



## Floranada Elementary School

5251 NE 14<sup>th</sup> Way, Fort Lauderdale, Fl. 33334

Luke Balchaitis, Principal      Corrine Mendez, Assistant Principal

### School Advisory Council (SAC)

May 12, 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 March & April – Ms. Gamber
- **Principal – Mr. Balchaitis - Reports**
  1. School Improvement Plan [2025-2026]
  2. SAC Accountability Funds – \$1,111.97
  3. Parent Involvement Allocation Funds - \$2,911.00
  4. School Environment Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR)
  5. School Recognition Funds - \$41,018.70
  6. Survey
  7. Testing Updates
  8. Projected Budget Presentation
- Old Business
- Announcements
- Concerns/Questions

### Dates to Remember:

- April 27<sup>th</sup>- May 21<sup>st</sup>: PM3 Testing
- May 12<sup>th</sup>: Birthday Table (PTA)
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>: Early Release, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook Breakfast
- May 25<sup>th</sup>: No School
- May 26<sup>th</sup>: Honor Roll Ceremony 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>
- May 27<sup>th</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance
- May 29<sup>th</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup> Moving Up Ceremony, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Beach party
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>: Early Release, Last day of school!

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Floranada Elementary School

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes

May 12, 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 Minutes**

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

The March meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion to approve: Nathan Cherson

Second: Amandra Straka

Minutes approved.

The April meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion to approve: Ashley Kirkman

Second: Sandy Barry

Minutes approved.

### **New Business**

#### **Principal's Reports – Mr. Balchaitis**

##### **1. School Improvement Plan (SIP) 2025–2026**

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

##### **2. SAC Accountability Funds – \$1,111.97**

Mr. Balchaitis explained that SAC accountability funds have decreased due to substitute teacher coverage needed during testing administration. Because many students require accommodations such as small-group testing and read-aloud support, additional staffing support has been necessary. Substitute teachers have also been used to cover lunch duty and support testing operations.

Ms. Varraso asked about next year's funding situation and whether accountability funds may not be renewed.

Mr. Balchaitis stated that the remaining SAC accountability funds should continue to be used for substitute coverage. He also explained that the school has a general fund used for operational needs such as supplies and that aftercare funds may help support future needs as well. If SAC funds are not used, they may potentially roll over.

Nathan Cherson motioned to approve the use of the remaining SAC accountability funds for substitute coverage, with the understanding that unused funds may be rolled over into the general fund.

Sandy Barry seconded.

Proposal approved unanimously.

- ❖ Sandy Barry: Yes
- ❖ Danielle Bouchard Evans: Yes
- ❖ Nathan Cherson: Yes
- ❖ Stephanie Dunhill: Yes
- ❖ Kirsten Gamber: Yes
- ❖ Ashley Kirkman: Yes
- ❖ Ann Landley: Yes
- ❖ Kelli Malkasian: Yes
- ❖ Geeta Persaud: Yes
- ❖ Tony Persaud: Yes
- ❖ Amanda Straka: Yes

Funds reviewed. No additional 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 events or updates. No questions were raised.

#### **6. School Recognition Funds – \$41,018.70**

Mr. Balchaitis stated that these funds will carry over.

#### **7. Survey Updates**

Mr. Balchaitis reported that the school exceeded district survey participation requirements.

- Parent surveys: Required 114; completed 116
- Student surveys: Required 140; completed 150
- Staff surveys: Required 50; completed 49 at the time of the meeting

He stated that the remaining staff survey would be completed.

## **8. Testing Updates**

Mr. Balchaitis shared testing updates for grades K–5. Reading testing for grades 3–5 had taken place that week, while grades K–2 had completed both reading and math testing. The school had reversed the testing order for K–2 students so they completed math first.

He explained that while official state school grades will not be released until summer, the school's internal calculations are usually close to the final results. Following science testing on the 19th, the school expects to have a clearer estimate of its school grade.

Mr. Balchaitis informed teachers that they may share testing results directly with students and parents rather than waiting for paper reports.

Nathan Cherson asked how current scores compare to last year. Mr. Balchaitis explained that comparisons between classrooms can vary depending on student populations, such as gifted or ASD classrooms. The school's goal is always 80% proficiency.

Ms. Gamber's third grade class was currently at 83% proficiency while waiting for one additional score. Fifth grade was approximately at 77% proficiency, though additional scores were still being processed.

Ms. Malkasian asked whether testing was affected by the previous day's lockdown incident. Mr. Balchaitis stated that a few parents reached out because some students may have been emotionally affected. However, there did not appear to be a significant decline in performance.

