

**District Advisory Council**  
**Approved Minutes**  
**January 24, 2024, 4:00 p.m.**

**ATTENDANCE:**     Dr. Tyrone Blue                     Evelyn Foxx                     Stacie Oyenarte  
                         Emily Brandel                     Amy Gandy                     Tarena Stanley  
                         Carolina Currea                     Jenn Garrett                     Amy Trask  
                         Kathryn Dumoulin                     Taylor Gilfillan                     Keith Watts  
                         Chad Essary                     Jazzlyn Harrell                     Dr. David Wei (Jeff Wilkinson)  
                         Kathrine Faenza                     Mary Ferris Hyde                     Carolyn Woods  
                         Sara Felix                     Adriana Keen

**ABSENT:**             Lonika Boston                     Josh Jett                     Nancy Pearl  
                         Julie Brown                     Ty Keys                     Valerie Scott  
                         Judi Hebert                     Stacy Long

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Dr. Leanetta McNealy, Kay Abbit

**DISTRICT STAFF:** Shane Andrew, Superintendent  
Susan Seigle, Staff Attorney  
Dr. Anntwanique Edwards, Equity/Student Support Services  
Dr. Toni Griffin, Student Support Services  
Kathy Black, Student Support Services  
Kimberly Joy, Student Support Services  
Jackie Johnson, Communications Director  
Patty Underwood, Communications Office

**CALL TO ORDER/** Called to order at 4:08 and everyone was welcomed by Mr. Watts. Self-introductions  
**WELCOME:** were made.

**MINUTES** Ms. Foxx made motion to approve minutes, seconded by Dr. Wei.  
**APPROVAL:**

Correction was made per Ms. Trask that under Election of Co-Chairs, change wording in the following paragraph.

Old wording -- These three co-chairs will be responsible for setting the agenda (in collaboration with the superintendent and Jackie Johnson) to match

New wording -- These three co-chairs will be responsible for setting the agenda and they are to be supported by the Superintendent and Board Chair.

Ms. Trask made motion to amend minutes as suggested and seconded by Ms. Faenza  
Motion passed

Ms. Trask made motion to approve minutes and seconded by Ms. Faenza  
Motion carries

**NUMBER OF** Discussion on increasing the minimum number of full DAC meetings from three to four  
**DAC MEETINGS** per school year in the DAC bylaws to allow the group more time to get work done. Under current bylaws, there is flexibility to add more meetings. Meetings can also be extended.

If any subcommittees are established, this would also provide more opportunities to share its recommendations with the full DAC, then the School Board.

Ms. Trask made motion to increase the number of DAC meetings from three to four per school year in the bylaws.

Seconded by Ms. Brandel  
Motion carried

**ESTABLISHMENT OF  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON BOOKS/  
INSTRUCTIONAL  
MATERIALS IN  
SCHOOLS:**

Question was asked about how the subject came to be on the agenda. Ms. Trask stated co-chairs may bring topics to the full DAC and that it was mentioned during the 10/25 DAC meeting.

There was debate among co-chairs about whether a decision was made at the agenda development meeting to have the full DAC vote on whether or not to establish a subcommittee. There was disagreement on this point.

Ms. Trask pointed out that in 2014, a DAC subcommittee was established without a vote of the full DAC. She also discussed the reasons for the creation of a subcommittee on books, including the fact that until January 1 there was no consistent process, that more voices could be brought to the table to address the issues and find solutions. She also indicated that her notes from the agenda development meeting indicated that a subcommittee would be created, not that there would be a vote of the full DAC.

Ms. Garrett shared that she'd asked Ms. Johnson for clarification on this point, and that both she and Ms. Johnson understood there would be a vote of the full DAC about establishing a subcommittee. She also stated that the co-chairs never voted to establish a committee.

A DAC member asked for clarification about the district procedure and about the subcommittee's role. What would be the subcommittee's aim and purpose, and where do they come in on this process?

Ms. Trask stated that parents and public are not able to provide input into the challenge process until a recommendation is brought to a School Board meeting for a vote. The subcommittee would also be hearing from experts in this field. The subcommittee could address the process

A DAC member asked if there was a districtwide policy on this issue.

Ms. Trask stated that a new procedure took effect January 1 but that there are a few people who are objecting to it.

Mr. Andrew stated that his understanding from the agenda development meeting was that the issue of creating a subcommittee would be brought to the full DAC meeting. He asked that Ms. Seigle, the staff attorney, be provided an opportunity to share the new challenge procedures with the DAC and that DAC members be given time to share their thoughts.

Ms. Seigle went over the new procedures that took effect on January 1. She stated that is the first year we've had book challenges She stated that the original procedures were established with no public comment according to the state guidelines. However, the original procedures became an overwhelming burden to school staff. Ms. Seigle contacted other districts to see how they were handling book challenges. At least one had originally included public input, but then revised their procedure based on the impact on school staff.

Ms. Seigle indicated that the new procedure has worked well. Principals get the initial objection, which then goes to a district committee made up of a parent, media specialist, curriculum specialist, counselor. If the committee recommends that a book be removed from a school, that recommendation goes to the School Board for a vote that would include an opportunity for public input.

If the committee recommends that the book remain, then the person who challenged the book could request a hearing from a hearing officer. The hearing officer's decision would then go to the School Board for a vote, with public input.

Under the new procedure, the district committee will meet twice a month for book challenges.

#### Back to discussion

A DAC member stated that the DAC would be over-reaching and adding another element of confusion by forming a subcommittee, and that addressing book challenges is the district's responsibility. It was also stated that the three co-chairs should not be able to form a sub-committee without the full DAC voting and getting a quorum. If a subcommittee is formed, it should come back to the full DAC and say that this is what they want to present to the School Board and get the full DAC's approval.

Ms. Keen made motion to stop this conversation and to table this subject and move on to mental health.

Seconded by Ms. Foxx

Amendment made by Ms. Stanley to table this topic for the rest of the year.

Seconded by Ms. Foxx.

Question called – Passed (5 voted no)

#### **PRESENTATION OF MENTAL HEALTH/ DISCIPLINE**

Presented by Dr. Anntwanique Edwards, Kathy Black, Dr. Toni Griffin, Kim Joy

This presentation covered information about the district's mental health and student **PRESENTATION** behavior initiatives/strategies, summarized in a handout (attached) 'Helping People to Grow Better Together.'

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

Motion by Mr. Watts to hold next meeting on February 21

Seconded by Ms. Trask

Motion carried (2 no's)

**BRAINSTORM  
TOPICS:**

- Purpose and process for subcommittees in the future
- New Transportation Plan – How has it impacted our schools? Including safe walking distance, magnet stops, late buses, etc.
- Suggestion to send recommendations for other items to Jackie or the chair
- We should discuss the impact of mental health services and student behavior strategies. We need data on the results/how many students are utilizing these services.
- Lottery for magnet programs – need input from principals and teachers on magnet enrollments.
- Visiting speakers and guest should go first on the agenda.
- Possibly revisit our rules for co-chairs and future meetings. Can a co-chair be represented by a proxy?
- Rezoning

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Ms. Trask, seconded by Mr. Watts to adjourn  
Motion passed / 5:58 p.m.