



Floranada Elementary School

5251 NE 14th Way, Fort Lauderdale, Fl. 33334

Luke Balchaitis, Principal Karen Dallas, Assistant Principal

School Advisory Council (SAC)

February 3, 2026 – 5:15 pm

Mtg. Norms: Attend Meetings on time, begin meetings on time, adhere to agenda, maintain a tone of decency, respect the person speaking, keep comments brief and to the point, everyone participates, and no one dominates.

- Call to order, Welcome, and Norms – Mrs. Landley
- Roll Call and Approval and/or Correction of minutes for November – Ms. Gamber
- **Principal – Mr. Balchaitis - Reports**
 1. School Improvement Plan [2025-2026]
 2. SAC Accountability Funds – \$14,013.36
 3. Review Parent Involvement Allocation Funds - \$2,911.00
 4. School Environment Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR)
 5. School Recognition Funds - \$41,018.70
 6. School/District Budget
- Old Business
- Announcements
 1. Next Meeting: March 3, 2026
- Concerns/Questions

Dates to Remember:

- February 10: Birthday Table
- February 13: Super Citizen
- February 21: Floranada Day
- February 27: Spring Book Fair Begins!
- February 27: Terrific Kids Ceremony

5251 NE 14th Way, Fort Lauderdale, Fl. 33334

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Floranada Elementary School

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2026 – 5:15 PM

Media Center

Call to Order, Welcome, and Norms

The meeting was called to order at 5:22 PM by Mrs. Landley.

Meeting norms were reviewed: attend meetings on time, begin meetings on time, adhere to the agenda, keep a tone of decency, respect speakers, keep comments brief, ensure equal participation, and avoid dominating discussions.

Roll Call and Approval of December Minutes

Roll call was conducted by Ms. Gamber. A quorum was confirmed (50% + 1 of required SAC members).

The January meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion to approve: Gina Zimmerman

Second: Nathan Cherson

Minutes approved.

New Business

Principal's Reports – Mr. Balchaitis

1. School Improvement Plan (SIP) 2024–2025

No updates. No changes are being made to goals. No questions were raised.

2. SAC Accountability Funds – \$14,013.36

CAMP has been running smoothly, and previously approved funds are being used as voted. Approximately \$12,000 has been allocated toward teacher salaries and approximately \$500 toward materials. Remaining funds may be used for fifth-grade science camp after spring break. The balance appears unchanged at this time, as payroll expenses have not yet been posted.

3. Parent Involvement Allocation Funds – \$2,911.00

Funds reviewed. No questions were raised.

4. School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR)

No events or updates. No questions were raised.

5. School Recognition Funds – \$41,018.70

Previously approved allocations included \$10,000 for substitutes and \$7,500 for instructional materials. Mr. Balchaitis shared that these funds are likely to be fully depleted due to ongoing needs. Substitute funding is frequently used for field trips, data chats, professional development, and testing accommodations. School Recognition funds are also used when substitute funding is denied elsewhere.

Due to increased class sizes, particularly in second grade, continued substitute support is necessary. Approximately \$23,000 remains in School Recognition funds. Mr. Balchaitis proposed allocating an additional \$10,000 for substitute coverage, noting that testing in May will require increased substitute usage for small-group and one-on-one assessments. Another reevaluation after spring break may occur if needed.

Ms. Lawrence asked whether funds allocated to substitutes must be used during the current school year; it was confirmed that they must be spent within the school year.

Motion to approve \$10,000 for substitutes: Ashley Kirkman

Second: Terri Lawrence

Proposal approved unanimously.

- ❖ Gina Zimmerman: Yes
- ❖ Stephanie Dunhill: Yes
- ❖ Terri Lawrence: Yes
- ❖ Nathan Cherson: Yes
- ❖ Geeta Persaud: Yes
- ❖ Amanda Straka: Yes
- ❖ Luke Balchaitis: Yes
- ❖ Ann Ladley: Yes
- ❖ Kirsten Gamber: Yes
- ❖ Ashley Kirkman: Yes
- ❖ Danielle Bouchard Evans: Yes
- ❖ Candice Foresi: Yes

6. School/District Budget

Mr. Balchaitis shared updates regarding ongoing district budget changes, including a district-wide hiring freeze affecting multiple positions. Several schools have closed, and staffing priorities are focused on internal placements. Some positions are frozen temporarily, while others may be frozen for the remainder of the year.

Teacher vacancies must first be filled internally before district-wide hiring is considered. Floranada has been able to manage most staffing changes without significant disruption.

The school's IMT, Marcia, has retired. While a posting is currently active, hiring approval remains uncertain. A district support staff member is assisting on campus 1–2 days per week. Teachers are asked to report issues to Ms. Tobin, who coordinates with district support.

