

DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL VIRTUAL (ZOOM) MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES
AUGUST 6, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

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: Chairperson Eileen Roy, Tristin Ballentine, Bart Birdsall, Adam Boukari, Cynthia Chestnut, Jamie Coons, Dwan Courtney, Janette Cowart, Julie Crosby, Quinten Eyman, Cindy Holmes, Kathleen Larimer, Sue Legg, Shari Mack, Rachel Meek, Eliscia Mosley, Melissa Pratto, Lynda Reinhart, Kimberly Taylor, and Keith Watts.

District members present: Superintendent Karen Clarke, Public Information Officer Jackie Johnson, Staff Attorney Brian Moore, Executive Director of ESE/SS Donna Kidwell, School Board member Leanetta McNealy, School Board member Gunnar Paulson, Assistant Superintendent Business Services Alex Rella, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Paul White, and Executive Director Jennifer Wise

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Moved by Adam Boukari Seconded by Keith Watts

Moved to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2020, DAC meeting.

The question was called. Motion passed: Unanimous

REVIEW OF UPDATE RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN Superintendent Clarke presented a PowerPoint with updates to the Return to School Plan. She stated things continue to change. The emergency order received on July 6, 2020 was discussed, including the mandate that schools must open before August 31st. The ACPS options were reviewed; Traditional, Alachua Digital Academy, and Alachua eschool. The results of the parent school choice survey were as follows:

- 42% Brick and Mortar option
- 46% Digital Academy option
- 12% eschool
- 300 parents selected homeschool

Ms. Sue Legg asked about the metrics. What is the number before a school is shut down? Mrs. Clarke did not have that information at the time; however, she noted Mr. Paul Myers would be going over the most recent information on Wednesday at the Special Board meeting, with support from the Scientific Medical Advisory Council, a team of medical experts from UF.

Executive Director of ESE/SS Donna Kidwell shared COVID-19 protocols for students who test positive, have symptoms or have had significant exposure to a COVID case. Ms. Kidwell noted that the protocols will change over time.

Ms. Julie Crosby asked about plans for the mental and emotional health of students coming back. Mrs. Kidwell explained they will take a multi-level approach for all returning students. Training for teachers will begin next week. Teachers will observe students upon their return to school. Counselors will meet with small groups. Mrs. Clarke noted we have an employee assistant program with outside resources also available. The Crisis Center provides online group treatment.

Mrs. Clarke went over the ACPS Employee Reporting Procedures for COVID-19. She described the three situations; employee reports they have tested positive for COVID-19, employee reports they have COVID-like symptoms, and employee reports they have confirmed significant exposure with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

A question was raised about sick leave. Mrs. Clarke stated the district is continuing to work on this. Further conversation regarding how things are handled when staff is out, Kelly service subs and liabilities with this group ensued. Ms. Crosby asked if board policy allows for high school grads as subs. Mrs. Clarke answered, yes. She then described a scenario of when a teacher is out to care for a family member, he/she may be able to teach the class digitally. This would leave the sub to simply monitor the class. If called upon, deans, library personnel, and other staff members are going through the same training and could also fill in for the teachers.

Public Information Officer Jackie Johnson went over the draft reopening plan. She explained the revised draft reopening plan is being finalized to reflect state mandates, updated health and safety guidelines/protocols, new board policies, and ongoing negotiations with ACEA. The updated draft plan is scheduled to be posted August 10th.

Mrs. Clarke announced the SBAC Special meeting on August 12, 2020 at 9 a.m. The agenda items include metrics for closing of classroom/school/district (Paul Meyers will be on call during the meeting), update on the Digital Academy approval by the state, the PK Yonge model, the impact of reopening entirely online, federal CARES funding, and the updated reopening plan.

Mrs. Clarke explained the state regulation regarding schools reopening.

Staff Attorney Brian Moore explained how students are funded using the three options. He also explained the funding impact of schools not opening as required under the emergency order

Ms. Legg asked for a bullet sheet that would detail the amount of spread to determine the closing of schools. It was explained the Governor left this up to the different counties. She then asked who would make this decision. Mrs. Clarke stated the district, in consultation with the local health department would make that decision.

Ms. Cynthia Chestnut asked if the district would be opening with a full staff of drivers, cafeteria workers, and paras. Mrs. Clarke answered yes.

Ms. Chestnut inquired about CARES funding. It was explained that anything that CARES cannot be used for anything that was already budgeted. It was brought up that the county manager said individuals could apply for funds through the county if they have lost income due to COVID.

BUDGET UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Alex Rella presented a PowerPoint on the budgetary impacts from COVID-19. He went over Executive Order No. 2020-EO-06. Historically, we have only been able to offer two options; Brick and Mortar and eSchool. eSchool is funded at \$2,000 less per student than brick and mortar. In order to receive full funding, they brought in the innovative category.

It was shared that the state's requirement for 180 days of instruction or hourly equivalent can only be waived if school districts have an approved innovative instructional option, which for Alachua County Public Schools is the Digital Academy.

Mr. Rella noted that 1,136 jobs that are almost entirely dependent on in person students (bus drivers, for example) would be affected if the district does not open up Brick and Mortar.

Ms. Chestnut asked if we could go ahead of time and put something in place for possible furloughed employees so they could they receive some assistance from our personnel office. Mr. Adam Boukari stated these wheels are already in motion. He explained the county approved its CARES application process earlier in the week and has a call center operational. This provides for people in the community that have lost income. Mrs. Clarke agreed to look further into this and noted computer space to help eligible employees apply is already available. She also suggested individuals should check into options for health insurance, which would not be covered through CARES funding.

Ms. Crosby questioned the amount of Tyvek suits ordered for nurses and why would nurses need these? It was explain that nurses would have them to interact with students who display COVID symptoms. Ms. Crosby also asked about the chemicals used for cleaning. Assistant Superintendent of Operations Paul White explained the cleaning protocol and noted Lavender 256 will be used because it kills COVID 19.

Mrs. Chestnut asked if they could give a report on where we are with the CARES program at the August 12th meeting.

Mr. Keith Watts asked if online teachers would still be paid the same. Mrs. Clarke explained that if they go to work for Florida Virtual School directly, they would no longer be under a district contract, but if they work for the eSchool, their pay would be the same. Some teachers have been loaned to eSchool to cover additional students; however, they are still district employees. Mr. Watts then asked about teacher training for technology. Mrs. Clarke stated that this

training would start on Monday. He then asked for a clear description of the HyFlex model. Executive Director Jennifer Wise explained this model. She also noted next week would not be the only training given out, it would continue.

Mrs. Clarke thanked everyone for their comments and stated she would keep them posted as they move closer to the start of school.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date was not discussed. Once determined, members will be contacted.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned 5:10 p.m.