

DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES

August 5, 2021 @ 3:30 p.m.

The School Board of Alachua County *District Advisory Council* (DAC) was called to order at 3:45 p.m. in the Gainesville High School Multi-Purpose Room.

Members present: School Board Vice Chairperson Tina Certain, Dwan Courtney, Julie Crosby, Isaac Jones, Rachel Meek, Eliscia Mosley, Kimberly Taylor, Mary Williams, and Chelsea Bowlin.

District staff present: Superintendent Carlee Simon, Chief of Equity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement Dr. Anntwanique Edwards, Director of Communications and Community Initiatives Jackie Johnson, Coordinator-Community Engagement Jamarr Akins, Prescott Cowles, and Board member Dr. Gunnar Paulson.

WELCOME Vice Chairman Tina Certain welcomed members and thanked them for their service. She then reviewed the agenda with the committee.

INTRODUCTIONS Superintendent Carlee Simon introduced the new staff in the room and asked committee members to introduce themselves.

REOPENING PLAN Prescott Cowles also thanked committee members and stated he would greatly appreciate their feedback on his presentation. He then went through the Back to School Plan and pointed out the changes from the original plan. He also announced an incentive plan for staff to earn \$100 if they get the vaccination. Once they are vaccinated, if they have to be quarantined, district leave would be available to cover their leave.

Questions and Comments:

Ms. Julie Crosby asked if the air quality would be increasing the external intake as described on page 8 of the plan. Mr. Cowles stated, yes. She also asked if PPE was available for teachers and staff. Mr. Cowles explained that last year they were hard to get; however, this year the supply chain is not strained. Schools are able to order them on their own and receive them in a timely fashion. If a teacher does not have adequate PPE they should notify their school personnel.

Mrs. Eliscia Mosley asked about the consequences for students refusing to wear a mask on the bus. Mr. Cowles stated there is a federal mask order and masks must be worn. Dr. Simon explained further that they can't leave kids, they must pick them up, and the parents will be called as soon as they arrive at school. Mrs. Mosley expressed teachers' concerns with students not thinking there will be any consequences.

Mr. Keith Watts asked if it was possible to start buying air filters for teachers' classrooms. Mr. Cowles responded that Purchasing looked at different options and yes, they can buy them. Dr. Simon further explained that there has been a lot of work done

with the filtration systems. The work was done in the fall, but it wasn't publicly noticed. Ionization systems have also been installed in the schools.

ESSER PRESENTATION Mr. Cowles gave a power point presentation on the ESSER funds. He noted that this information was shared at the last board meeting. He said the ultimate goal was to explain to DAC members what the money can or cannot be used for. The information on funding came from the federal government. The district has to turn in a plan to show how, at least, 80% will be used. The grant requires proof of public input which is why the DAC meetings are so important.

Mr. Cowles asked Dr. Simon to share additional information. She spoke about one of the programs funded by ESSER that was used over the summer, Summer Adventures in Literacy (SAIL). Additionally, they are looking at the staff component and providing the *You Fly* program for grades K-2. The Canvas program updates a lot of things and they will continue to use this technology. If students have slips in class, they want to be able to offer online courses. The goal is to build our own. Currently, we have FLVS. The end result is to change the way we offer those courses. In the process, they are looking at the direction all of this is going, IEP meetings virtual, and building a digital district. Currently, they are doing professional development and using this tool for parents. Mrs. Mosely asked if this was something the committee members could take back to their schools? Dr. Simon stated, yes. They have 3 more meetings coming up and this might take conversation to another level.

A member noted the importance of the After-School program. Dr. Simon stated the District has approved an After-School coordinator. High quality programs will be at all of the schools. Mrs. Mosely asked about Transportation, is that an option? Dr. Simon stressed these are things needed for the future and should be included in the plan.

Ms. Kimberly Taylor gave her opinion that a lot of kids are in CROP because they couldn't master a subject with in class instruction. It seems like those students struggling would have a harder time with CROP because it is online. Could it be flipped? Could we gear digital learning to those who can and use in person teaching for those who are struggling?

Dr. Gunnar Paulson informed members of the struggle some parents experience with helping their children with math, he asked if they could look at some way to assist them.

The question was asked about the *You Fly* program, is there anything that includes math? We need to make math more proficient. Dr. Simon noted the Lastinger Program has some math programs. Opportunities are there. High dose tutoring was discussed. With it you could get one on one instruction. It goes through all of the grades ELA currently. During the school day, it is that smaller group instruction that they need. Dr. Simon commented that they are bringing in high dose tutors to do this. Mrs. Mosely stated that it was recommended to her from secondary math teachers to get with elementary math teachers so they could have a better understanding of what is needed,

for example, this is what we are missing and these are the gaps we are seeing. Dr. Simon said ESSER funds could help. These also would be good opportunities for a teacher who didn't have an educational background.

Ms. Crosby had positive remarks about an educational technology program at Santa Fe College called ALEKS. The program goes down to the 3rd grade. Ms. Mosley asked if it had a component for educators. Mr. Cowles asked if this could be brought back to the next meeting and then look at what is needed.

Dr. Paulson suggested the committee meet virtually, so more people can attend. He thanked everyone for coming.

Dr. Watts agreed with the suggestion about the committee doing virtual meetings going forward.

NEXT MEETING DATES Mr. Jamarr Akins stated he did not have the dates for the next meeting or where the group would meet. He informed everyone that he intended to email a survey to them to make the decision and get back with them. He said the email would go out some time during the next week.

ADJOURNMENT Dr. Simon thanked everyone for coming and asked that they think about these things and share these ideas in the community.

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.