

District Advisory Council Minutes
Thursday, January 7, 2021
Virtual Meeting 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

- I. **Schools/Members Attending:** Adult and Community Education: Regina Browning, Edna Walker and Noal Weiland; Apalachee: April Wetherington; Astoria Park: Shapale Cooper; Buck Lake: Linda Edson; Canopy Oaks: Kristy Ward and Kandra Bryant-Rogers; Chaires: Kesha Paul; Sail: Matthew Kopka; Chiles: Joe Burgess and Chris Chaback; Cobb: Janet Tashner; DeSoto Trail: Demaris Barrios and Michelle Keltner; ESE: Amanda Moore; Fairview: Cheryl Collier-Brown; Gilchrist: Amy Taylor; Heritage Trail: Josette Capuano; Killearn Lakes: Kristine Gregory; LCS Administration/Rocky Hanna: Regina Randolph-Hollis; LCSB/Georgia “Joy” Bowen: Louis Dilbert; LCSB/Darryl Jones: Marcus Nicolas; LCSV: Darlene Fowinkle; Montford: Keith Berry and Lillie Thomas; W.T. Moore: M. Phillips; Nims: Dr. Demetris Coley; Pineview: Jennifer Hirst; Rickards: E. Melissa Cooper, Johnitta Wells, Andrew Thomas and Shedric Triplett; SDAC: Ariauna Range; Sealey: Nena Parnell; Springwood: Vernestine McLeod; Sullivan: Emily Toner;
- II. **School Board Members/District Administration/District Staff:** LCS Administration: Rocky Hanna; LCS Board: Darryl Jones, Springwood Elementary: Sylvia Myers; LCS Safety & Security: Jimmy Williams and Kevin Monell; LCS Professional Planning: Shane Syfrett and Susan Walden; LCS Professional & Community Services: Michelle Gayle and Brenda Jackson
- III. **Excused:** ACE: Travis Jones; Astoria Park: Cara Garrett, Beth Ray; Bond: Brenetta Lawrence; Buck Lake: Jennifer Peavy; Chiles: Jennifer Portero; Conley: LaShawnda Swanigan; DeSoto Trail: Bill Armstrong; Gilchrist: Kristy Newland; Godby: Desmond Cole; Hartsfield: Bomani Mustapha; LCSB/Darryl Jones: Christic Henry; LCSB/DeeDee Rasmussen: Ruth Feiock; LCTA: Scott Mazur and Paula Pearcey; LCS Virtual: Jessica Lowe; Leon: Kirsten Olsen-Doolan; LESPA: Sheria Griffin; Lively: Shelly Bell; Oak Ridge: Dwanna Moore; Raa: Julie Hartsfield; Rickards: Andrew Thomas, Kia Sanders; Riley: April Knight; Roberts: Angela Tewfik and Jacquelyn Steele; LCS Administration/Rocky Hanny: Tonja Fitzgerald; Rudiger: Raven Anderson; Sealey: Shayla Cole; Springwood: Roshan Hamilton; Success/Second Chance: Genae Crump and Orlando Burch; Swift Creek: Lauren Pierce and Selika Sampson; and Woodville: Davina Young

IV. **Guests:** Rutledge-Ecena: Jessica Janasiewicz, Governmental Consultant and Grace Horowitz.

V. **Welcome and Introductions:** DAC Chair Johnitta Wells opened the meeting at 6:06 p.m. She greeted everyone with “Happy New Year” and stated that we have left 2020 and we’re moving forward to 2021. She then turned it over to Dr. Michelle Gayle who echoed the Happy New Year’s greeting and proceeded to call names for each individual to state their school representation and share other information about themselves.

VI. **Welcome from Superintendent:** Superintendent Hanna greeted everyone with “Happy New Year” and stated we’ve kicked 2020 to the curb and we’re excited for 2021. He welcomed and thanked everyone for helping to guide the “ship”.

