

DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL VIRTUAL (ZOOM) MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES
November 19, 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 Dr. Leanetta McNealy, Tristin Ballentine, Dwan Courtney, Julie Crosby, Maria Cunha, Cynthia Fields, Isaac Jones, Sue Legg, Eliscia Mosley, Melissa Pratto, Lynda Reinhart, Heather Surrency, Kimberly Taylor, and substitute for Mr. Watts (Bauer).

District members present: Superintendent Karen Clarke, Staff Attorney Diana Johnson, Executive Director of ESE/SS Donna Kidwell, School Board member Gunnar Paulson, School Board member Tina Certain, Director of Transportation Reginald Thomas, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Paul White, Executive Director Jennifer Wise, Director of FTE/State Reporting/Student Assignment Kim Neal, Suzanne Wynn, Deputy Superintendent Donna Jones, Director of Educational Equity and Outreach Valerie Freeman, Director of Research, Assessment and School Improvement Jeff Charbonnet, and John Gilreath.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Superintendent Karen Clarke welcomed members and introduced the new Chairperson, Dr. Leanetta McNealy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Moved by Julie Crosby Seconded by Eliscia Mosley

Moved to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2020, DAC meeting.

The question was called. Motion passed: Unanimous

REVIEW OF OPTIONS Mr. John Gilreath presented a power point addressing the rezoning efforts:

- School “I” Planning Considerations
- Overview of Effort to Date
- Review of Rezoning Options
- Open Discussion through Moderator
- Introduction of Iterations

Options A, B, C, D, E, and F were discussed and their effect on the surrounding schools.

Ms. Crosby asked what the Board’s stated goal was for Equity. Mr. Gilreath answered that it was 42% White, 34% African American, 11% Hispanic, 7% Multi-race, and 5% Asian. He emphasized this is not the goal, it is the student body as a whole. The goal states we will try to meet and be representative of the overall student body.

Mr. Gilreath told members they would be receiving a survey link and he is hoping to get back the options that they would recommend to the rezoning committee to review before they bring the preferred recommendations to the board. He went over the dates of the upcoming events.

- December 1, Rule Development Workshop

- December 15, First Reading of Policy at Board Meeting
- January 13, Public Hearing
- February 2, Final Reading and Board Vote

REVIEW OF CITIZEN INPUT

Director of FTE/State Reporting/Student Assignment Kim Neal went over citizen input. She explained the process and clarified option F was not included in the survey forms. Option F was a result after the feedback was collected.

She also wanted the committee to keep in mind that 50% of the responses received came from the Meadowbrook Elementary zone. The Chiles Elementary zone had almost 19% of the responses. This information does lend some perspective as members review the results.

Director of Research, Assessment and School Improvement Jeff Charbonnet reinforced that those neighborhoods heavily represented in terms of response on the input forms also noted at the citizen/parent input meeting they had organized as a community to give that input. He stated there are a lot of unrepresentative people that haven't been heard from at this time and they are going to be very much impacted by this. Ms. Neal added that those individuals who had emailed the rezoning email account, when they answered those emails they referred those people to answer the citizen input form. A majority of those did.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Ms. Legg asked about the projected school grades of Option F as a result of the different zoning options. Mr. Gilreath commented briefly that this option is very new. They are running through them now. Mr. Charbonnet explained the achievement metric that is used to get that information. He wanted members to know they are using 2 year old data to get projections. Using the simulated information they have, no school grades will go down and some may actually go up. Ms. Legg asked if it could be said that no school is expected to have a D or a F grade. Mr. Charbonnet said he could state that the simulations completed did not generate any schools with D's or F's with options A – E. The simulation for option F has not been completed.

Ms. Surrency was concerned with the option F plan for Archer. With smaller enrollment, it results as less funding for the school. What kind of position will this put them in? Ms. Neal stated Archer Elementary has a magnet program and these numbers will increase. Mr. Gilreath noted comments received from Archer were predominately for Wiles. Parents wanted to drop their kids off on the way into town. This creates a challenge with the rural schools. Ms. Surrency said her main concern was not wanting us to start closing schools down in the rural areas.

Ms. Crosby asked how many meetings were held in person. Ms. Neal explained they were done via zoom. They did have one in person meeting at the district which ran from 4pm – 8pm. Ms. Crosby asked if e-school parents were informed. Mrs. Clarke commented the announcements were done district wide. She explained when an e-school student is registered that becomes their school of record because it is a separate school. Digital Academy students are still

assigned to their home zoned school. The announcement was done district wide, so anybody could have come and participated, but they were not submitted to e-school directly. Ms. Crosby asked to please include them in future announcements.

Ms. Crosby asked specifically about option E. She liked this option; however, she understands the concern of the Robin Lane families. She asked Mr. Gilreath would it be a problem if Cobblefield stayed in Chiles. He commented briefly that the analysis has not been done. Ms. Crosby commented further she did not like option F. She was concerned that moving children 3 times in 9 years was unsettling. Mr. Gilreath commented it is a tough area for transportation, this is reflected in option F.

Chairman McNealy asked the question will the Robin Lane, Emerald Woods, and Hidden Hills' neighborhoods be able to remain at the Meadowbrook School in any of those options? Mr. Gilreath stated in the majority of the options they will remain at Meadowbrook. Dr. McNealy additionally asked what school students located near the SWAG center would attend. Mr. Gilreath said the number 1 concern is capacity. He showed the current zones and explained the problem with enclaves. He wants to get rid of these. He said the area is split up and some of these options consolidates a lot more of these neighboring complexes into a school.

Dr. Paulson talked about Terwilliger. He said people did not want to go to school there because of the Mall area. He said it costs money to open up a new school. He suggested shifting the kids around that attend Terwilliger and reassign them.

Mr. Gilreath commented they are taking a look at Littlewood regarding construction in a few years.

Mrs. Clarke told the committee that they have ordered an appraisal on Terwilliger. Staff is currently gathering information. If the board wants to look at this, they could make some zoning adjustments now.

Ms. Neal told the committee that Ms. Johnson supplied them with a link to the input form. This input form will include option F. She asked that they complete by the end of the day Monday, November 23, 2020. She could then give it to the board and Superintendent before the workshop.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date was not discussed; however, an email will be sent out to members by Mrs. Jackie Johnson when determined.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned 4:34 p.m.