

**Riverside Elementary School**  
**School Advisory Council (SAC)**  
**Monday, September 29, 2025, 2:30 PM**  
**Media Center**

**Agenda**

- **Welcome**
  - Call to order at 2:33pm
  - Purpose: facilitate the development of progress monitoring of SIP, allocate accountability funds, actively participate in the preparation of the school's annual budget.
  - Attendance Policy- Voting members are allowed 3 absences throughout the year. Please let Deirdre Bernhardt or Jeffrey Garfield know if you're going to be absent.
- **SAC Nominating Committee Elections**
  - Deirdre Bernhardt-SAC Chair
  - Jeffrey Garfield-SAC Co-Chair: new to RSE. He was part of SAC at his previous school (Parkside Elementary), currently working on his leadership pathway and is an EBD teacher at RSE.
  - Lucie DiCapua-SAF Chair
  - New Parent Member: Barrett Goldman
    - Collective unanimous vote to all members mentioned above.
- **SAC roles elections**
  - Chair-Deirdre Bernhardt
  - Co-Chair-Jeffrey Garfield
  - Secretary-Kati Bernard
  - Non-Instructional Employee Representative-Meghan Smith and Catalina Ortiz
  - Community Business Representative-Merissa Penaloza
  - ESE Parent-Desiree Ramirez
  - ESOL Parent-Yasmin Perez
  - Gifted Parent-Chitra Thanki
  - I-Zone Representative-Cassandra Allen
  - Pre-K Representative-Cristina Youngman
    - Collective unanimous vote to all members mentioned above.
- **SAC members elections**
  - Collective unanimous vote to accept all members listed.  
Deirdre Bernhardt, Lisa Balint, Vanessa Parker, Lucie Di Capua, Gerri D'Elia, Barrett Goldman, Cassandra Allen, Meghan Smith, Noelle

Hollins, Kati Bernard, Sindy Berrios, Lauren Young, Cheryl Strach, Alison Felipe, Matthew Meyer, Edward Pein, Melissa LaSalle, Melissa Pein, Natalie Walters, Desiree Ramirez, Merissa Penalzoza, Catalina Ortiz, Chitra Thanki, John Bukata, Janice Roldan, Riley Hendrix, Yasmin Perez, Cristina Youngmann, and Jeffrey Garfield.

- **SAC By-Laws voting**
  - Purpose, membership, officers (chair and co-chair), one year term, monthly meetings (we voted in May 2025 for our first meeting in September 2025 rather than August 2025), committees, and utilization of SIP funds.
  - All in favor/ Zero opposed
- **Approval of meeting minutes-May 19, 2025**
  - Motion by: Lucie DiCapua
  - Second by: Desiree Ramriez
- **SIP Funds** – \$22,619.70
  - We are currently awaiting updates. District may be taking any funds that were left in accounts from previous year. We are waiting to hear the results. District has not released budget yet. There is a chance if we win this money back. If so, this money will need to be spent this school year.
- **Accountability Funds**- District cannot take these funds. Fund remains the same \$7456.
- **School Improvement Plan (SIP)**- We will go over all the parts at the next meeting.
- **Principal's Report**
  - Budget Updates- We are over our projection. We currently have 703 students as of this morning. We are enrolling new students, and they are spread across the grade levels. FTE week is coming up in October. Currently 5<sup>th</sup> grade is the largest grade level. There are 5 teachers for each grade level with approximately 105 students. VPK opened this year. Possibly opening another VPK next year. Demolition of portables started today. All 3 portables will be removed by tomorrow. City of Coral Springs is removing trees along fence line in Car Lot 4. There are 3 trees/shrubs to be removed on campus, the sidewalks will be fixed, and car lot 4 will be repaved
  - A School- We maintained our A rating; however, we dropped 39 pts overall. Mrs. Balint was invited to a District meeting to explain why we dropped. Mrs. Balint had 3 minutes to explain the areas and what we put in place to ensure it doesn't repeat and we can continue to keep up the pace. It was Q&A afterwards. Making sure we close that gap for this year. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade was our concern last year; however, they worked hard and closed the gap. This year our new 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are scoring higher than last year's new 3<sup>rd</sup> graders for PM1 in comparison.

