



DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL (DAC)
2020-2021
Thursday, December 10, 2020
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
via Zoom



	WHAT	WHO	TIME	OUTCOME
1.	Welcome and Introductions	Dr. Michelle Gayle, Assistant Superintendent	10 min.	
2.	Welcome from Superintendent	Rocky Hanna, Superintendent	15 min.	
3.	Welcome from School Board Chair	Georgia "Joy" Bowen	10 min.	
4.	Welcome and SDAC Update from DAC Student Representative	Ariauna Range James S. Rickards High School	2 min.	
5.	Approval of Agenda	Johnitta Wells	2 min.	Vote
6.	Approval of Minutes	Johnitta Wells	2 min.	Vote
7.	Best Practices R. Frank Nims Middle School	Dr. Benny Bolden Principal	15 min.	Information
8.	Best Practices Intervention Services	Dr. Kathleen Rodgers Assistant Superintendent	15 min.	Information
9.	Student Activities/Athletics Update	Scott Hansen Director, Secondary Education	15 min.	Information
10.	2021/2022 and 2022/2023 Calendar Updates	Michelle Gayle	5 min.	Information
11.	2020/21 Presentation Requests	Michelle Gayle	5 min.	
12.	SAC Questions	Johnitta Wells	10 min.	
13.	Wrap Up on Issues	Johnitta Wells	10 min.	
14.	Adjourn			

*Please note that one or more Board members may attend this meeting.
 The next meeting is Thursday, January 7, 2021.



District Advisory Council Minutes
Thursday, November 5, 2020
Virtual Meeting 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

- I. **Schools/Members Attending:** Adult & Community Education: Regina Browning, Edna Walker and Noal Weiland; Apalachee: April Wetherington; Astoria Park: Shapale Cooper and Cara Garrett; Buck Lake: Linda Edson; Canopy Oaks: Kandra Bryant and Kristy Ward; Chaires: Kesha Paul; Chiles: Joe Burgess; Cobb: Janet Tashner; Conley: LaShawnda Swanigan; DeSoto Trail: Demaris Barrios and Michele Keltner; DAC Student Representative: Ariauna Range; Darryl Jones/LCSB: Christic Henry; ESE: Amanda Moore; Fairview: Cheryl Collier-Brown; Gilchrist: Amy Taylor; Godby: Desmond Cole; Heritage Trails: Josette Capuano; LCTA: Paula Pearcey and Scott Mazur; LCVS: Darlene Fowinkle and Jessica Lowe; LESPA: Sheria Griffin; Lively: Shelley Bell; Montford: E. Keith Berry and Lillie S. Thomas; Nims: Demetrius Coley; Pineview: Jennifer Hirst; Raa: Julie Hatfield; Rickards: Kia Epps and Johnitta Wells; Riley: April Knight; Roberts: Jacquelyn Steele; Sabal Palm: Kristine Gregory; Sail: Matthew Kopka; Springwood: Roshan Hamilton and Verne McLeod; Success & Second Chance: Dr. Gene Crump; Sullivan: Emily Toner; Swift Creek: Lauren Pierce and Selika Sampson; Woodville: Davina Young;
- II. **School Board Members/District Administration/District Staff:** LCS Administration: Rocky Hanna; LCS Policy & Planning Management: Marline Feliciano; LCS Marketing: Heather Thomas; LCS Professional & Community Services: Michelle Gayle and Brenda Jackson
- III. **Excused:** Adult & Community Education : Travis Jones; Astoria Park: Beth Ray; Bond: Brenetta Lawrence; Buck Lake: Jennifer Peavy; Chiles/Hawks Rise: Jennifer Portero and Chris Chaback; Desota Trail: Bill Armstrong; Darryl Jones/LCSB: Marcus Nicolas; Georgia "Joy" Bowen / LCSB: Louis Dilbert; Gilchrist: Kristy Newland; Hartsfield: Bomani Mustapha; Leon: Kirsten Olsen-Doolan; Oak Ridge: Dwanna Moore; Rickards: E. Melissa Cooper; Roberts: Angela Tewfik; LCS Rocky Hanna: Tonja Fitzgerald; Ruediger: Raven Anderson; Sabal Palm: Regina Randolph-Hollis; Sealey: Shayla Cole and Nena Parnell; WT Moore: Paula Pearcey

