

Alachua County Public Schools
DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES
September 16, 2021 @ 3:30 p.m.

The School Board of Alachua County *District Advisory Council* (DAC) was called to order at 3:30 p.m. virtually on ZOOM.

Members present: School Board Chairperson Leanetta McNealy (*absent at the beginning*), School Board Vice-Chairperson Tina Certain, Bart Birdsall, Dwan Courtney, Julie Crosby, Kathleen Endorf, Rachel Meek, Eliscia Mosley, and Kimberly Taylor.

District staff present: Superintendent Carlee Simon, Director of Communications and Community Initiatives Jackie Johnson, Coordinator-Community Engagement Jamarr Akins, ACEA President Carmen Ward, ESP Representative Crystal Tessman, and Board members Dr. Gunnar Paulson and Mildred Russell.

WELCOME School Board Vice-Chair Tina Certain, welcomed members due to Chairperson Leanetta McNealy's absence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES There was not a quorum of committee members present; therefore, the minutes from the August 25, 2021, DAC meeting could not be approved.

INTRODUCTIONS Superintendent Carlee Simon asked members to introduce themselves.

DAC RESTRUCTURING Dr. Simon reviewed the ACPS District Advisory Council Bylaws. She asked for input of current group on changes to how the DAC operates/bylaws.

She suggested the following:

- The committee should be chaired by a DAC member instead of the Superintendent and the Chairperson of the board.
- The committee should lead the organization.
- Possibly add a co-chair.
- Stagger terms so there would be a continuance. Each person could chair for two years.
- DAC Chairs will work with the Superintendent and Chairperson of the Board.
- Each year take a look at the bylaws and shape them.

GROUP DISCUSSION DAC committee member comments/suggestions:

- Chair should be selected by DAC members.
- Not a lot of information given at earlier meetings.
- There was pressure to go.
- Constantly questioning, what is my role on this committee?
- Wasn't clear what input was needed.
- Conflict of interest felt when members asked for certain items to be added to the agenda, due to community interest, but were turned down.

- Likes the format of the Half Cent Oversight Committee.
- Problems experienced with getting a quorum to show.
- Possibly look at different ways to select active members who wish to participate.
- School Board member, Dr. Gunnar Paulson, stated he was one of the founders of the committee. He noted the DAC started with Interim Superintendent Sandra Hollinger. The district used the SAC to select members.
- Mrs. Certain suggested having a staff member reach out to schools and confirm appropriate member and correct emails. Also, do the same for the board member appointees.
- Meetings in the boardroom were very intimidating. Zoom meetings have been nice.
- Dr. Simon asked the members for their thoughts on the size of the meeting. Is 27 people too many? Presently, they need 15 members to be on a quorum.
- Members expressed the feeling that decisions were already made and they were only receiving the details.
- Onscreen voting would be nice; you would know how people feel even if they don't speak during the meeting.
- Members discussed ways of selecting new members. Mrs. Certain explained they must be made from members of the SAC.
- Eschool should be represented. Duval needs to come off.
- Mrs. Certain suggested maybe a welcome packet could be made for new members.
- At school board workshops, the DAC could give feedback.
- Mrs. Certain expressed the importance of educating members on their role.
- Member expressed the importance of scheduling meetings in advance in order to help get members to the meetings.
- Dr. Paulson stated it will take strong leadership to make this work. Attendance was good under previous administrations.

Dr. Simon thanked members for expressing their feelings.

She expressed this was a good opportunity for a reset. She explained if it was chaired by a member, you could then ask questions of the district. The district could build and possibly share it with the community. We are missing the opportunity to hear what is important to you.

Dr. Simon updated members on the new board member Mildred Russell and then stated the need to make sure the appointees are updated.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 4:19pm. Mr. Jamarr Akins stated he would be in touch.