Superintendent Hanna gave an update on a meeting held with his administration team and the Department of Health on Monday, 1/4/21. He stated that the protocols regarding COVID didn’t stop during the winter break. He reported that during the 17 days of the winter break 246 students either tested or were exposed to someone that tested positive of this amount 85 were students that attend brick and mortar (BM) school. During the same period 58 employees either tested or were exposed to someone that tested positive. He said when asked for recommendations from the Health Dept. they were informed to continue with the safe start protocol currently being used. Using this protocol only a few Kindergarten classes were closed and this was due to the number of students limiting proper distancing. He said the District will continue to monitor on a daily basis.

The second nine (9) weeks will end on Friday, 1/15/21; high and middle school students will be preparing for exams next week. The District was required by the State Department of Education (DOE) to inform parents of those students struggling in Digital Academy (DA) that they should return to BM; however this is still a decision to be made by the parents/guardians. Superintendent Hanna said schools across the nation have students that are struggling in DA. Parents had the option to decide prior to winter break if they wanted to send their child to BM for the third nine weeks.

Superintendent Hanna said DOE has stated schools would be held harmless through February for enrollment. They will use data from the February 2020 FTE count. Expectation for a second wave of federal money in the range of \$3 billion to be used by Florida schools which will be a great financial boast.

Superintendent Hanna said he expects guidance regarding testing and assessments from DOE within the next few weeks. He said there needs to be some method used to assess how students and schools are performing however he's not in favor of punitive measures being taken i.e. school grades.

Superintendent Hanna said the vaccines are here. He said his parents were happy to get vaccinated. He's lobbying for the teachers, bus drivers, food service workers and custodians to become part of the priority/essential workers for the vaccine.

Superintendent Hanna said the DOE safety assessors visited Fairview Middle school of 1/5/21 and was pleased with what they saw. He encouraged DAC member Cheryl Collier-Brown a former Fairview teacher to stop by and see the improvements that has been made.

Superintendent Hanna received the following questions, concerns or compliments from DAC members:
DAC member Matthew Kopka said during the last DAC meeting reference was made to forming an Ad Hoc committee to review and prioritize items to lobby during the upcoming legislative session; he wanted to know what the superintendent's expectations are for this session. Superintendent Hanna said the student allocation/budget; expanding charter schools; and private school vouchers. He said he's encouraged by the new President elect whose vision leans more toward keeping funds in public schools which doesn't line up with our governor's views. He asked Dr. Gayle to follow-through with the formation of the legislative Ad Hoc committee.

Superintendent Hanna concluded by he will be sharing information regarding Leon County's graduation rate and comments regarding the Auditor general's office.

VII. **Welcome from School Board Member:** School Board Member Darryl Jones thanked everyone for their service. He stated that this is a very impactful group and that as the School Board's legislative liaison he would be pleased to join the meeting of the Ad Hoc committee.

VIII. **Welcome from Student District Advisory Council Representative:** Ariauna Range said the student DAC met on Tuesday, 1/5/21 to debrief the mental health day that was held on 12/16/20. She said the mental health days are held each nine weeks which emphasize mindfulness/mediation. They also discussed how to get teachers trained on mental health. They are using CANVAS to post inspirational quotes daily which launched also on Tuesday, 1/5/21. Early voter registration will be held on 1/20/21 and will be available on-line also.

- IX. **Best Practices – Springwood Elementary School:** Principal Sylvia Myers said the theme for Springwood is “There’s No Place Like Springwood”. The administration and teachers collectively arrived at the following needs in order for the year to be successful: to be heard, shown flexible grace, respect each other and shown appreciation.

Principal Myers said teachers voted on the delivery model to be used by each grade level team. Weekly surveys were conducted during the first 9 weeks to determine what was working, what needed to be improved and what needed to be dropped or revamped. A DA support team was established; virtual orientation was held for both DA and BM parents/students; a transition meeting is held each 9 weeks for parents switching their child from DA to BM; a weekly newsletter is shared with parents; during the first 9 weeks DA parents were able to attend a “Chat and Chew” session each Friday at noon; 124 turkeys were distributed during Thanksgiving; each month a themed appreciation/support is provided for teachers and staff; each month a student and staff member is recognized; the Confetti committee creates a holiday theme in the student council hallway; the goal was to create a positive teaching/learning environment. This has proven to be an awesome way to keep everyone motivated. (View the full presentation on the DAC page located on the LCS website).

