

**District Advisory Council
Approved Minutes
March 30, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.
District Office Boardroom**

**WELCOME AND
INTRODUCTIONS**

Every was welcomed by Jamarr Akins and meeting was turned over to the co-chairs Julie Crosby and Keith Watts

Members present: Jeff Wilkinson, Praveen Pathak, Judi Hebert, Keith Watts, Dr. Cheryl Johnson, Shravana Ogle, Meredith Henry, Nephttali Beauvais, Stacey Polvere, Chynthia Chestnut, Julie Crosby

Board members present: Mildred Russell, Dr. Gunnar Paulson, Dr. Leanetta McNealy, Rob Hyatt

District Members Present:

Uma Shankar, Director, Information Resources / Instructional Technology
Antwinique Edwards, Chief, Equity, Inclusion & Community Engagement
Shane Andrew, Interim Superintendent
Jamarr Akins, Community Engagement Coordinator

Members absent: Stacy Long, Augustus Allen, Carrie Howard, Kimberly Green, Jon Pilgrim, Jenny Highlander, Karen Grater, Nicole Foland, Chris Pearl, Cyndi Fields, Angel Londrie, Kathleen Endorf, Joy Gattshall

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Keith Watts at 3:37 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Motion by Judi Hebert Seconded by Praveen Pathak
to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2022, DAC meeting.

Upon Vote: Motion Passed

Note: There is no quorum so this motion and vote does not count.

TOPICS OF MEETING

Keith Watts brought up two topics that they determined should be the first items to be discussed. They are Mental Health and Technology.

An overview of Mental Health was given concerning where do we put our resources. The mental health of students, teachers and parents were discussed and the idea that Covid has impacted the mental health of a large population.

SFCC students also have mental health issues and also a concern with staff, teachers, parents and students.

Online therapy was discussed and what insurance covers.

Elementary, middle and high school kids have suffered. Basically everyone has missed a year of socialization and a year of education. Adults have ways to cope but kids don't.

There are six school psychologist at this time with vacancies. We should have more, not less.

Mentioned was that the school system hasn't done anything to support the teachers during this time. Students have forgotten how to talk to each other and virtual interaction is not the answer. For students, counseling should be person-to-person and more counselor are needed. More staffing specialist are needed so counselors and council.

Mental Health insurance would be good. Even online, staff and teachers can access online counseling after hours. Look for outside counseling coming into the school. Use social workers.

Covid has changed the way parents “parent” their children. There is a need for parent/child interaction and the child coming to school ready to learn. Bring parents back into the loop at school. Having fun events will build memories for students and also will bring parents back for activities.

Dr. Antwanique Edwards gave a brief overview of the status of employees mentioning that there is a statewide shortage of psychologists but that we have hired more social workers. There is a shortage of employees in every field, not just psychologists. Mentioned the “Anxiety” flyer and upcoming online Parent Academy Webinar.

Uma Shankar gave an overview of the technology area and what ACPS has. Most resources are digital. There are some challenges out there in the need for additional computers and/or laptops/notebooks. We could use a community effort to obtain these computers and also money for software and/or updates about every two years. There is a shortage of employees also in this field—even with UF close by.

Interim Superintendent Shane Andrew stated that Progress Monitoring will be required next year and this was discussed.

And suggested Apprenticeship Staffing for Technology. Mentioned that the county stepped up when schools were shut down during Covid and it would be good if the county, local business, and the community could step up in terms of donating technology.

NEXT MEETING: May 2 at Gainesville High School

MEETING TOPICS: A continuation (with feedback from schools) concerning the Mental Health area.

MEETING ADJOURNED At 5:03 p.m.