Due to the lockdown interruption, the district granted students an additional 45 minutes the following day to complete unfinished testing. Ten students required additional time, and many of those students completed their assessments successfully.

## **9. Projected Budget Presentation**

Mr. Balchaitis presented the projected budget for the upcoming school year. He explained that enrollment projections currently estimate 621 students, although the school anticipates actual enrollment closer to 730–750 students. Enrollment fluctuations throughout the year affect funding allocations.

The projected budget allocation is approximately \$4.3 million, including salaries.

Projected staffing allocations include:

- Five teachers per grade level in grades K–5
- Two PK classrooms
- An additional second-grade teacher
- An additional fourth-grade teacher

Mr. Balchaitis noted that fifth grade may ultimately have only four teachers depending on enrollment and staffing needs.

Specials and special programs, including the ASD cluster and VPK classrooms, are expected to remain the same.

For instructional support, the school plans to retain the ELA instructional coach through support allocation funding. The school is projected to receive funding for only 1.5 support facilitators rather than two full positions, but administration hopes to reallocate funds to maintain both positions.

No major changes are expected in additional support services.

Mr. Balchaitis stated that the school currently has an open technology position following Marcia's retirement. Although there is currently a hiring freeze, the district is expected to address staffing needs eventually.

The school recently hired Ms. Garcia as the IMT two weeks prior to the meeting.

A teacher assistant position will become available due to an employee leave, and administration will determine whether to hire a replacement or reduce the position as needed.

Mr. Balchaitis also confirmed that A+ funds will continue next year, with the process beginning in November.

## **10. Announcements/Updates**

Mr. Balchaitis discussed the school's Centegix safety badge system. Staff members wear the badges on their lanyards, and in the event of an emergency, the button can be pressed until it vibrates.

When activated:

- Badge lights flash red
- Computer screens display a lockdown alert
- A speaker announcement is made
- Administration receives an alert with the staff member's name and location

The system can also be used for medical emergencies and communicates directly with the district.

Mr. Balchaitis reviewed the lockdown incident that occurred the previous day during testing around 12:00 PM. Law enforcement arrived within approximately 4.5 minutes, with more than 20 officers responding.

The alert originated near Room 129. When administration reached the room with law enforcement, the teacher stated she had not activated the badge. It was later determined that another employee's badge had accidentally been pressed while inside a bag near a water bottle in a vehicle parked outside near Room 129.

Mr. Balchaitis stated that the incident demonstrated the effectiveness of the location-tracking system.

The school also identified areas for improvement in communication procedures. The Baer School across the street cleared their lockdown before Flornada officially issued an all-clear, so future communication procedures may need to be strengthened.

Ms. Varraso asked how law enforcement accesses the building. Mr. Balchaitis explained that officers have access through a lockbox located outside the building.

Mr. Cherson asked whether responding officers were from BSO or Fort Lauderdale Police. Mr. Balchaitis confirmed they were from Fort Lauderdale Police.

The school plans to conduct additional drills using the Centegix system so staff and students become more familiar with full lockdown procedures and alarm activation.

## **12. Concerns/Questions**

No additional concerns or questions were raised.

## **13. Adjournment**

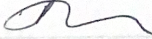
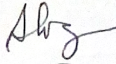




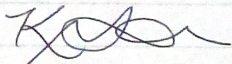

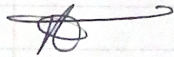
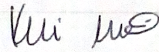
Motion to adjourn: Amandra Straka

Second: Nathan Cherson

Meeting adjourned at 6:09 PM.

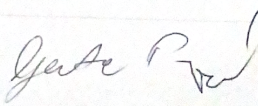
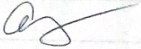
## ☆ SAC Sign in Sheet for Floranada ES (0851)

Date: 5/12/26Time: 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	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	Yes	
13	Malkasian, Kelli	Parent	No	Yes	

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

#	SAC Member Full Name	Position	SBBC Employee	Parent of Student	Sign Here
14	Nocera, Lourdes	Teacher	Yes	No	
15	Persaud, Geeta	Non-Instructional Support Employees	Yes	No	
16	Persaud, Tony	Non-Instructional Support Employees	Yes	No	
17	Ryan, Lauren	BTU Steward (or designee), Teacher	Yes	Yes	
18	Siegel, Taylor	Pre-K (if applicable - parent or certified teacher)	No	Yes	
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: 5/12/26 Time: 5:15

#	Full Name	SBBC Employee	Parent of Student	Community/Business	Sign Here
1	Kelly Ahram		Kenza Ahram		Kelly
2	Sandy Berry				
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