

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

District Advisory Council

October 16, 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 6:03 p.m. Cedric Hall motioned to approve the meeting minutes from May 15, 2019 and September 11, 2019. Angela Haas motioned for an amendment of September 11, 2019 meeting minutes to correct the spelling of her last name. Cedric Hall seconded motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Daniella Dye expressed concern of vaccinations being administered without parental consent and would like to know the Districts standpoint. Scott Hertz suggested her concern be addressed and answered in the question portion of DAC minutes.

Board Update and Message from Superintendent

Chairperson Scott Hertz welcomed and introduced Superintendent Dr. Greg Adkins.

Dr. Adkins shared his appreciation and thanked DAC members for being present. Dr. Adkins then introduced Board Attorney Chris Saunders who reviewed and explained the Florida Sunshine Law.

Dr. Spiro introduced himself and Executive Directors. Shanna Flecha Executive Director Elementary, Dr. Denise Carlin; Executive Director Elementary, Linda Maere; Executive Director of Middle School and Clayton Simmons; High School and Special Centers. Dr. Spiro informed DAC members each Executive Director will be present at all DAC meetings to assist with any questions that may occur at the time of breakout sessions.

Gwynetta Gittens thanked committee members for their time and dedication to representing their schools. She invited members to participate in Lunch Week and to show appreciation to Cafeteria staff. Mrs. Gittens discussed Building My Future scheduled for October 23, 2019 at the Lee Civic Center. Also shared was the naming of the school MMM and the process of choosing the name. She discussed the article regarding California school times and explained what goes into deciding on changing times and asked members to discuss in breakout groups once more information is provided.

DAC Presentation

Mr. Scott Hertz, Chairperson reviewed the PowerPoint and explained the importance of DAC and how DAC operates.

DAC Elections

Dr. Spiro reviewed the responsibilities of DAC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Dr. Spiro called for nominations for each position. Mr. Scott Hertz was nominated for DAC Chairperson by Cedric Hall, there was no opposition. Cedric Hall was nominated for DAC Vice Chairperson by Casey McConnell, there was no opposition. Each nominee accepted.

Title 1/ Family Engagement Presentation

Jeanne LaFountain; Title 1 Director, Oscar Olguin; Title 1 Assistant Director and Stacia Winfree; Program Administrator shared a presentation explaining what Title 1 is and how it works and why it is an important resource. They also discussed Family Engagement and how Title 1 funds are used to support schools and families.

Student Enrollment Presentation

Soretta Ralph; Executive Director of Student Enrollment, Dr. Jason Kurtz; ESE Coordinator and Pam Bull; Office Manager shared the importance of student enrollment and pre-registration. Currently student enrollment has pre-registered 700 Kindergarten students for the next school year. The first student open enrollment period will begin in January 2020.

Questions submitted on cards/Answers from Administration

How much does logistics cost factor into school choice? It should be a major focus-closest to home primary consideration. **The Plan for Student Enrollment the District currently follows is a choice model. The plan has several preferences that allow students to make choices. The Planning Department is currently in the process of gathering data to develop a plan that is more aligned to proximity. This will begin at the elementary level.** Answer provided by: Soretta Ralph; Executive Director Student Enrollment

Will time be allotted to science in elementary schools (a specific number of minutes devoted to science at the elementary level)? **Students in 4th and 5th grade have 45 minutes of science daily. Students in Grades K-3 have a minimum of 30 minutes of science at least 3 days per week.** Answer provided by: Dr. Denise Carlin; Executive Director

If DAC moves to more of a 2-way forum, how would we disseminate info and solicit feedback when SAC only meets quarterly? Are the discussions considering guidelines for these types of schools? There would be a lag between meetings. **School Advisory Council meetings can meet on a regular basis. Communicate with the School Principal to express a desire to expand the meetings.** Answer provided by: Dr. Jeff Spiro; Chief Academic Officer

If the bus drivers make more than guest teachers and paras, what kind of quality and/or shortages are you anticipating in these areas? \$11, \$12, \$13 to be in the classroom and speak 2 languages? or is \$15 to drive? **Our Guest Teachers are some of the highest paid in the state. Even so, we are always looking to recruit Guest Teachers. Historically when there is low unemployment, it is harder to recruit Guest Teachers.** Answer provided by: Dr. Angela Pruitt; Chief Human Resource Officer

Readdressing the Guardian Program and protecting our kids in school. **The School District has selected the option of using School Resource Officers and has not adopted policies, procedures, or actions, which limit schools' access to any safe-school officer option, including but not limited to the Guardian Program. In addition, charter schools are not mandated or required to have SROs and are authorized to select from options allowed for under the law. At this time, however, all charters within our county have decided to continue with the School Resource Officers option. An analysis of other Districts (e.g. Polk County) has concluded that the current costs of SROs versus Guardians is negligible.** Answer provided by: Brian Williams

