food.

Clubs: Some will be offered in the morning and some in the afternoon.

Open House was very successful and well attended.

Laptops will be distributed next week to parents who made a request. K–1 students will receive cases along with the laptops to keep them protected. This is only for parents who choose to opt in, and participation is voluntary.

Class Size

Currently, our class sizes are not ideal because we are not receiving any surplus teachers, particularly for K–1.

Unfortunately, there is no option to alleviate the class size in kindergarten. First grade will be affected, and some rearranging will take place within the next few days.

Unfortunately, the district does not have the funding to provide additional teachers. Parents have expressed concerns about class size and what will happen in the classrooms. Mr. Schneider stated that, at this time, he will not discuss how this issue will be remedied.

Ms. Brooks mentioned that parents need at least 24 hours to review a proposal from Mr. Schneider regarding how this will be addressed.

Last year’s enrollment projection was 645, and at this time, enrollment is at 661. Ms. Brooks asked how parents will be notified of changes. Mr. Schneider explained that phone calls are made to notify parents.

Parents also expressed a desire to help in classrooms where student counts are high and to support teachers in any way possible.

Calendar – Week of 8/24–8/28

- 8/25 and 8/26 – District Health Screenings for Grades K, 1, and 3
- 8/26 – Open House for Grades 3, 4, and 5; Cayuso, Gordon, Yeoman, and Duncan – 6:00 p.m.
- 8/28 – School Spirit Day!

Upcoming Calendar Dates

- 9/1 – SAC/SAF Meeting at 8:30 a.m.
- 9/7 – No School – Labor Day Holiday
- 9/9 – Interims
- 9/9 – PTA General Meeting at 8:30 a.m.
- 9/14–9/18
- 9/14 – Grandparents Day at 7:55 a.m.
- 9/23 – Peace Day Parade

Tropical Elementary School
School Advisory Forum (SAF)
October 6, 2026 @ 8:30 AM
1500 SW 66th Ave, Plantation, FL 33317
General Meeting - Agenda

1. Call to Order and Welcome
2. Housekeeping
 - a. Ethics Training for SAF Board Members
 - b. Governing documents: BCPS Policy 1.21, SAF Bylaws, & Roberts Rules of Order
 - c. Advisory Structure: SAF, CAAC, DAC, and other BCPS Advisories
 - d. Housekeeping
 - a. Approve September Minutes
 - b. Bylaws – Review and Vote to Approve/Amend
 - c. SAF Meeting Dates: Same as SAC for remainder of year
3. New Business
 - a. Academics
 1. Class Size Update
 2. Changes to Testing and K/1 Computer Feedback
 3. Recess (SBBC Policy 6830 and Fla. Stat. 1003.455)
 - a. Recess everyday, even on P.E. days (master calendar)
 - b. Indoor Recess – location and how to support “unstructured” play
 4. Class Wallet
 - b. School Culture
 1. Beautification
 - c. School Safety and Security
 1. Front Office Renovation Update
 2. Lock Down Procedures – Recess and Cafeteria
 - d. Food and Nutrition
 1. Lunch offerings 1.) should match food calendar and 2.) must be available for each lunch period (7 CFR 210.10(k)(2))
 - e. Transportation + Arrival/Dismissal
 1. E-Bike/Scooter Policy Forthcoming
 2. Dismissal security procedures
 - f. Open Discussion
4. Adjourn

Please email TropicalElementarySAF@gmail.com with any questions

Tropical Elementary School
School Advisory Forum (SAF)
Sept 1, 2026 @ 8:30 AM
1500 SW 66th Ave, Plantation, FL 33317
General Meeting - Minutes

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions
2. Housekeeping
 - a. Ethics Training for SAF Board Members
 - b. Governing documents: BCPS Policy 1.21, SAF Bylaws, & Roberts Rules of Order
 - c. Advisory Structure: SAF, CAAC, DAC, and other BCPS Advisories
 - d. Housekeeping
 - a. Approve May Minutes – Motion by Jill Siegel, Seconded Jessica Bilynski, passed unanimously
 - b. Bylaws – review in Sept, vote in Oct
 - c. SAF meeting date, time, and teams option- feedback + set schedule
 1. Feedback that mornings are better, suggestions to keep SAF with SAC and other suggestions to have a separate morning meeting for SAF.
3. New Business
 - a. Academics
 1. PM 3 FAST and Star Testing Results + School Grade (covered in SAC)
 2. Screen Time and iReady
 - a. Review/summarize District directives and implementation at Tropical
 - i. Late notice to teachers and parents, mostly positive feedback from teachers and parents, with some concern about preparing students to use computers for FAST. Teachers are permitted to "familiarize" students with devices.
 - b. iReady school-wide competitions and classroom incentives vs recognizing student effort and support the "whole child"
 - i. No need for competitions as iReady won't be done outside of school
 3. Testing Reduction
 - a. Teacher autonomy for testing and testing modality
 - b. Tropical's Testing Schedule by Grade Level – follow up with Mr. Schneider for the list
 4. Specials
 - i. Media Center – positive parent feedback
 - ii. PE – Fla Stat. 1003.455 (6) In addition to the requirements in subsection (3), each district school board shall provide at least 100 minutes of supervised, safe, and unstructured free-play recess each week for students in kindergarten through grade 5 so that there are at least 20 consecutive minutes of free-play recess per day. This requirement does not apply to charter schools.
 - iii. Music – extracurricular media release requirement
 1. The media release was adjusted to not require consent to be placed on Youtube.
 - iv. Art
 - b. School Climate
 1. Student survey (facility, field trips, lunch offerings, lunch experience, recess, specials, safety, inclusion)