- New Staff Members- Ms. Martinelli in VPK with Ms. Smith as the paraprofessional, Ms. Spears in Kindergarten, Ms. Martinez in 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Ms. Khan in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Ms. Rushin in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Garfield, Ms. Lukawski, and Ms. Gussack joined our EBD program. Some new paraprofessionals to support the expanding EBD program and Ms. Perez as the new general clerk in the Office.
- FAST PM1 Results- Our scores came in very strong! We are in pretty good shape and higher than last year. PM 1 is used as a baseline. PM2 scores is where to look for growth. We have students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade who scored a Level 5 in Math for PM1. We have a new program called Accel as an enrichment for these students. They must pass 4 assessments to enter program. They currently have completed 3 out of 4 assessments. 4<sup>th</sup> graders who enter the program will attend small group instruction working with Ms. Delia on 5<sup>th</sup> grade Math skills. 5<sup>th</sup> graders who enter the program will utilize a computer program working on 6<sup>th</sup> grade skills.
- Kid of Character Awards- September's ceremony was held this morning.
- **Assistant Principal's Report**
  - School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) update- Awesome start to the school year. We had a discipline assembly in August. We have 3 assemblies scheduled per year. Next assembly will be in January and last assembly will be in April. Each assembly is tailored to the behavior needs of the students.
  - BTA's- We've had 5 BTA's (Behavior Threat Assessment) from K-2 students. Process to find out what happened and a way to find out if a child needs services. The results were unfounded. Admin requests parents to have conversations with their children on how to express themselves how they feel instead of threatening or using harmful words. Our kids need more guidance on how to express themselves. Admin included this request on the weekly call out last week. Threats are taken very seriously these days.
  - Anti-Bully Policy- Zero tolerance. Placement change new this year. If there is enough evidence in the bully report, the child can be placed at a behavior change school (3-5 grades only) Bully vs. Teasing is a discussion of topic. Bullying Committee will decide if event is bullying, and a placement change is needed. BTA's will now be placed in the student's file and tracked in Focus. It will be a part of the matriculation process so there is a miss in concerning behavior. Parents and students need to be aware of this new policy. Possible internet safety night in the future here at school.
- **PTO Updates**, Janice Roldan

- Memberships are amazing this year! Ms. Spears class has 100% membership. Mrs. Bernard's class has 73% membership. Both will receive a donut party reward.
  - \$3,789 in memberships so far this year
- Sponsorships: almost \$5000 already thanks to Mr. Pein
- Trunk or Treat is 10/24. Need volunteers and trunk hosts
- Fence Mesh along back field- voted to move forward!
- **Open Agenda/New Business**
  - B. Goldman asked, if possible, to send out a link for SAC meetings. Ms. Bernhardt will look into it.
  - A. Felipe asked about free lunches. Mrs. Balint explained every school got \$500 from the District. We have used \$187 already since 9/24/25. Elementary students are able to charge the first time. Parents are expected to repay the amount charged. After the 1<sup>st</sup> charge, lunch fee is taken out of principal funds. We have done so many call outs and notifications about the end of free lunches. If a student charges, parents will get an automatic call and/or email that day. Mrs. Balint is working with our guidance counselor and social worker to help families who are repeatedly charging. Parents must apply for free/reduced lunch. Schools will have to figure out how to address this issue.
- **Upcoming Events**
  - 10/2-NO SCHOOL
  - 10/3 Kid's Heart Challenge begins
  - 10/8 Walk and Roll to School
  - 10/9 Picture Day
  - 10/20 NO SCHOOL
  - 10/24 Friday Shop
    - Trunk or Treat

Adjourn at 3:23pm.

- Next meeting is October 27, 2025, at 2:30 PM in the Media Center