

**District Advisory
Committee
April 7, 2021
(virtual)**

Opening

Chairman Jennifer Marinaccio called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. School board Chairman Linda Cuthbert, School Board Vice Chairman Jamie Haynes, board members Ruben Colón, Carl Persis, and Anita Burnett, were all in attendance. Also, Superintendent Dr. Scott Fritz and cabinet members were in the meeting.

The March minutes were approved. Ms. Marinaccio asked the three volunteers to serve as the nominating committee for any nominations for would like to serve as chairman or vice-chairman for the 2021-2022 school year. There were only two nominations: Jennifer Marinaccio, Chairman and Angela Kopnick, Vice Chairman. Both nominees will have a few minutes each to share information about themselves at the May meeting. Voting will be by show of hands.

Superintendent comments

First Year Teacher Awards

VCS' First Year Teacher of the Year awards hosted by the FUTURES Foundation were presented at Jackie Robinson Ballpark in Daytona Beach

- Brian Levine, 3rd Grade teacher at Citrus Grove Elementary, received the Elementary Award.
- Shane Story, ESE Support Facilitation teacher at Hinson Middle, received the Secondary Award.
- There were 45 nominees

Volunteers Can Return to Classrooms

- A limited number of volunteers will be back in schools beginning Monday, April 12 – now that the CDC guidelines for physical distancing in schools have been relaxed to 3 feet.
- This is part of our gradual reopening of some activities impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, while continuing to follow guidelines to keep students, employees, and volunteers safe.
- Every volunteer must have an approved application on file to volunteer.

FSA Testing Begins

- Florida Standards Assessments started this week – Grade 3 reading and Grades 4-10 writing
- FSA is critical to measuring students' progress so that we can determine what additional services and supports students need to be successful.

- Testing will continue into May. The full schedule is on our website: <https://www.vcsedu.org/REA/assessment> (see Testing Calendars)
- For advanced high school programs, Cambridge AICE exams will take place beginning April 26 at our 5 Cambridge high schools (Deltona, New Smyrna Beach, Pine Ridge, Seabreeze, and University). International Baccalaureate exams will start May 3 at DeLand and Spruce Creek high schools. Advanced Placement exams will also take place starting May 3 at all 10 high schools.

Kindergarten Roundup

- Kindergarten Roundup registration began March 29 – off to a good start with 647 registrations so far.
- Registration is done online through the VCS website.

New Volusia Veterans in Classrooms Program

- VCS and the West Volusia Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) are partnering for a new Volusia Veterans in Classrooms program.
- Social studies and JROTC teachers at middle and high schools can invite U.S. military veterans to speak to their classes before Memorial Day each spring and Veterans Day each fall.
- Veterans will share their military experiences and educate students on the importance of the two patriotic holidays in support of the academic curriculum.
- All presentations will be non-partisan and age-appropriate for students.
- Presentations will be done virtually this school year.

Summer Programs

- We are gearing up for comprehensive, rigorous summer programs – including a new academic bootcamp for elementary in June and middle and high school credit retrieval labs in June and July, in addition to our traditional summer program offerings.
- Our offerings are greatly expanding this year, funded in part by the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund.
- These programs will give students an academic boost to make sure they're succeeding at their grade level and are well-prepared for next school year.
- Will be a mix of traditional brick-and-mortar and virtual options – all levels: elementary, middle, and high school students.
- Families will be notified by their schools in mid to late April if their student meets the eligibility requirements. We are asking all eligible families to take advantage of this opportunity.

Strategic Plan Presentation

[Dr. Fritz presented the District's Strategic Plan.](#)

School Board Member Comments

Board members thanked Dr. Fritz and DAC members for volunteering their time.

School Success

FUTURES Foundation shared upcoming event dates listed below:

1st Year Teachers --April 6

Volusia County Job Fair--April 14

Tomorrow's Leaders Graduation – April 20

Turn-Around Awards – May 4

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

The next DAC meeting will be May 5 at 5:15 pm.