What kind of push are we doing to get kids into pre-k? (esp in the Title 1 areas) **The District is seeking opportunities to expand PreK especially in Title I areas. We currently have a committee, comprised of District staff, that is working to identify possible space and funding. A short and long-range plan is being**

developed. Answer provided by: Jeanne LaFountain; Director of Title 1

How to handle Behavioral Intervention (BI) unit-Teachers/admin/SRO's don't know "rules" as far as discipline, timeline of program, how to set goals, how to mainstream. Are BI students included in FSA surveys? Should there be a 3 strikes approach or perhaps a K-5 school that specializes in behavioral intervention? Need guidelines and support on how to handle tough situations. **Support is provided individually to each school based on their needs. If a teacher or school-based administrator has questions about specific supports that have been provided, the appropriate contact would be the ESE zone coordinator. Inclusion, individual goals, length of time students are supported by the program, etc. are part of a student's IEP and these decisions are made by the IEP team. Class wide academic goals follow the same academic plan as other classrooms across the district and students are included in FSA surveys. We currently have a school that specializes in behavioral intervention (Royal Palm) and placement at this site is an IEP team decision. If a student has chronic behavior, federal law requires a manifestation determination at 10 days of suspension. If the behavior is determined to be part of the student's disability, they return to school to access a free and appropriate education (FAPE). It would be appropriate for the IEP team to review the current IEP and behavior plan to see what adjustments can be made to support student success. Each BI site has a full-time behavior specialist to assist and provide guidance to staff in handling tough challenging situations. Additionally, there are many professional development opportunities for working with students with challenging behaviors. These opportunities are shared by email weekly through professional development. Information is also shared at ESE department head meetings and ESE zone principal meetings.** Answer provided by: Jessica Duncan
Executive Director of Student Services

Due to new state mandate teachers now need to add Reading Endorsement to Fl. cert by summer 2021. Teachers w/yrs. of experience effective and highly effective evals are needing to do this. It is an insult and not needed. How is the district standing up to the state regarding this? How will the district deal with large numbers teachers leaving over this issue? **The state of Florida recently passed two pieces of legislation that require certain elementary school teachers to earn an endorsement or certification in reading by July 1, 2020 (applicable statutes: s. 1011.62(9)(c)7. (d)1 F.S. and s. 1008.25(7)(b)3 F.S.). This new legislation applies to elementary teachers who provide reading instruction to third grade retainees or K-6 students requiring tier III reading interventions. Teachers are identified by teaching an intensive reading course code at the elementary level. If teachers do not hold a reading endorsement or certification by July 1, 2020, then teachers will be allowed to follow an out-of-field plan. An out of field plan allows teachers to work towards the completion of the certification requirement by completing two endorsement courses each year. The district currently offers all five reading endorsement competencies (each course is 60 hours each) through an online platform at no charge to our teachers. In addition to the online coursework options, the district is offering a job-embedded offering of reading endorsement competency three to over 1400 elementary school teachers this year. The job-embedded offering of competency three couples' school-based professional learning communities with data-based reflection questions in an online platform. The course is completed through 30 hours of school-based ELA PLCS and 30 hours of monthly reflections submitted in Blackboard from September to May. Teacher participation in the job-embedded offering was optional. In addition to the reading endorsement course offerings, the district supports teachers who seek to earn reading certification. Reading certification is earned through a master's degree in reading and taking and passing a subject areas exam in reading. The district offers partial tuition reimbursement to teachers seeking a master's degree in reading and subject area exam reimbursement for teachers who take and pass the subject area exam. Finally, the district has initiated an MOU with the TALC to expand the secondary reading endorsement incentive to**

elementary school teachers who earn their reading endorsement or reading certification and teach the applicable intensive reading course code within the same school-year. Lee County is committed to developing and retaining high quality teachers and will continue to explore legislative support for teachers. A successful past example includes the district's legislative priority that sought to extend the length of time temporary certificate holders had to take and pass the general knowledge test from one year to three years. Lee hopes to propose future legislative priorities that would support highly effective, experienced elementary teachers in meeting this requirement. Answer provided by: Lynn Herrell; Executive Director, Professional Development

We would like to receive a copy of the meetings minutes within a few days of the DAC meeting, so we use that information in our next SAC meeting. We schedule our SAC meetings so the DAC info can be shared with our SAC members. Due to the questions submitted from breakout sessions, the minutes are not able to be transcribed quickly. However, should you need information for an upcoming SAC meeting, all DAC meetings are recorded live and uploaded on to youtube.com for viewing. Answer provided by: Erica Grimm; Executive Secretary to the Chief Academic Officer

