

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

District Advisory Council

November 16, 2016



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 in an effort to advise the Board and develop recommendations for constant improvement of our educational system.

Call to Order/Minutes

Mrs. Cyndee Crosby, Chairperson, welcomed the audience and called the District Advisory Council meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Kelly Lavis made the motion to accept October 19, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Bernice Ortega. All in favor, the motion carried.

Public Comment (Non-DAC Members – Agenda Items)

None

Board Member Update

Chairperson Crosby introduced Mrs. Pamela LaRiviere as the new District Advisory Council Board Liaison.

Mrs. LaRiviere is looking forward to working with the District Advisory Council and plans to visit SAC meetings throughout the district. She is very encouraged by the leadership team and its focus on our students.

Chief Academic Officer Update

Mrs. Soretta Ralph shared topics for future District Advisory Council presentations:

- January – Financial Update (Capital Funding)
- February - Curriculum (with additional presentations in each of the breakout sessions)
- March – Technology with new Chief Technology Officer, Trey Davis
- April – Lee County Standards of Excellence
- May - Year End Review with Dr. Gregory K. Adkins, Superintendent

Mrs. Ralph announced the upcoming Education Forum scheduled for February 8, 2017. The Forum will not be part of a DAC meeting and will be held at the Cypress Lake High School Auditorium from 6:00 PM until 8:15 PM. Mrs. Ralph provided an update on Vision 2020, Data Chats, and DA Schools.

Presentation

Mr. William Law, Chief of Operations provided a brief introduction of the evening's topic, and introduced Mr. Robert L. Codie, Director of Transportation. Mr. Codie shared a PowerPoint presentation detailing the Transportation Department. Highlights included transportation facts, bus operator training, safety statistics, routing details, staffing, budget, and policy information. A brief question and answer period followed the presentation.

Breakout Group Discussions/Visitation

Chair Crosby dismissed the DAC audience for breakout sessions at 7:06 pm and asked breakout groups to discuss ideas to increase their SAC attendance. Reports

from breakout groups were shared with the audience upon return to the Board Room and are on file.

Suggestions made by breakout groups include:

- Use Parent Link to communicate upcoming SAC & DAC meetings
- Educate Parents about SAC meeting function and meaning
- Personal phone call to parents from teachers/administration
- Email sent to parents
- Offer food at SAC meetings
- Involve Students-raffle/homework pass for students when parent(s) attend
- Marketing campaign on District sites to educate parents about SAC
- Share topics and meeting dates with parents two months in advance

Advisory Committee Meeting – November 16, 2016
Questions Submitted at Breakout Session/Answers from Administration

Q: Are we limited to a one sentence question to submit to DAC? If so, why not just have an online blog instead? **A:** No, all questions are accepted. *(Soretta Ralph, Chief Academic Officer)*

Q: Can we change the way DAC requests information where the DAC would define a problem it is facing, offer information on how the process (achievements and obstacles) and then requests the various SACs to offer ideas and possible solutions? **A:** Please review Attachment. *(Soretta Ralph, Chief Academic Officer)*

Q: How can it ever be possible to be a first rate school district when the school start time is working against teenage biology and kids are getting on buses as early as 5:30 in the morning? **A:** The School bell times are set by the School Board. As long as transportation is based on a three tier system, pick up times will be very difficult to arrange. *(Leila M. Muvidi, Director of Student Assignment)* **A:** Early pick-up times are established based on the students school of choice (preference), and their home address (distance to school). Buses drop-off 25 minutes prior to bell time to support the District's breakfast program. *(Robert L. Codie, Director of Transportation)*

Q: In an effort to save the district money in miles and gas and provide more rest for our sleep-deprived students, what are the obstacles in transporting high school students more like a FedEx or UPS model when either (a) students walk to their nearest school or (b) a neighborhood bus delivers them to the nearest school followed by another "destination bus" to transport students to their assigned high school? **A:** District accountability, liability, and supervision would be concerns. The District would have to hire additional staff/security to monitor students between shuttle buses. Student management would also be a concern. *(Robert L. Codie, Director of Transportation)*

Q: What are the obstacles that the district faced when the high school start time was later in the morning? **A:** The obstacles facing later start times for high school would be: ability of high school student to obtain/hold jobs after school; extra-curricular activities & sports would be negatively impacted; afterschool time for homework and family; many high school students are responsible for younger siblings after school.

