

District Advisory Council
Approved Minutes
March 2, 2016

The School Board of Alachua County *District Advisory Council* (DAC) was called to order at 3:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Kirby-Smith Center, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida.

Members Present: Mike Barton, Elisa Beachy, Adam Boukari, Bob Carroll, Cynthia Chestnut, Tom Cowart, Pamela Gonzales, Lisa Lauger, Sue Legg, Rachel Meek, Rick Nesbit, Aimee Oelrich, Janine Plavac, Sharon Surrency

Members Absent: Sarah Beck, Jennifer Davis, Jill Dumas, Meredith Henry, Erica Gindle, Staci Graff, Melissa Heitzler, Josh Jett, Joe Keys, Elizabeth Row, Donna Sheffield, Sandy Spring, Joe Swails, Scott Zofnas

Also present were Eileen Roy, School Board Chairman; Dr. Owen Roberts, Superintendent of Schools; and Jackie Johnson, Communications and Community Initiatives Director. Dr. Gunnar Paulson, School Board member, presented the topic of today's meeting: Discussion of Pam@Loften and Eastside High School.

WELCOME Board Chairman Eileen Roy welcomed the members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES A change was made to the attendance record, noting that Elizabeth Washington did not attend the February 10 meeting. With that change, there was consensus on approval of the minutes as presented.

DISCUSSION OF PAM@LOFTEN AND EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL Dr. Gunnar Paulson, School Board member, presented an idea for the group to explore: the possibility of developing an affiliation with PAM@Loften and Eastside High School, whereby PAM would operate as a 'satellite' entity. The purpose for such consideration is enrollment growth at both schools and reduced per-pupil cost.

Dr. Paulson explained that he has contemplated and had administrative discussions on this idea over some years. Should the DAC concur that it merits research, it could be presented to the Superintendent for staff analysis.

Extensive discussion was held, with comments/questions including:

- What programs would draw students?
- Would Loften's unique character be lost? Do we want to change the environment, when students are thriving?
- To increase enrollment at Loften, awareness and recruitment should start at 6th grade.
- School affiliation is of utmost importance to students; a positive identification is vital for Loften.
- Loften's name or image from the past may overshadow the rigor of their present programs.
- Marketing could include students from outside the district.
- Kids go from the west to enroll in Bishop and Lincoln magnets; but would need to continue in that direction with Loften programs that entice students.
- CTE is a real, practical need in today's job market.
- Capital outlay funding is a problem for making changes.
- Discussion on the establishment of robotics programs at BHS and GHS, which would appear to take away from Loften.

- Possibility of moving ACCEPT program to Duval, where it would fit into the Early Learning Academy.
- In the 'satellite' environment, scheduling would be a major challenge; transportation less so.
- Need for a two-year program that would accommodate a junior that wants to move into something else. Presently, they are 'stuck.' They need to be able to get their high school diploma, and also have a career track upon graduation.

There was a consensus on pulling back on robotics for high school next year until we know direction for Loften.

At the next meeting, discussion of a more concrete proposal for the direction at Loften is needed.

Questions or topics should be emailed to Jackie prior to the next meeting.

Loften and EHS principals, Bill McElroy and Jeff Charbonnet, should be invited to the next meeting. Mr. McElroy should have stats available on each Loften program.

NEXT MEETING The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2016, at 3:30 p.m. in the Boardroom.

ADJOURN The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.