

District Advisory Council
Approved Minutes
June 10, 2015

The School Board of Alachua County *District Advisory Council* (DAC) was called to order at 4 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Kirby-Smith Center, 620 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida.

Members Present:

Tom Cowart	Rachel Meek
John Hill	Janine Plavac
Sue Legg	Elizabeth Washington

Also present were Dr. Owen Roberts, Superintendent of Schools, and Jackie Johnson, Public Information Officer. Chairman Leanetta McNealy was attending a conference elsewhere.

Members Absent:

Mike Barton	Jill Geis	Donna Sheffield
Adam Boukari	Kathy Kaminsky	Sandy Springer
Cynthia Chestnut	Katie Malo	Sharon Surrency
Robert Clark	Rick Nesbit	Joe Swails
Jenn Denault	Aimee Oelrich	Carolyn Wade
John Dougherty	Lacy Redd	Aisha Yarn
Jacque Gallman	Jeffrey Rizzo	

**WELCOME AND
INTRODUCTIONS**

Mrs. Jackie Johnson, ACPS Communications and Community Initiatives Director, welcomed the members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was not a quorum present, so Approval of the Minutes was postponed. The minutes will be sent by email to each member.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Mrs. Johnson opened the meeting to discussion on the 2016-17 school calendar. She stated that there are still several unknowns, such as the state testing calendar and UF Homecoming date. One factor she would like the group to consider is that the state now allows an earlier school starting date, as long as it is not prior to August 10.

Karen Clarke, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, provided information to the group throughout the meeting.

Extensive discussion was held on the Cambridge testing schedules.

Dr. Roberts spoke about a key benefit to starting earlier is that there is more instructional time before the state assessment. He emphasized the significant difference that would make for many children.

Ms. Legg addressed the group regarding testing matters, in the context of her extensive career experience.

Ms. Plavic brought up the matter of lost instructional time, due to students being given the remainder of the day off after an exam.

Discussion was held on the how an earlier start date would impact the ending date of the first semester.

Ms. Plavac pointed out some challenges a shortened summer would have on Cambridge students and parents

A brief discussion was held on preferences for Spring Break, with points both for and against coinciding dates with UF/SFC breaks.

Mrs. Clarke explained that the calendar process is that a draft is prepared by the district and then submitted to the ACEA for review.

Dr. Roberts inquired of Mrs. Johnson what the direction of the DAC will be after the calendar issue. Mrs. Johnson stated that the Board will have the DAC priorities when they convene their Board Retreat.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is tentatively planned for the end of September

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at _____ p.m.