**District Advisory Council Minutes**

**Thursday, February 4, 2021**

**Virtual Meeting 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

1. **Schools/Members Attending:** Adult Community Education: Edna Walker and Noal Weiland; Apalachee: April Wetherington; Astoria Park: Cara Garrett; Bond: Brenetta Lawrence; Buck Lake: Linda Edson; Canopy Oaks: Kandra Bryant-Rogers and Kristy Ward; Chaires: Kesha Paul; Chiles: Chris Chaback; Conley: Lashawnda Swanigan; DeSoto Trail: Damaris Barrios and Michele Keltner; ESE: Amanda Moore; Gilchrist: Kristy Newland; Godby: Desmond Cole; Heritage Trails: Josette Capuano; LCTA: Scott Mazur; LCSB/Bowen: Louis Dilbert; LCS Administration/Hanna: Regina Browning; LCVS: Darlene Fowinkle; Leon: Kirsten Olsen; Montford: E. Keith Berry and LillieThomas; Nims: Dr. Demetrius Coley; Rickards: Johnitta Wells; Riley: April Knight; Roberts: Jacqueline Steele; Sabal Palm: Regina Randolph-Hollis; SAIL: Matthew Kopka; SDAC: Ariauna Range; Sealey: Nena Parnell; Springwood: Roshan Hamilton and Vernestine McLeod; Success Academy/Second Chance: Kelvin Norton; Sullivan: Emily Toner; Swift Creek: Lauren Pierce and Selika Sampson
2. **School Board Members/District Administration/District Staff:** Professional and Community Services: Michelle Gayle and Brenda Jackson; School Choice: Jamie Holleman
3. **Excused:** ACE: Travis Jones; Astoria Park: Beth Ray and Shapale Cooper; Buck Lake: Jennifer Peavy; Chiles: Joe Burgess and Jennifer Portero; Cobb: Janet Tashner; DeSoto Trail: Bill Armstrong; Fairview: Cheryl Collier-Brown; Gilchrist: Amy Taylor; Hartsfield: Bomani Mustapha; LCBS/Jones: Christic Henry and Marcus Nicolas; LCSB/Rasmussen: Ruth Feiock; LCS Administration: Tonja Fitsgerald; LCTA: Paula Pearcey; LCVS: Jessica Lowe; LESPA: Sheria Griffin; Lively Technical College: Shelly Bell; Moore: Melanie Phillips; Oak Ridge: Dwanna Moore; Raa: Julie Hatfield; Rickards: E. Melissa Cooper, Andrew Thomas and Kia Sanders; Roberts: Angela Tewfik; Ruediger: Raven Anderson; Sabal Palm: Kristine Gregory; Sealey: Shayla Cole; Success Academy/Second Chance: Dr. Genae Crump
4. **Guests:** Florida School Board Association: BillieAnne Gay; Rickards: Alicia Ash and Jennifer Weaver
5. **Welcome and Introductions:** DAC Chair Johnitta Wells opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. She then turned it over to Dr. Michelle Gayle who proceeded to call names for each individual to state their school representation and share other information about themselves.
6. **Approval of the Agenda:** A motion was made to approve the agenda by Jacquelyn Steele and seconded by Sampson Selika. Motion passed.
7. **Approval of the Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes by Roshan Hamilton and seconded by Louis Dilbert. Motion passed.
8. **Student District Advisory Council Representative:** The majority of the meeting was spent talking about the mental health week planned by the district on the dates, March 8-12, which is the week before spring break. The district decided to expand the mental health activities from a day to a week due to the feedback from SDAC on the mental health day, December 15. Over the wellness week, there will be 3 lessons dealing with test anxiety, mindfulness, and self-care. These lessons will be sent to family in a newsletter so they can discuss it at home. Additionally, there will be 10 wellness tips given to faculty and staff and they are planning a student art contest to get students more involved. Rickards and Leon are hosting their own individual mental health weeks during the month of February as is SDAC through the instagram SDACCARES. We also discussed some community service opportunities with Student United Way, the calendar decisions, and students spoke about some of the struggles with chromebook so Dr. Gayle is bringing the IT workers from the district to the March meeting to help.
9. **Navigating Advocacy in the New Year:** BillieAnne Gay, Director of Advocacy and Legislative Services for the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) presented an overview of the tools to successfully advocate during the upcoming legislative session.