What communication, process, involvement, events, etc. can we do to better transition families to the Lee County School District? With transfer and transition rate high and continuing to rise, how can we educate and ready the parents and kids properly? Are there transition programs now to help these parents and families? The transition for new families often begins in the School Enrollment Office. There is a "packet" developed by our ESE department that includes viable information on services in our community for students with disabilities. We also provide the ABC flyer to families new to the district, hoping that they become aware of our common language and the importance of being in school. The district also offers ESOL parent Institutes throughout the zones. During this year's sessions we discussed the ABCs, literacy, attendance, accessing FOCUS portal. Furthermore, events for new families to the district is a school-based decision. All our schools participate in opportunities to communicate processes. These include but are not limited to open houses, family events, Freshman Academy and summer orientation, Foundation events in the community. There are various non-profit organizations that also support schools with these efforts. We hope that this helps explain some of the resources available to new families but are not sure as the question was a bit open ended in regard to "educating and readying" our students properly. Answer provided by: Tammy Scott; Coordinator MTSS and Shellie Taylor; Coordinator

Can the Parents Right to know letters not be negative? We are taking a look at these letters. There are certain requirements that must be included in the letters. We will revise, where possible. Answer provided by: Jeanne LaFountain; Director of Title 1

Neighboring School Districts are administering vaccinations without parental consent. What is the Districts standpoint? We, as a school district, do not administer vaccinations at all. We also do not allow any health organization to administer vaccinations on our campuses without authorization and parental consent. Answer provided by: Chuck Bradley; Director of Positive Prevention

Questions Submitted From Breakout Sessions

None- all questions were answered at time of breakout.

Public Comment (Non-DAC Members – Agenda Items)

None

Good of the Order

Chairperson Scott Hertz informed members they can suggest upcoming topics and to email Ericagr@leeschools.net or input suggestions in the binder or on the cards.

Adjournment

Scott Hertz called for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Dante Ciolfi at 7:58 p.m and was seconded by Cedric Hall. The motion was carried unanimously.

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

Elementary Schools: Allen Park Elementary, Bayshore Elementary, Bonita Springs Elementary, Colonial Elementary, Edgewood Academy School, Fort Myers Beach Elementary, Franklin Park Elementary, Gateway Elementary, Hancock Creek Elementary, Harns Marsh Elementary, Heights Elementary, James Stephens International Academy, J. Colin English Elementary, Lehigh Acres Elementary, Littleton Elementary, Manatee Elementary, Mirror Lakes Elementary, Orange River Elementary, Oranewood Elementary, Pelican Elementary, Pine Island Elementary, Ray V. Pottorf Elementary, Rayma C. Page Elementary, San Carlos Elementary, Spring Creek Elementary, Sunshine Elementary, Tanglewood Elementary, Three Oaks Elementary, Pinewoods Elementary, Trafalgar Elementary, Villas Elementary, Tice Elementary

Middle Schools: Bonita Springs Middle, Caloosa Middle, Challenger Middle, Gulf Middle, Harns Marsh Middle, Leigh Acres Middle, Lexington Middle, Oak Hammock Middle, Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle, Three Oaks Middle, Trafalgar Middle, Veteran's Park Academy for the Arts

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

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

School Board Liaison: Mrs. Gwynetta Gittens

Staff Liaison: Dr. Jeff Spiro, Chief Academic Officer

Presenters: Oscar Olguin, Jeanne LaFountain, Stacia Winfree, Pam Bull, Soretta Ralph, Dr. Jason Kurtz and Chris Saunders

Guests: Danielle Cwikla

Schools not represented at this DAC meeting:

Elementary Schools: Caloosa Elementary, Cape Elementary, Diplomat Elementary, Edison Park Creative and Expressive Arts, G. Weaver Hipps Elementary, Gulf Elementary, Hector A Cafferata Jr Elementary,

Patriot Elementary, River Hall Elementary, Skyline Elementary, Tortuga Preserve Elementary, Treeline Elementary, Tropic Isles Elementary

Middle Schools: Cypress Lake Middle, Diplomat Middle, Fort Myers Middle, Mariner Middle, North Fort Myers Academy for the Arts, The Alva School, The Sanibel School, Varsity Lakes Middle,

High Schools: Riverdale High

Special Schools: DJJ, Dunbar Community School, Success Academy, Virtual Schools

The next meeting of the **District Advisory Council** is scheduled for November 20 ,2019 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.