

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

District Advisory Council

November 20, 2019



Mission Statement: The District Advisory Council, in cooperation with the Lee County School Board, will gather information and seek input from the schools and the community at large to advise the Board and develop recommendations for constant improvement of our educational system.

Call to Order/Minutes

Mr. Scott Hertz, Chairperson, welcomed the DAC Members and called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Lexa Donnelly motioned to approve the meeting minutes from October 16, 2019. Motion was seconded by Vicki Manetta. The motion was carried unanimously.

Public Comment (Non-DAC Members–Agenda Items)

None

Board Update

Mrs. Gwynetta Gittens explained the reasoning of the new Board Chair Liaison and the process of how Board members are updated weekly with everything going on within the District. She mentioned The Mental Health Bill (HB 2849) was submitted. Mrs. Gittens also shared on November 11 and 12, 155 students transferred schools. The highest transferred grades were 9th, 10th and 11th.

48 students transferred in 9th grade, 41 in 10th grade and 30 in 11th grade. Mrs. Gittens thanked Teachers, Staff and Parents for attending and being present.

Board Chair Mary Fischer introduced herself and touched base on Comprehensive Health Education. The State has passed three rules: schools teach mental health, substance abuse prevention and Human trafficking. Comprehensive Health Education will encompass all three of the new rules and any future rules. Funding has been requested. Mrs. Fischer thanked Council members for their time and being involved.

FGCU Innovation School Presentation

Dr. Bethany Quisenberry; Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction, Candace Allevato; Director of Secondary Curriculum and Instruction and Dr. Helen Martin; Assistant Director of Professional Development presented a PowerPoint on the Innovation School. Council members were walked through the presentation and were asked to write down one question:

1. How could the community be an active part of the Innovation School that looks different from a traditional school?

Questions submitted on cards/Answers from Administration

1. Mariner High School would like to know where we are with the new State mandated mental health classes for grades 6-12 students. Also, is the District going to inform parents soon?
District implementation plans for each State Board of Education Rule were submitted to the FDOE by the December 1st deadline. Training of school staff is underway with a semester two implementation scheduled. The District will be informing parents prior to winter break.

2. For the schools that need to be built to accommodate our growing population, will solar be used as energy source? If not, why?

There are two types:

- **Solar power cells**
- **Solar collecting hot water heating cells**

Solar power cells:

- The power collected by these cells is sold back to the energy grid, it powers no devices or lights, but can provide an energy credit to the District. We do not apply solar collector cells on our roofs due to potential storm damages and missile impact issues, as well as long term maintenance issues such as requiring removal prior to roofing replacements. Since most of our school sites have limited acreage, the land needed to support a solar field which would generate substantial energy credits is not feasible.

Solar Hot Water Heating:

- Solar hot water collector cells on our roofs are not used due to potential storm damages and missile impact issues, as well as long term maintenance issues such as requiring removal prior to roofing replacements. Since most of our school sites have limited acreage, the land needed to support a solar field which would generate enough hot water is not feasible.
- If solar hot water heating was to be utilized, the District would still need to install standard hot water heating systems to support hot water needs during times where solar generated hot water cannot be realized (night time and cloudy/rainy days). The upfront costs to provide multi system piping/pumps/automatic transfer valves/controls, and storage tank capacities is not cost effective. There is also a large maintenance component associated in maintain these systems.
- Solar hot water was tried years ago at Mariner High School. Albeit it was first generation systems, however it was not dependable, required excessive maintenance, and ultimately was removed and replaced with standard energy efficient hot water heaters.

Every few years this topic comes up for discussion, usually because a local vendor would like to provide their products to the District claiming substantive savings. However, these collectors have a life span of typically 10 years max.

3. I would like to recommend that the Director of Nutritional Services provide a presentation for DAC. This request will be brought to Executive DAC for discussion.
4. I would like to recommend an exit interview be provided for families that choose to transfer schools within the District. Most students are withdrawn at the school site and often do not visit the Student Enrollment Department. Many students leave the county, state, or country. I will share this request with the Student Enrollment PLC. The request will also be shared with Executive DAC and School Development for their input.