The FSBA is the collective voice for education in Florida, representing 66 of Florida’s 67 school districts. Their mission is to increase student achievement through the development of effective school board leadership and advocacy for public education. (View the full presentation on the DAC page located on the LCS website).

1. **DAC Ad Hoc Legislative Committee:** DAC Chairperson Johnitta Wells stated a meeting was held the week after the January 7, 2021 DAC meeting. She said Superintendent Hanna met with the group and presented his priorities for the upcoming session along with BilleAnne Gay. Others present were representatives from the Title I Advisory Council and LCTA. Brooke Brunner, Director of Early Childhood Programs will be at the next meeting.
2. BillieAnne met gave in-depth information on advocacy priority. These are the highlights:
3. School voucher expansion – SB 48;
4. Assessment and accountability – the Superintendent prefers that school grades not be a determining factor for school funds nor teacher pay raises;
5. Early education funding and;
6. ESE – SB 192, which will end restraint seclusion.

These items will need the support of the local elected officials. Title I is preparing a letter with the talking points of the top priorities.

1. **2021 School Choice:** Jamie Holleman provided information on how to apply for school choice which ends on March 1. Parents of current Leon county school students should apply through their parent portal. Parents with students not currently enrolled in a Leon county school should apply online; information is available on the Leon County School website[www.leonschools.net/schoolchoice](http://www.leonschools.net/schoolchoice). The number of requests 1,951 are up from last year’s 1,565 during this time period. The schools with the highest request are Leon High and Gilchrist Elementary. Parents/students may also request the four magnet middle schools: Cobb, Fairview, Nims and Raa; or the two magnet high schools Godby and Rickards. Parents/students may apply for three (3) schools. Lottery process will be held to place students at those schools with limited openings. Notifications will be mailed by March 26.

Questions: Do you have data on where the request originates? Ms. Holleman said the data is available however she did not have it with her at the moment. She will provide the data to Dr. Gayle who will make it available to DAC members. Do most requests from parents/students want to leave low income areas? Ms. Holleman said most request are based on convenience.

1. **2021/2022 and 2022/2023 Calendar Updates:** Dr. Gayle presented the results of the calendar survey which was an overwhelming approval of the Option 2. She stated voting was available for one week to all not only parents and students but also the community. Option 1 (18.40%) which allows only two days without school during the Thanksgiving holiday; Option 2 (81.60%) with the entire week without school during the Thanksgiving holiday. There were 4,365 votes cast. A DAC member asked if the numbers this year were similar to the numbers from the prior year. Dr. Gayle said they were. A motion was made by Chris Chaback to present Option 2 Calendar to the Leon County School Board for adoption as the official school calendar for 2021-2022 & 2022-2023 and seconded by Jacquelyn Steele. Motion passed. Chairperson Johnitta Wells will report this decision to the school board on February 9, 2021.
2. **2020/21 Presentation Requests:** Any additional request should be emailed to Dr. Gayle.
3. **SAC Questions:** Question: Where are the students that were assigned to a school however they have not reported, what is being done to locate them and are this only affecting one particular area of town? Dr. Gayle reminded the DAC member that Dr. Rogers gave a presentation during the January meeting. This issue is all over. Dr. Rogers and her staff along with social workers have been making visits to the residents leaving contact information on doors when no response is received and providing hot spots to those who need it.

Question: What criteria were used to determine the amount of tickets each graduating student will receive? Dr. Gayle said the high school principals met last Friday, January 29 to discuss graduation. They came up with this as the most equitable solution. She also stated all graduation ceremonies will be streamed live.

1. **Wrap Up on Issues:** The ESE parent survey is available February 1 thru May 1. DAC Chairperson Johnitta Wells stated this will be her last year serving as DAC chairperson. She admonished members to decide if they or someone they know would be interested in being nominated for the position.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.**

**Next meeting – March 4, 2021**