- IV. **Guests:** LCS Administration: Thomas Cox; LCS Health Services: Terri Anderson; Testing: Giselle Sherry-Marsh; Code Enforcement & Compliance: LaRoderick McQueen;
- V. **Welcome and Introductions:** Dr. Michelle Gayle opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dr. Gayle then informed the group that she would call names; each individual would state their school representation and share other information about them.
- VI. **Welcome from Superintendent:** Superintendent Hanna expressed his appreciation for each DAC member's involvement. He said DAC is a powerful voice that assists in keeping the District moving forward.

Superintendent Hanna said at the end of the first nine weeks, parents/guardians were allowed to decide whether they wanted to change the way their child was being instructed by the school. As a result approximately 3,500 students previously in digital school returned to the brick and mortar. He also said the 32,000 laptops had been delivered. The laptops will be distributed to several schools to be used as test pilots before distribution. He stated that the plan is for each student currently enrolled in a Leon County school to have a laptop by Thanksgiving. He said this pandemic has forced the district to dive into the 21st century. Parents/Guardians will have another opportunity at the end of the second nine weeks to send their child/children to the brick and mortar. This should occur sometime in January 2021.

Superintendent Hanna said that a teacher's roundtable discussion has been established with teachers who are union members and those teachers who are non-union members. He said they have been able to voice their concerns, complaints, compliments and suggestions. One of the major complaints has been the lack of interfacing between Canvas and FOCUS. Another concern was the time required for teachers to complete and submit evaluations.

Superintendent Hanna said he was overjoyed that the District was able to give teachers a raise; with the minimum salary increasing from \$37,500 to \$43,000. All teachers will receive the raise. He said the District was able to add \$4M from reserve to the amount provided by the state to ensure the raise. The raise is retro back to the teacher contract year and will be paid out in monthly installments included in the regular monthly check.

Superintendent Hanna said COVID-19 infections are holding steady. There has been no hospitalization since school started. He said most of the students who tested positive with the virus did not get it from someone at school; it was contracted from interaction involving activities outside of school (i.e. birthday parties, social gatherings). Those students who has tested positive or come in contact with someone who that did must quarantine before being allowed back into the classroom.

Superintendent Hanna received the following questions, concerns or compliments from DAC members:

Sheria Griffin asked if there will be a round table discussion established for the District's support staff. Superintendent Hanna replied yes. Matthew Kopka expressed his congratulations on his reelection and asked if the schools could provide information on the student progress to alert parents as to what assignments are missing that may impact the student's grade. Superintendent Hanna said teachers are providing support as much as possible. Janet Tashner asked what percentage of District students did not return to the learning environment either digital or brick and mortar and what is being done to contact those students. Superintendent Hanna said Dr. Rogers and her staff along with the school's social workers are going door-to-door to get answers. He then asked Dr. Gayle if it was possible to invite Dr. Rogers to provide a report at the next meeting.

Superintendent Hanna concluded by saying he's honored to be able to serve with DAC for another four years. He again thanked DAC members for their service.

- VII. **Welcome from Student District Advisory Council Representative:** Ariauna Range said the student DAC has held two meetings. At those two meetings they discussed the importance of mental health and starting an Instagram to communicate with students.
- VIII. **Approval of the Agenda:** A motion was made to approve the agenda by Cheryl Collier-Brown and seconded by Matthew Kopka. Motion passed.
- IX. **Approval of the Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes by Cheryl Collier-Brown and seconded by Kia Epps. Motion passed.
- X. **Academic Services – Educational Delivery Models:** Gisselle Sherry-Marsh, Director of Testing & Accountability presented an overview of classroom models Cohort and Hybrid. The Cohort model provides a

consistent mode of learning while the Hybrid has multiple modes of learning. Most teachers opt to have the Hybrid in classrooms. This allows the flexibility of Math and ELA teachers being able to switch roles with the same group of students. One can teach in the morning and the other in the afternoon to the same group of students. She said Springwood Elementary has been very inventive in using the Hybrid model.