Questions Submitted From Breakout Sessions

None- all questions were answered at time of breakout.

Public Comment (Non-DAC Members – Non- Agenda Items)

None

Good of the Order

Chairperson Scott Hertz thanked Dr. Spiro for the detailed answers provided in DAC minutes and the interaction during breakout sessions.

Cedric Hall informed DAC members the minutes provided can be added to their SAC agenda and used at their meetings.

Adjournment

Scott Hertz called for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn at 8:01p was made by Darina Cammarato and seconded by Lexa Donnelly. The motion was carried unanimously.

Thank you to the following schools for having representation at this DAC meeting:

Elementary Schools: Allen Park Elementary, Bonita Springs Elementary, Colonial Elementary, Edison Park Creative and Expressive Arts, Fort Myers Beach Elementary, Franklin Park Elementary, Gateway Elementary, Gulf Elementary, Hancock Creek Elementary, Heights Elementary, James Stephens International Academy, Lehigh Acres Elementary, Littleton Elementary, Manatee Elementary, Mirror Lakes Elementary, Orange River Elementary, Orangetown Elementary, Patriot Elementary, Pelican Elementary, Pine Island Elementary, Ray V. Pottorf Elementary, Rayma C. Page Elementary, Skyline Elementary, Sunshine Elementary, Tanglewood Elementary, Tortuga Preserve Elementary, Pinewoods Elementary, Trafalgar Elementary, Villas Elementary and Tice Elementary

Middle Schools: Bonita Springs Middle, Challenger Middle, Diplomat Middle, Gulf Middle, Harns Marsh Middle, Leigh Acres Middle, Lexington Middle, North Fort Myers Academy for the Arts, Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle, The Sanibel School, Three Oaks Middle and Veteran's Park Academy for the Arts

High Schools: Bonita Springs High, Cypress Lake High, Dunbar High, East Lee County High, Estero High, Ida S. Baker High, Lehigh Acres Senior High, Mariner High, North Fort Myers High and South Fort Myers High

Principal Liaisons: Dana Berry, Ruthie Lohmeyer and Chris Siebenaler

Special Schools: Buckingham Exceptional Center, Cape Coral Technical, DJJ, Fort Myers Technical College, LAMP, Royal Palm Exceptional Center and Virtual Schools

School Board Liaison: Mrs. Mary Fischer

Staff Liaison: Dr. Jeff Spiro, Chief Academic Officer

Presenters: Candace Allevato, Dr. Bethany Quisenberry and Dr. Helen Martin

Guests: Mrs. Gwynetta Gittens

Schools not represented at this DAC meeting:

Elementary Schools: Bayshore Elementary, Caloosa Elementary, Cape Elementary, Diplomat Elementary, Edgewood Academy, G. Weaver Hipps Elementary, Harns Marsh Elementary, Hector A Cafferata Jr Elementary, River Hall Elementary, San Carlos Park Elementary, Spring Creek Elementary, Three Oaks Elementary, Treeline Elementary and Tropic Isles Elementary

Middle Schools: Caloosa Middle, Cypress Lake Middle, Fort Myers Middle Academy, Mariner Middle, Oak Hammock Middle, The Alva School, Trafalgar Middle and Varsity Lakes Middle

High Schools: Cape Coral High, Fort Myers High, Island Coast High and Riverdale High

Special Schools: Dunbar Community School, Success Academy

The next meeting of the **District Advisory Council** is scheduled for January 15 ,2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room, 2855 Colonial Blvd. Ft. Myers, Florida.

Presentation: Academic Services/District and School Grades

Erica Grimm, Recording Secretary

An audio-visual recording of this meeting has been produced to provide a verbatim record of the proceeding and may be viewed on the School District's Website at www.leeschools.net/district-advisory-committee. Members of the public wishing to obtain a copy of the recording of this or any meeting of the District Advisory Council must make a request through the District's Communication Department at (239) 337-8327.