

**DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL
APPROVED MINUTES
JUNE 18, 2020**

The virtual meeting of the School Board of Alachua County's District Advisory Council (DAC) was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Tristin Ballentine, William Birdsall, Adam Boukari, Cynthia Chestnut, Superintendent Karen Clarke, Dawn Courtney, Julie Crosby, Quinten Eyman, Cyndi Fields, Cindy Holmes, Public Information Officer Jackie Johnson, Deputy Superintendent Donna Jones, Isaac Jones, Sue Legg, Shari Mack, Staff Attorney Brian Moore, Eliscia Mosley, Melissa Pratto, Lynda Reinhart, Board Chairperson Eileen Roy, Heather Surrency, Kimberly Taylor, Keith Watts, Mary Williams, Executive Director Jennifer Wise

**WELCOME AND
INTRODUCTIONS**

Board Chair, Mrs. Eileen Roy, welcomed all. The agenda was discussed and approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Adam Boukari Seconded by Ms. Julie Crosby

Moved to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2020, DAC meeting with one correction, adding Ms. Julie Crosby to the list of Members Present.

The question was called. Motion passed: Unanimous

UPDATE ON REZONING

Staff Attorney Brian Moore went over the rezoning letter that went out concerning Elementary School I. He explained that several meetings were to take place at Ft. Clarke, Kanapaha, and the SWAG Family Center. A letter went out in early March to the eight schools' parents that would be affected; however, due to Covid 19, these were cancelled. A new letter has since been put together and sent out to the same group and the SWAG Center this week. Public Information Officer Jackie Johnson commented that the letter was put on the website. Mr. Moore asked if it could also be shared on facebook and twitter.

In addition, Mr. Moore went over several items that had been added to the website from the January meeting, Policy 5120, the presentation by Mr. Gilreath, and an Enrollment and Capacity Counts Chart.

Mr. Moore noted they hope to have three in person community meetings at Ft. Clarke, Kanapaha, and the SWAG Family Center. It is possible they will have at least one electronic meeting for people who are uncomfortable meeting in public. They are holding off on these meetings until they have plans to share. The consultant is currently working on this. Different departments will be looking at these to make sure they are viable options.

Members' Questions/Answers/Comments:

- Once a decision is made would the DAC committee have input? Mr. Moore noted, yes.
- Will members be receiving copies of the maps at least a week in advance of their meeting? Information will be on the website following the Board Workshop on July 8, 2020.
- Clarification was asked regarding who is turning in the plans. Mr. Moore explained the consultant will be coming up with different configurations.
 - Members suggested when the plans are turned in, please have consultant and departments explain why they are viable or not and what the

advantages and disadvantages are. This would be helpful when working with district staff. If the information is posted on the website, this would also be helpful.

- A member commented that programs make up the school. If we want balance, then we need to remember that these magnet programs could affect the balance of the students themselves. We might need to let the consultant know this.
- What is the timeframe/deadline? Mr. Moore noted the goal is to be finished in January. This gives them another 5 months for public input.
- Will staff be looking at equity in this make-up? The new school should have a diverse student body. Mr. Moore noted that the consultant was told Equity is the number one issue to consider. Portables are the second.

SCHOOL REOPENING

Deputy Superintendent Donna Jones started her presentation with a thank you to all of the district work groups who developed the draft plan for reopening schools. The plan will be shared with parents and posted on the website. There will be further opportunity to get input from DAC members, teachers, and staff. She stated these are unprecedented times and we are in a position of the great unknown. She stated she had the opportunity to look at other districts' plans. She went over the Considerations followed by the 1st Parent Survey (copies were sent out to members). She discussed the questions asked on the survey and how they responded. The Survey was also sent out in Spanish. She concluded that it appears most of the parents want their kids to return to a brick and mortar setting. Regarding Operational issues, the following topics were discussed:

- School Logistics and Protocols
- Transporting Students
- Entering School Buildings
- Serving Meals
- Transitioning
- Safety of Students
- Student Support Services
- Professional Development
- Extracurricular Activities
- Protecting Vulnerable Populations
- Supporting Teaching and Learning
- Next Steps

The plan needs to be finalized quickly so principals can make it specific to their school.