- X. **Approval of the Agenda:** A motion was made to approve the agenda by Cheryl Collier-Brown and seconded by Chris Chaback. Motion passed.
- XI. **Approval of the Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes by Cheryl Collier-Brown and seconded by Matthew Kopka. Motion passed.
- XII. **2021 Legislative Updates:** Jessica Janasiewicz presented an overview of the upcoming session. She said committee meeting will start the week of 1/11/21. Topics of Interest: Budget – focus on instructional materials; Policy Responses to COVID-19 – accountability measures; Career and Technical Growth Support; Early Learning/Pre-K; Voucher Expansion; Continued Implementation of B.E.S.T. Standards; Term limits for school board members (would require ratification by voters) and Mental Health – focus of First Lady DeSantis. Session begins 3/2/21 and is scheduled to end on 4/30/21. This is considered a regular session since it is not an election year. (View the full presentation on the DAC page located on the LCS website).

Questions: Can anyone attend the session? Ms. Janasiewicz said only presenters are allowed in the Senate others will be staged at the Civic center; House attendees are on a first come sign up basis others will be directed to an overflow room.

XIII. **Safety & Security Updates:** Jimmy Williams followed up on the DOE safety assessors visit. He said the assessors were extremely pleased that all doors were locked at each school visited.

Perimeter fencing – celebrated entrance (signing and fencing) granted funds were used; 24 hour Cameras; Guard booths currently installed at Leon High School and scheduled for Godby and Lincoln; Automatic Gates; Mass Notification System at all high schools and Lively Technical College (able to alert anyone/anywhere on campus); Access Control – camera bell located at each elementary schools currently working on installation for other schools; RAVE Panic Button and crisis information sharing; Updated Crisis Response Manual & Flip Books is located in each classroom. (View the full presentation on the DAC page located on the LCS website).

XIV. **Title II Updates:** Shane_Syfrett, Director and Susan Walden, Coordinator for Professional Learning stated that Title II funds are used to enhance the quality of teachers in the core subjects (Math, Science and ELA). The current Title II budget is \$1,501,345,000, which is distributed in the following areas: Salaries - \$701,436.11; Teacher Training & Stipends - \$603,178.42; Administrative Training & Expenses - \$105,761.23 and Indirect Cost - \$90,969.24. (View the full presentation on the DAC page located on the LCS website).

XV. **2021/2022 and 2022/2023 Calendar Updates:** Dr. Gayle said the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 calendar will be the same as the previous two year school calendar. Suggestions/concerns that have surfaced thus far are letting the first semester end before winter break in December and having the week of Thanksgiving off. The calendar will be presented at the 1/4/21 meeting.

XVI. **2021/21 Presentation Requests:** The remaining requests: Title I; information for gifted students/ESE in this new norm; Tallahassee development; Heritage Trail – best practices; any other suggestions should be sent to Dr. Gayle via email.

XVII. **SAC Questions:** Damaris Barrios asked about an update on her question regarding the use of difficulty using Canvas and possibly enlarging the screen. Dr. Gayle said she will notify the information was shared with the technology group. Another DAC member asked is there anything done to recognize hardworking students either by at the school or on a district level. Dr. Gayle asked the member to remain in the zoom meeting so that she may obtain additional information to schedule a meeting with Principal Cook. DAC Chair Johnitta Wells said she would remain in the zoom meeting also.

XVIII. **Wrap Up on Issues:** Anyone interested in serving on the legislative Ad Hoc committee should email your name to Ms. Brenda Jackson (jacksonb5@leonschools.net) by 5 p.m., Tuesday, 1/12/21. Dr. Gayle said she will set up a zoom meeting for 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, 1/14/21.

Adjournment: 8:01 p.m.

Next meeting – February 4, 2021

