Sunlake High School

SAC Meeting Minutes ~ September 29th, 2026

Location: 3023 Sunlake Blvd., Land 'O Lakes, FL 34638

Attendance:

Administration: Kara Merlin (Principal), Teresa Boudreau (SRP),

Teachers: Lisa Eshkov, Susan Slater, Amy Hinton, Julie Brashear

Parents: Paige Nardi (Chair), Jeannette Anthony (Treasuer) Troy Casten, Rebecca Dorsey

Students: Katyayani Chauhan (Senior- Secretary), Ethan Infanger (Junior), Taylor Van Brocklin (Sophomore)

Community: Matthew Murphy (Vice Chair), Rocky Contreras, Kaitlyn Campbell, Cheryl Moon

District: Andrea Smoley, Karla Marone, Marcy Hetzler-Nettles (Assistant Superintendent High Schools)

SAC Committee members absent: Emery Doughlas (Freshman)

General attendance (Non-voting attendees): Marcey Hetzler-Nettles

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 AM.

Welcome and Introductions:

No introductions done.

Approval of August Minutes:

Jeannette Anthony requested to discuss the Sunshine Law and follow up regarding counselor funds and their official approval. It was decided that the discussion would be moved to the General Q&A and Discussion portion of the meeting. Lisa Eshkov made a motion to move the discussion, which was seconded by Troy Casten. The motion was approved with all members in favor.

Treasurer's Report/Lottery Funds Undate:

Jeannette Anthony reported that the current balance is $14,723.79. A total of $4,011.93 was paid to the counselors. She also noted an additional $683 that she is currently unsure where to allocate and will ask the bookkeeper upon their return.

Lisa Eshkov made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Troy Casten seconded

the motion. The motion passed with all members in favor.

District Presentation- Referendum:

Assistant Superintendent for High Schools, Marcy Hetzler-Nettles, presented a slideshow titled "Continuing the Referendum." The presentation provided information regarding the referendum, including its relationship to employee pay and comparisons with other school districts. She also explained how referendums work and provided background information to help inform attendees about the upcoming referendum vote, which will appear on the ballot on November 3.

School Improvement Plan (SIP) review:

Then Kara Merlin presented the school's SIP review. The SIP goals include increasing student proficiency in Math, ELA, and Social Studies to above 80%. The school also aims for CT teams, these teams consist of teachers that teach in similar subjects, to complete a task analysis once per week, with administrators participating in these sessions. Monitoring of classroom learning goals posted on the board has also been conducted. A new goal for this year is to incorporate reading strategies across the curriculum. Reading strategies have already been implemented in Science, with plans to expand them to Math and Social Studies. Another goal is to increase the College and Career Acceleration rate to 82%, as measured by AP exam pass rates and AICE exam results. The school experienced a seven-point decrease in this area and does not anticipate reaching the 82% goal this year; the target is expected to be reached by 2028. Since a student can only earn the acceleration point once, additional courses have been added to provide students with more opportunities to earn acceleration points. The SIP also includes a goal of increasing learning gains in English and Math to 65% overall, with particular emphasis on students in the lowest 35% of the school. Progress will be measured using FAST and BEST assessments. Merlin noted that the target for becoming an A-rated school has increased from 65% to 70%. Jeannette questioned why the early morning data was blank. Merlin explained that the blank data was intentional and stated that the topic could be added to the October agenda for further discussion. A question was raised regarding whether classroom walkthroughs are productive and provide meaningful information. It was also asked whether assessments could be administered for the purpose of determining students' current levels without having the results placed on their permanent records. Merlin explained that classroom walkthroughs are valuable because they provide a snapshot of classroom instruction and allow administrators to ensure that the rigor and tasks assigned are aligned with classroom data and homework and provided an example in which walkthrough data helped identify differences in the level of difficulty between homework and classroom assignments, allowing for adjustments to be made. Merlin noted that there has been a significant increase in classroom walkthroughs, that teachers have responded positively to them, and that walkthroughs are also used to track trends in classroom data. A question was raised regarding whether boot camps have a measurable impact on student performance. Merlin stated that boot camps are not

currently included or measured as part of the SIP.

Bylaws Review:

There was discussion regarding confusion surrounding term lengths and the need to clarify and formalize the terms. Nardi will work on the matter outside of the meeting and bring the proposed language back for review. The term lengths will be clearly documented by position to eliminate further confusion. A small subcommittee will work on the matter, with a time limit to be back with the new language by October's meeting. The subcommittee will consist of Matthew Murphy, Kara Merlin, and Paige Nardi.

Student President Report:

Katayani % '27: Katyayani reported that her class is mainly working on Homecoming activities. They are planning different activities throughout the week, practicing for the skit and Powderpuff, and working on skit painting. And reported that homecoming nominations were just completed and voting starts this Wednesday.

Ethan % '28: Ethan reported that his class is working on both Prom and Homecoming. They are in the process of finalizing their Prom venue and are also doing their homecoming activity practices and preparation.

Taylor % '29: Taylor reported that preparations for Homecoming Week are happening, just had homecoming nominations, and are working on skit painting and have practices for skit.

Emery % '30: Emery not present.

Principle's report:

Ms. Merlin gave the principal's report. Starting with our new Assistant Principal addition to the school, the school has added an advertisement to all the projectors so students can stay informed and up to date. It has been well received by students and teachers. Ms. Merlin goes on to say attendance continues to be an area of concern. Students are now allowed only five excused days for vacations or family-related reasons. August's attendance was 96.6%. There were 33 office discipline reports in August, and the first phone offense has been changed so that it will no longer result in a referral. There were 4,859 unexcused tardies, with many occurring during the first period. Beginning in the second quarter, consequences will become stricter: seven tardies will result in a referral and Saturday School, while eight or more tardies will result in suspension. Parents will receive an automated notification. These tardies are counted per class, not overall, due to the disruption they cause to the entire class.

Ms. Merlin celebrated school sports and individual student achievements. Both swim teams were conference champions. Anshita Sahu was named the Regional Secretary for HOSA Heartland. And in football, Nathan Merriman broke the record with 262 rushing yards in one game. The band also took first place for their appearance. And lastly Coach Photopoulos, the boys' soccer coach, was

inducted into the Tampa Bay Soccer Hall of Fame.

For facilities update, the tennis courts have developed significant cracks due to construction issues. The courts will be torn up and repaired, with the work expected to be completed in time for tennis season. The track has also undergone multiple renovations. It was recently redone but was lined up incorrectly and will be repainted. And lastly Mr. Rice was called out for active duty and is expected to return in February. The school is currently working on finding other teachers to cover Embry-Riddle professor's needs.

General Discussion:

Nardi asked whether information about grants should be sent out. She explained the process, stating that teachers and SAC members can submit grant applications, which are then reviewed and voted on by the committee. An example discussed was funding for lights for bikes and scooters. It was decided that a separate grant committee is no longer needed. Lisa Eshkov will send out the information and application. Teresa made a motion to proceed, Rocky seconded, and all were in favor.

There was also discussion about possibly removing the starting time requirement from the bylaws, due to school times fluctuating often. And finally, Jeanette Anthony requested that the supporting documents for the counselor's summer salary be included when the information is sent out. Ms. Merlin explained how a form had previously been sent to the district, for the counselor's summer salary, and had been paid for, but an official approval had not been sent out. Paige Nardi will work with the subcommittee to make the necessary changes to the bylaws and supporting documents. Lisa Eshkov made a motion. Troy Caston seconded. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 a.m.

The next SAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 27th, 2026.