Members' Questions/Answers/Comments:

- How far away will the students be distanced? Six feet; however, it depends on the size of the classroom.
- A member noted the surveys were not broken down by different levels. The answers could be different for elementary children versus high school students.
- Superintendent Karen Clarke explained that one of things covered in the calls from the DOE was the Governor's decision to reopen schools. They do recognize that CDC guidelines and fully reopened schools don't mix well together. In some instances, it cannot be done. The emails that have been received from parents range from lets open the schools up with no precautions and those parents who will not let their children return until there is a vaccine for the coronavirus. They are trying to plan for different scenarios.

- Suggestion was made about checking with Santa Fe College and UF for the plan they are using.
- Have we consulted with any epidemiologist in town? If not, perhaps we can bring some of them onboard. Also, share the standards with parents about class size issues, limiting the amount of students for the space.
- Mrs. Clarke noted the opening school date will be August 10th. If the virus starts to increase, it would change to a high spread level and things could shut down.
- Are parents required to sign a form at the beginning of the school year stating they will not sue the school for returning so early? Suggestion was made that perhaps under enrolled schools could be used if additional space is needed. Also, on the survey, it was not noted if some families had children at multiple schools or not? Mrs. Clarke explained the percentages show over a 100% total. This is due to parents commenting on different school levels. The next survey that is sent out will specify for elementary, middle, or high school children. Mrs. Clarke said she would have to check with the Risk Management department for the answer to the form question.
- Suggestion was made that we need our own epidemiologist on staff to help guide us through this. Will we be providing masks to students and teachers? Have they been purchased already? Ms. Jones said yes to both. We have them ready for the upcoming Summer Programs. Mrs. Clarke also explained we will be purchasing face shields for the teachers to wear. The district has been building reserves since March.
- Will the DAC committee be given the information from the second survey? Regarding bus transportation, what are we doing about social distancing, and will we be doing screening before students get on the bus? Will we be taking temperatures? What happens if a student can't get on the bus? Mrs. Clarke said the Health Department is looking into the transportation issues. They have purchased thermometers, but haven't worked out the logistics. Nursing supervisors are looking at what to do when we have a child that becomes ill. Mrs. Clarke commented that when they send out the second survey, the information will be shared with the DAC committee.
- Will the district be hiring more custodians for cleaning and sanitizing once the students return? Mrs. Clarke explained the Operational department and Custodial supervisors are looking into what the protocol will look like and how it will be different. It may be as simple as using a different cleaning product. When we were shut down the first time, cleaning crews came in to do the deep cleaning portion. We may look into this for the bigger areas.
- How long is Summer School and what is the total amount funded? Summer School lasts 4 weeks. Six hundred and thirty five thousand dollars will be shared with us and charter/private schools. How much we receive depends on the charter/private schools that choose to use those funds. A small portion of the Cares Act grant will cover this. How are ESE students being served? Jennie Wise stated ESE students are invited to participate. They will be targeting students who are reading deficient, regardless of levels. Curriculum is working with principals regarding timing. How will teachers be trained for those baseline assessments? Clarification was made about the two surveys. ACPS only sent out one. Jackie clarified that Florida DOE sent out the 2nd survey. They will not be sharing the results with our district.
- A member noted that some parents may decide not to put their kids on the bus. When this happens, the car pick up line will increase. Staggering times may help.
- Teachers will be surveyed at the beginning of next week. Training will start August 3rd; however, some training may be starting earlier. Jennie Wise is developing baseline assessments for a students' current grade and build around that. The process will have to be done very quickly. They need to know what critical skills are

needed for them to be successful in the grade level they are going into. Donna Kidwell along with the Student Services team are working on the Trauma and Social Emotional Toll rating scales to identify students who may need additional support. This will also be embedded in the teacher training.

- Will Equity along with Black Lives Matter trauma be addressed? Yes.
- Will students be required to wear masks? Will there be a protocol? It will depend on what the level of spread is at the time of return.

Mrs. Roy thanked everyone for their input.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date will be Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Mrs. Clarke stated the members will be able to see the draft on July 8th on the DAC website.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.