

District Advisory Committee

October 7, 2020

Opening

Chairman Jennifer Marinaccio called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. School board members Ruben Colón, Carl Persis, Jamie Haynes and school board vice chair Linda Cuthbert were all in attendance. Also, superintendent Dr. Carmen Balgobin, and assistant superintendents Dr. Berrio, Renee Clayton, Patty Corr, and Rose Roland were in the meeting.

The September minutes were approved.

Superintendent comments

- October 5 was World Teachers' Day. Dr. Balgobin thanked teachers.
- Results of SAT – VCS 2020 seniors out-performed state and national students.
- FDOE – FDOE gave an update on the accountability status.
- Community – Dr. Balgobin has been out in the community and they are very proud of Volusia County Schools and the students. The community shares the same desire as VCS wanting our district to be the best.
- FTE week- looking at enrollees in schools and submitting data to the state. We are around 2,000 students short compared to this time last year. VOL has a very large number of students compared to last year. Last year there were 150 students enrolled and this year there are around 8,000 full time and 4, 000 part time students. Many students are starting to return to traditional settings.

Dr. Balgobin introduced Mr. Mark West, chief of human resources

- Staffing – looked at day 11 enrollment to help with the allocations. This year was unique with the VOL numbers.

Dr. Gabe Berrio, assistant superintendent

- Update on Volusia Live- the return to traditional learning is taking place in several phases. Master schedule changes may take place, but VCS will try to maintain the current schedule students have when they return to traditional learning. IB and Cambridge programs won't be changed. Core courses ELA, math, science where there are large amounts of students enrolled a master schedule change would likely take place.

School Way Café Heather Demeola, director and Valerie Hansen, asst. director, gave a PowerPoint presentation. Please click [here](#) to see the link.

School board member comments

Carl Persis – October 12-16 is National School Lunch week. He appreciates how much school way café provides for our students. Not just nutrition but compassion.

Ruben Colon – He’s getting a lot of questions regarding transitions, and made after day 9 of the school year. He said this happens every year. This year may seem like more but COVID-19 and the huge increase in Volusia Online Learning has contributed to this. The state has made no changes to classroom sizes.

Jamie Haynes – She gave a big thank you to School Way Café workers who work so hard to help feed VCS students. She also spoke about the Volusia County Fair and Youth show. The FFA students have to submit 3 prospective buyers by October 16 to be able to participate in the auction. Ms. Haynes encourages you to share this information and reach out to the middle and high school FFA chapter to find out how to be invited to the Volusia County Fair and Youth show. The auction is taking place on November 12.

Linda Cuthbert – she will be serving lunch at New Smyrna Beach Middle and at Cypress Creek in celebration of National School Lunch week. On another topic she strongly encourages every to vote their conscious. Supervisor of Elections Lisa Lewis asked for VCS assistance due to some of the regularly assigned locations could not be used this year. School will be close November 3. There will be only one entrance to the one room that will be used for voting.

School successes/comments

A question on the chat was asked what is going to be done for the students that are being told they have to go back because they have below a “C” grade.

Dr. Berrio responded: The Volusia Live option is part of the emergency order by the state. The Volusia Live option was only approved by the state as an alternative through the first semester. Part of the Volusia Live plan that was approved was students who are not showing adequate progress will need to return so face to face instruction, and interventions and remediation can take place where needed to help the student succeed. Safety measures have been put into place to help protect everyone at the schools. The parent will need to decide what is the best option that is available if they do not want their student to return.

Is there a date the state has to get back to us regarding extending Volusia Live? Ruben Colon explained most districts have version of Volusia Live and they all have to follow the same directive. This will come to an end for the entire state.

Patty Corr, assistant superintendent

The goal is to reduce the number of schedule changes wherever possible that would impact students and teachers. There will be some schedule changes due to electives which always happen pre COVID-19.

A COVID-19 dashboard reporting the number of positive cases in the district can be found here:

<https://www.vcsedu.org/reopening-roadmap/covid-19-data-dashboard>

Ivy Lloyd, Cypress Creek Elementary student, shared the Junior American Citizen National essay contest winner was from her school. Her name is Sage Day.

VCCPTA Comments:

Linda Witherwax, president, VCCPTA would like to share the message below.

- VCCPTA currently has 26 out of 46 PTAs registered with Florida PTA for the 2020-2021 school year.
- VCCPTA will be starting off workshops and trainings this year with the first one tomorrow, Thursday, October 8th at 7:30 pm. Topic: MemberHub and PTA memberships, membership dues, and fundraising options now available through MemberHub. You must register ahead of time. Emails about the workshop have been sent out to PTA Presidents. The workshop is open to all PTA/PTSA Executive Board members as well as fundraising chairs. Please contact Linda Witherwax, CC President with any questions. (lwithwaxpta@gmail.com).

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

The next DAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4 at Mainland High School.