



Floranada Elementary School

5251 NE 14th Way, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334

Luke Balchaitis, Principal Karen Dallas, Assistant Principal

School Advisory Council (SAC)

January 6, 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
- New Business
 1. Florida School Recognition Program (A+ Funds) Award
 - A. Reconfirming the Development/Approval of the Ballot
 2. Mid-Year Data Review based on the School Improvement Plan goals
- **Principal – Mr. Balchaitis - Reports**
 3. School Improvement Plan [2025-2026]
 4. SAC Accountability Funds – \$14,013.36
 5. Review Parent Involvement Allocation Funds - \$2,911.00
 6. School Environment Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR)
 7. School Recognition Funds - \$41,018.70
- Old Business
- Announcements
 8. Next Meeting: February 3, 2026
- Concerns/Questions

Dates to Remember:

- January 9: Picnic and Flick
- January 13: Birthday Table
- January 16: Super Citizen Ceremony [Respect]
- January 22: Honor Roll Assembly
- January 23: 5th Grade Field Trip [Disney]

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Floranada Elementary School

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes

January 6, 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 December meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion to approve: Nathan Cherson

Second: Gina Zimmerman

Minutes approved.

New Business

1. Florida School Recognition Program (A+ Funds) Award

A. Development and Approval of Written Ballot

Ms. Landley presented the written ballot, required by Florida Statute 1008.36, consisting of the following options:

- Proposal 1: *100% of funds are for a one-time bonus to be divided equally among all 2024–2025 faculty and staff that worked at least 100 days (excluding Personal/Sick days) including our school psychologist and social worker who will each receive 50% of the equally divided amount.*
- Proposal 2: *None of the above.*

Additional discussion included: Committee reviewed the statutory requirement that ballots **must** include “None of the Above.” Members discussed that this year’s A+ funds were lower statewide due to a significant increase in the number of A-rated schools. Clarification was given that staff employed less than 100 days do not qualify for distribution. SAC discussed whether staff not full-time need a reduced percentage and confirmed the ballot wording reflects that proportional distribution. Mr. Cherson raised a question about whether schools with larger or smaller staff “dilute the pot,” and the principal confirmed allocations statewide are formula-based.

Motion to approve the A+ Funds ballot: Sandy Barry

Second: Danielle Bouchard-Evans

Ballot approved unanimously.

- Luke Balchaitis: Yes
- Sandy Barry: Yes
- Danielle Bouchard-Evans: Yes
- Nathan Cherson: Yes
- Oshrat Feluren: Yes
- Candice Foresi: Yes
- Kirsten Gamber: Yes
- Ashley Kirkman: Yes
- Ann Landley: Yes
- Geeta Persaud: Yes
- Amanda Straka: Yes
- Ana Yset: Yes
- Gina Zimmerman: Yes

SAC confirmed the ballot will be distributed to faculty and staff for the official staff vote, meeting all A+ Funds Checklist requirements.

Principal's Reports – Mr. Balchaitis

1. Mid-Year Data Review

Student assessment scores were sent home and are also available in FOCUS. Mr. Balchaitis shared that while each cohort differs year to year, reviewing multi-year trends provides valuable insight.

Key highlights included:

- Kindergarten math proficiency increased from 28% (three years ago) to 37% (last year) and now 72%.
- Similar growth trends were observed in kindergarten reading, attributed to strong VPK programs and parent support.
- Fourth grade math and reading were among the top in Broward County by PM3 last year and remain in the top five for PM2 this year.
- Third grade math showed a decrease in PM2 proficiency compared to last year, currently at 42% proficient.

Overall trends indicate strong growth across grade levels. Notably, the number of students scoring in the yellow range has surpassed those in the red range, indicating more students are approaching proficiency.

Mr. Balchaitis emphasized the mid-year instructional shift toward PM3 preparation, focusing on building testing stamina and test-taking strategies while maintaining a balance of approximately 90% core instruction and 10% test preparation, increasing as assessments approach.

Mr. Cherson asked when intervention camp would begin. Ms. Dallas shared that camp will begin the last week of January and continue through spring break (mid-March). Interest surveys have been sent to teachers, and student invitation letters will be distributed shortly.

2. 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

Mr. Balchaitis reviewed previously approved expenditures for intervention camp and instructional resources, including substitute coverage. Due to district budget constraints, substitutes must be properly coded or sent home. The approved funds will assist with planning coverage, particularly for upcoming teacher data chats.

Ms. Barry asked for clarification on how data chats operate. Mr. Balchaitis explained their purpose and structure.

Mr. Balchaitis also shared that a district-wide hiring freeze remains in effect. Vacancies due to maternity leave, retirement, or resignation must be covered internally (e.g., by instructional coaches). Ms. Zimmerman asked whether paraprofessionals could substitute; Mr. Balchaitis clarified that only certified personnel may do so.

Budget scrutiny also extends to field trips, instructional materials, and professional development.

Mr. Cherson asked about funding for the teacher supply store. Mr. Balchaitis stated he was unsure of the funding source but noted it often relies on fundraising and donations.

Ms. Yset asked about projected enrollment declines for next year. Mr. Balchaitis shared that district projections were previously off by approximately 10,000 students, and current projections remain uncertain.

No update was available regarding whether unused funds will be reclaimed.

3. School Recognition Funds – \$41,018.70

Funds reviewed; no questions were raised.

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

Funds reviewed; no questions were raised.

5. School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR)

No update. No questions were raised.

6. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

7. Announcements

Next SAC Meeting: February 3, 2026

PTA and school event reminders: Picnic and Flick, Birthday Table, Super Citizen Ceremony, Honor Roll Assembly, 5th Grade Field Trip

8. Concerns/Questions

No additional questions were presented.







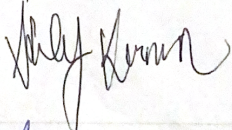

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Nathan Cherson

Second: Sandy Barry

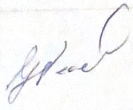
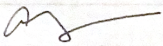
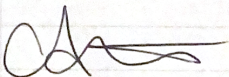
Meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM.

★ SAC Sign in Sheet for Floranada ES (0851)

Date: <u>1/6/26</u>			Time: <u>5:15</u>		
#	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"/>	
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	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	