

**District Advisory Council**  
**Approved Minutes**  
January 13, 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	Rachel Meek
	Elisa Beachy	Rick Nesbit
	Adam Boukari	Aimee Oelrich
	Bob Carroll	Janine Plavac
	Tom Cowart	Elizabeth Rowe
	Jennifer Davis	Donna Sheffield
	Pam Gonzales	Sharon Surrency
	Meredith Henry	Joe Swails
	Sue Legg	Elizabeth Washington

Also present were Eileen Roy, School Board Chairman; Dr. Gunnar Paulson, School Board member; Dr. Owen Roberts, Superintendent of Schools; and Jackie Johnson, Communications and Community Initiatives Director.

Members Absent:	Cynthia Chestnut	Joseph Keys
	Staci Graff	Lisa Lauger
	Melissa Heitzler	Sandy Springer
	Sarah Beck	Jill Dumas

**WELCOME AND  
INTRODUCTIONS**

Board Chairman Eileen Roy welcomed the members, stating that the Board is vitally interested in the thoughts of the DAC. Committee members then introduced themselves. The current subject of consideration for the DAC is the Career Technical Education (CTE) program.

**PRESENTATION –  
CAREER TECH  
EDUCATION**

An extensive overview of the CTE program was presented by Shannon Ritter and Nancy Iafrate, Teacher Specialists with the CTE program. Also providing information was William McElroy, director of CTE and principal of the Professional Academies Magnet @ Lofton High School.

A powerpoint presentation regarding the CTE program was shared, with information on differences between previous vocational programs and current CTE programs, courses/academy offerings, state and federal requirements, funding, outreach to students, parents and teachers and other issues. A video of CTE students commenting on their individual programs was also shared.

Mr. Tom Mason, Santa Fe College, also addressed the group regarding SFC's Dual Enrollment program in fields including Construction & Technical, Business, Health and IT, and its partnership with ACPS.

Issues discussed included:

- There are difficulties securing instructors because they often have more lucrative opportunities in private industry. They would also be required to take

- on teacher and program responsibilities.
- One-Mill funding is very important to CTE programs.
- CTE programs have a 97% graduation rate.
- District-provided transportation is imperative to successful CTE programs.

It was suggested that the district consider providing program information to students and parents a year earlier (during 7<sup>th</sup> grade). The result may be some students being eligible because they have more time to improve their grades and attendance in anticipation of attending an academy

Members may email questions to Ms. Iafrate or Ms. Ritter:

[iafratne@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:iafratne@gm.sbac.edu)      [ritterss@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:ritterss@gm.sbac.edu)

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was tentatively planned for February 10, 2016, at 3:30 p.m.

Suggestions for discussion topics:

- Courses of study and additional ways for students, particularly lower performing students, to take advantage of CTE programs
- Recruitment of students and teachers
- Parent Communication
- Funding

It was suggested that the meeting date and the 'Charge' to the DAC be emailed to all members.

#### ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.