The following questions were asked after the presentation: Matthew Kopka asked if teachers were more familiar with Cohort and is having to adapt to Hybrid. Director Sherry-Marsh replied yes, teachers are more familiar with Cohort. Matthew then asked if the stress levels among teachers seem to be declining. Director Sherry-Marsh said most teachers seem to be working in groups; however some teachers are doing both Cohort and Hybrid individually. It took awhile for teachers to become comfortable however the transition is going smoother now. Linda Edson asked if the teachers had or will have any training on how to adequately utilize the time allotted in the block scheduling. Director Sherry-Marsh said Academic Services provide training for block scheduling. Director Sherry-Marsh concluded by stating that she is available to answer any questions. (The presentation slide is available on the Leon County Schools website.)

- XI. **COVID Protocols & Updates:** Dr. Alan Cox, Assistant Superintendent, Terri Anderson, Coordinator of Health Services and Rod McQueen, Sanitation presented. Dr. Cox said back in March when it was determined that schools would not be able to continue as normal, he formed a task force with representation from the Leon county Health Department, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital and Capital Regional Medical Center to provide guidance and health assistance for our schools. When it became apparent that the schools would need to develop a plan to open schools in the fall, Dr. Cox began to prepare a plan to safely reopen schools. He said the reopen plan is available on the Leon County Schools website. Dr. Cox said he had three main goals for schools reopening: to identify and contact trace any incident of a positive result; to identify and remove any exposed cases and to give advice to both groups (those testing positive or being exposed).

Dr. Cox said that as of today (November 5, 2020) Leon County schools have reported 108 students and 60 staff have tested positive. There have been numerous quarantines however there has been no case as stated by the Superintendent where students attending school has contracted the virus from another student; nor has there been a case where a student has passed the virus to an adult.

Terri Anderson – Protocol: Parents or student notify school administration about a positive test result, (if the student is at school the nurse assigned to the school will notify administration). If the student is at school they are immediately quarantine on campus until they are picked up by a parent/guardian. The Leon County Health Department (LCHD) will conduct an investigative interview to determine exposure to others and contacts those persons and provide advice. The LCHD will let the student and the school administration know when it is safe for them to return to school. (The presentation slide is available on the Leon County Schools website.)

Rod McQueen – Sanitation Protocols: The Leon County schools strike team comes in approximately 4 hours after a case has been identified and sanitizes the area. The schools maintenance crew routinely swipes highly touched areas and this includes buses. The District has purchased a higher quality HVAC system to provide better air quality and an increase in filter replacement. Teachers have the ability to control the temperature within their classroom. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is issued to students and teachers.

The following questions were asked after the presentation: Matthew Kopka said there was a disparity in the number of the cases within the school being reported on social media and wanted to know if there was any reason why this would occur. Dr. Cox said that the Leon County Schools data base is updated every school day at 3 p.m. by Chris Petley. This information is posted to the website and forwarded to the Florida Department of Education (DOE). The information reported only includes students attending brick and mortar and not the digital academy. Politics and other issues could be a contributor to the disparity of the numbers. Johnitta Wells said during activities outside of school such as football where a digital academy student may have tested positive and during the activity is around brick and mortar students. Dr. Cox said the students are placed in quarantine and not allow to participate until they have been cleared. He said temperature checks are periodically performed at each event and practice. In conclusion Dr. Cox said the District is taking precaution to make sure our students and staff is safe.

