

District Advisory Committee September 9, 2020 Minutes

Opening

Chairman Jennifer Marinaccio called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. Dr. Carmen Balgobin, superintendent; Ms. Patty Corr, asst. superintendent, middle; Ms. Rose Roland, asst. superintendent, student services; Dr. Rene Clayton, asst. superintendent, elementary; Dr. Gabriel Berrio, asst. superintendent, high school; and Ms. Kelly Schulz, director of community information were all in virtual attendance.

Ms. Marinaccio, DAC chairman, introduced Dr. Balgobin and school board members. They all spoke briefly. Next Jennifer thanked all District Advisory committee members for volunteering their time. She reviewed the responsibilities as a DAC representative. The minutes from May 5, 2020 DAC meeting were unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Comments

- visited many schools during the first week. The students all shared with her they missed their teachers, friends, they miss social interaction and the cafeteria food.
- very proud of every teacher, they were prepared and excited to welcome the students back
- thank you for choosing VCS as premier learning option

Back to School opening

Rose Roland, asst. superintendent, student services- spoke about:

- SEL- Social Emotional Learning children need to feel encouraged and have a supportive environment. Twenty-three school- based teachers have been trained in SEL strategies. All guidance counselors also have been trained in SEL and will be holding groups in schools with students that may be experiencing at home or at school. We want the students to be happy at school.

Patty Corr, asst. superintendent, middle school (currently also helping with online)

- visiting middle schools during opening week was exciting the scenery was a bit different with social distancing in place, but the students were excited and seemed to be happy to be in school
- there are more than 9,000 students enrolled in full time Vol, all students have received their core classes, elective classes are still being worked on

Dr. Rene Clayton, asst. superintendent, elementary school spoke about the following items:

- summer preparations to open schools with safety guidelines – Elem. Asst. Supt and Directors walked with every school principal to review the school based safety plans and provide feedback
- summer preparations also included a focus on Teaching and Learning by aligning the work with the new district strategic plan.

- this includes an academic goal, Goal 1: Engaging ALL students in high levels of learning EVERY day
- this includes work that is focused on Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
- this includes revising and improving the curriculum resources and curriculum maps, PD for instructional strategies, and resources for ongoing progress monitoring

Dr. Gabriel Berrio, asst. superintendent, high school, provided the following information:

- even though this school year is beginning very challenging high school students appeared to be very happy to return
- end goal is for all students to graduate college and career ready
- provide athletics and school activities as long as it is safe to do so
- looking ahead at potential senior events

(Q&A regarding testing information can be found located on the web beside the minutes)

School Board Member comments

Ruben Colon- every county is facing challenges. He has witnessed all VCS staff is working around the clock and committed to the students and families. Mr. Colon posted a video in the chat on the teams meeting regarding the amount of food the students could receive through the feeding program.

Linda Cuthbert- would like feedback and constructive criticism. It is important to share comments from your schools so they can be sure the district can move in the right direction.

Jamie Haynes- all students are available to receive free breakfast and lunch. The summer feeding program feeds any child 18 and younger. For more information click here:

<https://www.vcsedu.org/news/usda-extends-free-meals-through-december-18>

She also shared to please fill out the free and reduced lunch form. This form is how the district receives Title 1 money funding. Title 1 funding helps it many ways such as: it allows waivers for students taking the ACT/SAT test, provides additional technology, pays for academic reading, math, science coaches, extra intervention, tutoring and a lot of parent programs.

Carl Persis- Thankful for all the DAC members that volunteer their time. School is off to a great start.

School Success

A grandparent shared how happy her grandchild is to be back in school and cannot wait for her to be able to volunteer.

FUTURES mini-grant application still available until September 28

Adjournment

The next District Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 7, 5:15 p.m.** at Deltona High School, media center. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.