(Leila M. Muvdi, Director of Student Assignment)

Q: Would the district do something totally outside the box and maximize the usage of our high schools by offering options to extend the school day in order to implement flex schedules, use adjunct teachers, offer school in the summer and thereby reduce the need to build new schools? **A:** Any school programming changes would have to be determined by the PLC committee and ultimately in conjunction with the School Board. *(Leila M. Muvdi, Director of Student Assignment)* **A.** The district would definitely consider these options, but the decision that is made must be made not because of money or building utilization. We have to make the decision that is most educationally sound and in the benefit of all kids. *(Dr. Ami Desamours, Chief Financial Officer)*

Q: Can a student take two online classes and skip the first period? If not, why not? **A:** Hybrid scheduling is available based upon student need, parental approval, and school permission. Parents are encouraged to work with their child’s school in these requests. *(Lori Brooks, Assistant Director of School Counseling Services-Student Services)*

Q: How many SAC meetings are required? **A:** There is no requirement. As many as necessary. *(Keith Martin, Board General Council)*

Q: Can attendance in SAC and PTO meetings be counted for virtual attendees (via Facebook Live, etc.)? **A:** Council will contact other legal advisors, but for now, not advisable. *(Keith Martin, Board General Council)*

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

None

Good of the Order

None

Adjournment

Chair Crosby called for a motion to adjourn. Scott Hertz made the motion to adjourn at 7:56 pm and seconded by Cedric Hall. The motion carried.

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

Elementary Schools: Allen Park, Bayshore, Caloosa, Cape, Colonial, Dr. Carrie D. Robinson Littleton, Edgewood, Edison Park, Fort Myers Beach, Gateway, Gulf, Hancock Creek, Harns Marsh, James Stephens, J. Colin English, Lehigh, Manatee, Orange River, Orangewood, Patriot, Pelican, Pine Island, Pinewoods, Rayma C. Page, River Hall, San Carlos Park, Sunshine, Tanglewood, Three Oaks, Tice, Tropic Isles, and Villas

Middle Schools: Bonita, Caloosa, Challenger, Cypress Lake, Diplomat, Fort Myers, Gulf, North Fort Myers Academy for the Arts, Oak Hammock, Paul Laurence Dunbar, The Alva School, Three Oaks, Trafalgar, Varsity Lakes and Veterans Park Academy for the Arts

High Schools: Cape Coral, Cypress, Dunbar, East, Estero, Fort Myers High, Ida S. Baker, Island Coast, Mariner, North, and South

Special Schools: Buckingham, Cape Coral Institute of Technology, DJJ Sites, Fort Myers Technical College, Royal Palm and Success Academy

Principal Representatives: Chris Siebenaler – Elementary, Dr. Michelle Cort-Mora – Middle and Dr. Ruthie Lohmeyer - High

School Board Liaison: Mrs. Pamela LaRiviere

Staff Liaison: Mrs. Soretta Ralph, Chief Academic Officer

Presenter(s): Mr. William Law, Chief Operations Officer and Mr. Robert Codie, Director of Transportation

Guests: None

Schools not represented at this DAC meeting:

Elementary Schools: Bonita Springs, Diplomat, Franklin Park, G. Weaver Hipps, Hector A. Cafferata, Heights, Mirror Lakes, Ray V. Pottorf, Skyline, Spring Creek, Tortuga, Trafalgar, and Treeline,

Middle Schools: Harns Marsh, Lehigh Acres, Lexington, Mariner and The Sanibel School

High Schools: Lehigh Senior High

Special Schools: Dunbar Community, LAMP, and Virtual Schools

The next meeting of the District Advisory Council is scheduled for January 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room, 2855 Colonial Blvd. Ft. Myers, Florida.

Presentation(s): Financial Update (Capital Funding)

Mary Reider, 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.