- XII. **New Member Orientation:** Dr. Gayle asked if everyone had completed the homework assignment which was to read over the orientation packet. She stated that DAC members are responsible for reporting back to their respective SAC and bringing concerns from their SAC to DAC. She stated that DAC meetings are open to the public; anyone can attend. She reminded DAC that when we were meeting at the Howell building anyone was welcome to attend. She said a recording of each DAC meeting is housed on the Leon County Schools (LCS) website under

Board Docs. DAC meeting are scheduled for the first Thursday after the first Monday each month unless otherwise stated. She said Superintendent Hanna made the decision when he was elected to attend the DAC monthly meetings. The DAC chair makes a report to the Leon County School Board at their monthly meeting. You can find DAC information on the LCS website on the DAC page.

- XIII. **Strategic Plan:** Dr. Gayle said the district's strategic plan will sunset June 30, 2021. The plan includes student achievement, safe environment, quality resources and engaged community. The strategic plan will again be on the DAC agenda beginning in January.
- XIV. **Cognia Accreditation – Districtwide (formerly AdvancEd):** The district's accreditation is good until 2024. DAC is part of the accreditation process. The name was changed from AdvancEd to Cognia Accreditation.
- XV. **2021/21 Presentation Requests:** The following requests were presented: Dr. Rogers – intervention services; teachers view on how they are dealing with the virus; gifted students/ESE in this new norm; Best practices will resume in December hopefully Sabal Palm our first and only community partnership school will be available to present; May – the City of Tallahassee growth plan; Digital academy information; ESE updates; Title I and II; Safety Officer John Hunkiar; school policies and the Leon County School Foundation. Several DAC members asked how to get their school on the list to present Best practices. Dr. Demetrius Coley volunteered Nims Middle school. He said he will get with his principal and let Dr. Gayle know which month they will present.
- The Leon County School Foundation is open for a second round of grants with the deadline of November 30.
- XVI. **SAC Questions:** DAC Chairperson Johnitta Wells asked if sports will remain the same for the next nine weeks. Dr. Gayle said she will have Superintendent Hanna and Scott Hansen address this at the next meeting.
- XVII. **Wrap Up on Issues:** Dr. Gayle said the DAC minutes will be available for review approximately two weeks after the DAC meeting. For those DAC members attending their respective SAC meeting during the week after the DAC meeting a recording of each DAC meeting is housed on the Leon

County Schools (LCS) website under Board Docs and members are advised to take notes. She reminded the DAC members that the minutes are not official until they have been approved by DAC.

Adjournment: 7:46 p.m.

Next meeting – December 10, 2020.

LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS



**"Building the Future
Together"**

Date: _____

Time: _____

ATTENTION: _____

We missed you. We stopped by your residence to
check on _____.

Please contact me as soon as possible. If I am not
available, please leave your name and a phone
number where you can be reached.

Respectfully,
LEON COUNTY SCHOOLS COMMUNITY LIAISON

- ☐ AL Washington- 850-487-7883
- ☐ Dexter Martin- 850-487-7102
- ☐ Ewell Carter- 850-487-7118
- ☐ Wilfred Brown- 850-487-7138

Date: _____

Student's Name _____

School's Name _____

NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS, OR OTHER PERSONS WHO HAVE CONTROL OR CHARGE OF A CHILD OR CHILDREN: FLORIDA STATE COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW

(Mandatory Education for Children between Ages Six and Sixteen)

According to F.S. 1003.24, each parent of a child within the compulsory attendance age is responsible for the child's school attendance as required by law. The absence of a student from school is prima facie evidence of a violation of this section. F.S. 1003.26 states that the Legislature finds that poor academic performance is associated with nonattendance and that school districts must take an active role in promoting and enforcing attendance as a means of improving student performance. It is the policy of the state that each district school superintendent be responsible for enforcing school attendance of all students subject to compulsory school attendance age. Parents' failure to comply with Florida Statutes may result in the district superintendent taking the necessary steps to bring criminal prosecution against the parent. The district school superintendent may file a truancy petition, as defined in s. 984.03.