

**District Advisory Council
Approved Minutes
April 25, 2024, 4:00 p.m.**

ATTENDANCE: Julie Brown Jenn Garrett
Carolina Currea Adriana Keen
Kathryn Endorf Amy Trask
Chad Essary Keith Watts
Kathrine Faenza Jeff Wilkinson
Mary Ferris Hyde Carolyn Woods

ABSENT: Dr. Tyrone Blue Judi Hebert
Lonika Boston Ty Keys
Emily Brandel Stacy Long
Kathryn Dumoulin Stacie Oyenarte
Sara Felix Nancy Pearl
Evelyn Foxx Valerie Scott
Taylor Gilfillan Tarena Stanley

BOARD MEMBERS: None Present

DISTRICT STAFF: Jackie Johnson, Communications Director
Patty Underwood, Communications Office

**CALL TO ORDER/
WELCOME:** Meeting was called to order at 4:07 by Co-Chair Keith Watts
Self-introductions were made by all present.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES:** Approval of co-chair minutes from the March 6, 2024, meeting was approved by the three co-chairs.
Motion by Keith Watts, seconded by Amy Trask, Passed

Due to no quorum, approval of DAC minutes for March 26, 2024, meeting will be postponed for the next meeting.

**There is no quorum present so there will just be a presentation of ideas and discussion.
A Suggestion Recommendation definition is a consensus motion, second with vote.**

**TRANSPORTATION
DISCUSSION** Ms. Currea stated that many absences in Hawthorne occur among students within the two-mile radius. It's not known how many of those students were affected by the elimination of courtesy busing.

It was pointed out that in Alachua there is no city transportation for students who need alternative education programs, such PACE for Girls, the North Central Florida Charter and Dual Enrollment at Santa Fe College.

Jackie Johnson informed the group that the district is working with Santa Fe College to offer courses at the high schools to promote access. The teachers will be district employees but certified to teach the college level courses.

Mr. Essary indicated that PAM@Loften has been impacted by the changes to the transportation routes and that there are still late buses despite the change. Some students are also having trouble getting to bus stops on time due to earlier stop times.

It's still an issue for parents to get students zoned to Terwilliger to the school because of the distance from that zone (which was also the zone for 'old' Terwilliger) to the newer campus. Another issue at Terwilliger is that there is no speed limit zone or school zone on that road, and that left hand turns and traffic around drop off and dismissal pose a problem. It was pointed out that this is a county traffic issue and that perhaps we should ask that the speed limit of 45 on other parts of the road be extended to the school.

Suggestion Recommendation by Jenn Garrett, seconded by Adrianna Keen--PASSED
Recommend that Alachua County Public Schools formally contact Alachua County Government to request that the speed limit in front of Terwilliger Elementary extend the 45mph speed limit on Parker Road south of Terwilliger Elementary School.

It was suggested that district Transportation staff attend a DAC meeting to discuss the two-mile rule vs. one-mile radius and perhaps a courtesy bussing hub spot. A community forum was suggested where we can hear from parents who are impacted. This could include thoughts on bike riding, scooters, electric bikes. Possibly a survey and a workshop/community forum. Training programs for CDL, and state laws on where bus stops can be located were discussed, along with RTS.

Ms. Johnson shared that a presentation on the changes to the district's busing system has been scheduled for the May 8 Board workshop.

Suggestion Recommendation by Amy Trask, seconded by Kathleen Endorf--PASSED
Suggest sending out a survey to get input from stakeholders (educators and parents) who have been impacted by the reduction in courtesy bussing (for students living within two miles of their school), with results presented to administration and School Board; also look at attendance data.

MENTAL HEALTH:

Suggestion Recommendation by Arianna Keen, seconded by Amy Trask--PASSED
Extending the recommendation to maintain mental health positions funded through ESSER for middle and high schools to include elementary schools since they have been using ESSER funds to keep the Family Liaison and paraprofessionals positions.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL:
SPORTS:**

Suggestion Recommendation by Jenn Garrett, seconded by Amy Trask--PASSED
Suggestion: Suggest that the district investigate expanding the middle school sports program to include running and track-related sports.

SAC BYLAWS:

Discussed by-law changes in reference to the following:

Items 6 and 8, substitutes for absent school-based members could be other SAC members from the school or members of the school's PTA PTSA, PTO, and that those substitutes would have the ability to vote. Also that a DAC member representing a School Board member--then School Board member would select a substitute who would then also have the ability to vote.

Substitutes for DAC chairs, the same procedures would also apply, however that substitute could not chair or co-chair any meeting.

Procedure for presenting recommendations to the Superintendent needs to be clarified as to presentation style, timeline, etc.

After discussion, it was agreed the by-law changes would be saved for the upcoming school year.

Suggestion Recommendation by Amy Trask, seconded by Kathrine Faenza--PASSED
That principals send out an email to SAC members explaining exactly what the DAC is so people know what the commitments are and know what they're signing up for and also have the option to sign up if they're interested.

DAC runs through the end of the school year, in September the schools elect their new chairs and in October we have a DAC meeting with the new group. The rotations of schools were discussed and it was noted that all SAC groups should be informed of what goes on in the DAC meetings. SAC chairs need to solicit input from their members.

Suggestion Recommendation by Kathryn Endorf, seconded by Amy Trask--PASSED
Provide additional information about the DAC to SACs/PTAs/PTOs; encourage SAC chairs, preferably at every SAC meeting, to solicit input from their members for possible discussion/consideration by the DAC; provide all SAC chairs with DAC agendas/minutes.

ADJORNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.