An internal staff member has expressed interest in the IMT position and will begin shadowing responsibilities after school.

Olivia, who replaced Billie, resigned at the end of the week but completed all FTE reporting prior to departure. This position is eligible for hiring, and an internal candidate may fill the role.

Mrs. Anderson (Grade 5), who has been on maternity leave since November, will not be returning. Ms. Reina has been approved to remain as the classroom teacher for the remainder of the year. Additional support is being provided by Ms. Doyle, Ms. Smith, and Ms. Foresi.

Ms. Tietjen (Grade 3) resigned at the end of January due to relocation. Mrs. Walden moved from second grade to third grade to fill the vacancy. Second-grade classes were redistributed, with support from specials teachers and a paraprofessional.

Mrs. Dallas was reassigned temporarily to Coral Park Elementary following an assistant principal retirement. Ms. Foresi is serving as Acting Assistant Principal. Mrs. Dallas will return periodically as needed to ensure administrative coverage.

Mr. Cherson asked whether principals or assistant principals may be required to teach due to staffing shortages. Mr. Balchaitis noted this is occurring at some schools with smaller leadership teams.

Mrs. Kirkman expressed concern about communication regarding staffing changes, noting emotional responses from students. Mr. Balchaitis explained that contractual and approval processes must be completed before communication can occur.

Mrs. Dunhill shared that her child had misconceptions about classroom changes, believing third grade students were returning to second grade.

7. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

8. Announcements

Next SAC Meeting: March 3, 2026

9. Concerns/Questions

No additional questions were presented.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Gina Zimmerman




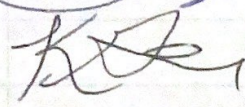
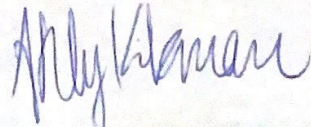
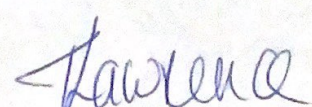
Second: Amanda Straka

Meeting adjourned at 6:09 PM.

☆ SAC Sign in Sheet for Floranada ES (0851)

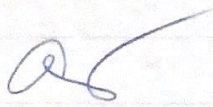
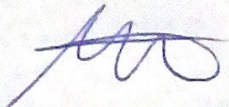
Date: 2/3/26

Time: 5:15

#	SAC Member Full Name	Position	SBBC Employee	Parent of Student	Sign Here
1	Balchaitis, Luke	Principal	Yes	No	
2	Barry, Sandy	Community / Business Representatives	No	No	
3	Bouchard Evans, Danielle	Parent	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
4	Cabarcas-Osman, Sarah	Parent	No	Yes	
5	Cherson, Nathan	Community School Representative (if applicable)	No	No	
6	Dunhill, Stephanie	Gifted Parent of a student at the school	No	Yes	
7	Feluren, Oshrat	SAC Secretary	Yes	Yes	
8	Foresi, Candice	BTU Steward (or designee)	Yes	No	
9	Gamber, Kirsten	SAC Co-Chair	Yes	No	
10	Kirkman, Ashley	SAF Chair (or designee) Parent of a student at the school	No	Yes	
11	Landley, Ann	SAC Co-Chair	Yes	No	
12	Lawrence, Terri	I-Zone Representative (must be a parent)	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
13	Nocera, Lourdes	Teacher	Yes	No	

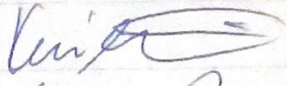
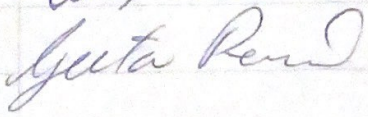
Date: _____

Time: _____

#	SAC Member Full Name	Position	SBBC Employee	Parent of Student	Sign Here
14	Persaud, Geeta	Non-Instructional Support Employees	Yes	No	
15	Persaud, Tony	Non-Instructional Support Employees	Yes	No	
16	Ryan, Lauren	BTU Steward (or designee), Teacher	Yes	Yes	
17	Siegel, Taylor	Pre-K (if applicable - parent or certified teacher)	No	Yes	
18	Smith, Natalie	Teacher	Yes	No	
19	Straka, Amanda	Parent	No	Yes	
20	Teague Maderos, Natasha	Parent	No	Yes	
21	Yset, Ana	Parent	No	Yes	
22	Zhukvskaya, Irina	ESOL Parent of a student at the school	No	Yes	
23	Zimmerman, Gina	ESE Parent of a student at the school	No	Yes	

☆ SAC Sign in Sheet for Floranada ES (0851)

Date: 2/3/26 Time: 5:15

#	Full Name	SBBC Employee	Parent of Student	Community/Business	Sign Here
1	Helli Malkhajan	no	yes		
2	Geeta Puro	Yes			
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