2. Field Trips

- a. Planning/decisions for '26-27 – Follow up with Mr. Schneider for the list
- b. Possibility of in-school (eg science bus, animal show, Humane Society, etc) or field trip to Seminole/South Plantation theater. Mr. Schneider will inquire with Seminole.

3. Facility beautification – we will revisit once the weather cools down

4. Enrichment + Extracurriculars Offerings – lots of clubs starting soon and a second set starting in January.

5. Tropical Community

- a. Parent Tech Night (in-person, teams, parent support)
- b. Family Events

c. School Safety and Security

1. Front Office Renovation – Mr. Schneider will check on status of buzz door
2. Campus monitors – 2 Full time campus monitors
3. Cameras and DHH PA System – all systems are fully functional

d. Food and Nutrition

1. Lunch charges, alternative meals, school lunch debt, and principals fund
 - a. No child having a tray taken away or going without lunch
2. Lunch offerings available for each lunch period – Mr. Schneider will inquire

e. Transport + Arrival/Dismissal

1. Busses – Routes, Commute Times (DDH), Timeliness – Concern about DHH bus times (pick up and travel time) that requires follow up.
2. Crossing Guards – 2:25 Arrival. Parent agreed to watch over the next month to see if there's a significant concern about children crossing 16th St. without an adult.

f. School Budget: **Fla. Stat. 1001.452(2)-With technical assistance from the Department of Education, each school advisory council shall assist in the preparation of the school's annual budget and plan as required by s. 1008.385(1).**

1. Staffing

a. Class Sizes - Fla. Stat. **1003.03 Maximum class size.**—

(1) **CLASS SIZE MAXIMUMS.**—Each year, on or before the October student membership survey, the following class size maximums shall be satisfied:

- (a) The maximum number of students assigned to each teacher who is teaching core-curricula courses in public school classrooms for prekindergarten through grade 3 may not exceed 18 students.
- (b) The maximum number of students assigned to each teacher who is teaching core-curricula courses in public school classrooms for grades 4 through 8 may not exceed 22 students. The maximum number of students assigned to a core-curricula high school course in which a student in grades 4 through 8 is enrolled shall be governed by the requirements in paragraph (c).

2. Discussion: District will not be provided a surplus teacher and is not allowing Tropical to hire an additional teacher, despite both Kindergarten and 1st grade averaging 25 students. Parents indicated that they would be advocating at the district-level for compliance with the constitutional class size limits.

g. Open Discussion

1. E-Bikes and helmets. Our community experienced a horrific e-bike + car accident. We need to do more as a school district and community to require compliance with e-bike and helmet laws in order to protect our students and families.

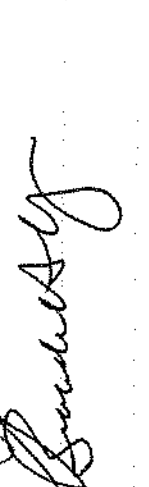
4. Old Business

5. Adjourn

Please email TropicalElementarySAF@gmail.com with any questions

★ SAC Sign in Sheet for Tropical ES (0731)

Date: 9/1/26 Time: _____

#	Full Name	SBBC Employee	Parent of Student	Community/Business	Sign Here
1	Cheryl Hernandez	Yes	No	—	
2	Robert Satterton	Yes	No	—	
3	Nicole Fedenci	No	Yes	—	
4	Kelsey Moldof Mcbram	No	Yes	—	
5	Jackie Amelam	No	Yes	—	
6	Danielle Cohen	No	Yes	—	
7	Maria Villasis	Yes	No	—	
8	Kimberly Washington	No	Yes	—	
9	Deborah L Brn	Yes	No	—	
10	John Peach	No	No	Yes	
11	Jill Siegel	No	Yes	—	
12	Jessica Bynsey	Yes	Yes	—	
13	Brooke Borden	No	Yes	—	
14					
15					
16					

Date: _____		Time: _____			
#	Full Name	SBBC Employee	Parent of Student	Community/Business	Sign Here
17					
18					
19					
20					

