

***District Advisory
Committee
November 4, 2020
(virtual)***

Opening

Chairman Jennifer Marinaccio called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. School board members Ruben Colón and Carl Persis, and School Board Chairman Ida Wright were all in attendance. Also, Superintendent Dr. Carmen Balgobin, and assistant superintendents Dr. Gabe Berrio, Ms. Patty Corr and Ms. Rose Roland were in the meeting.

The October minutes were approved.

Superintendent comments

- Dr. Balgobin expressed how grateful and thankful she is to District Advisory Committee members and wished everyone a restful Thanksgiving holiday break.
- Volusia Live – update was presented at the October 27 school board meeting. All students' academic progress has been reviewed individually. Students not being successful with Volusia Live must return to face to face instruction. Families with extenuating circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Dr. Balgobin expressed her concern to the FL Department of Education about not knowing if there will be an extension for Volusia Live. Currently it is set to expire the end of the first semester (January 22). All 67 districts have asked the Commissioner of Education to consider the extension through the second semester. The district is working on a plan in case we must quarantine or temporarily close a school or if we have to go back to remote learning like we did after spring break.
- The last few weeks the state visited a couple of our schools that are on the bottom 300 list. Dr. Balgobin heard positive feedback from the Department of Education for having the right leadership and support in place at these schools.
- VCS received recognition from the state of Florida for the progress monitoring tools that are in place. Quick short formative instruction assessments that teachers implement are called topic checks. All of curriculum mapping that our schools are using have been created by our teachers in this district.

Mr. Mark West, Chief of Human Resources, and Ms. Christy Mahaney, Coordinator of Recruitment & Retention:

- Update on substitutes and job recruitment. The number of staff on campus is determined by student enrollment. Brick and mortar and Volusia Live are combined for school totals. Teachers have been placed where needed and no one has lost their jobs even though the enrollment numbers are lower than normal.
- The recruitment office has been very busy recruiting instructional and non-instructional employees. The district has participated in Volusia County job fair, Bethune-Cookman job fair and Stetson University career expo just to name a few. In the month of November, VCS will be hosting the virtual instructional job fair. Next week VCS will participate in the UCF virtual education career fair and the end of the month participate in the virtual diversity career fair in Orlando for instructional and non-instructional positions.
- For the month of October, VCS had an 87% substitute fill rate which is much higher than some surrounding districts.

Mr. Greg Akin, Chief Operating Officer:

- Thanksgiving Week curb-side meal service will be held Thursday, November 19, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at 22 locations. The meals will be bundled with 5 breakfasts and 5 lunches. Families must pre-register for meals by Friday, November 13. Visit our website for more information. <https://www.vcsedu.org/news/vcs-announces-curb-side-meal-service-thanksgiving-week>

Click here to register for meals: <https://forms.gle/vpSfR5vVS2P5iiJj7>

Operations Update- Greg Akin, Chief Operating Officer, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding CDC & AAP GUIDELINES. Please click [here](#) to see the link.

School Board Member Comments

- Carl Persis – thanked Mrs. Ida Wright for her many years of service to VCS.
- Ida Wright – thanked the DAC members for working with her the last eight years as a school board member. Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and she promised to stay involved with the community in the future.
- Both Mrs. Wright and Mr. Persis welcomed Mrs. Burnett to her new position as District 2 School Board member.

Question from a DAC member: Are there any new construction plans for new schools/ renovations in the future?

Answer from Mr. Akin: Yes, new construction plans are in the near future for Turie T. Small Elementary and Woodward Avenue Elementary and renovations include New Smyrna Beach Middle

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

The next DAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, at Deltona High; however, it could change to virtual. Members will be notified by email and the website will be updated.