

District Advisory Committee Minutes

March 6, 2019

The District Advisory Committee (DAC) met on Wednesday, March 6, 2019, at 5:15 pm at Deltona High School, learning commons.

Ms. Angela Kopnicky, chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. February minutes were posted on the web for review prior to the meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved. Mr. Ruben Colón, school board member; Mr. Tom Russell, superintendent; Ms. Patty Corr; Dr. Kati Dyer, coordinator of professional learning and school improvement; and Ms. Kelly Schulz, director of community information, were all in attendance.

Ms. Kopnicky asked members for three volunteers to serve as the nominating committee. The nominating committee members are: Andrew Dickens, Timbercrest Elementary and Galaxy Middle, admoney58@gmail.com; Mary Bourgraf, Coronado Beach Elementary, maryf911@aol.com; and Missy Fraine, University High, mdfraine@volusia.k12.fl.us. E-mail the nominating committee members if you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone to serve as chairman or vice-chairman for the 2019-2020 school year. If you nominate someone, please make sure they are willing to serve. The nomination committee will announce any nominations they have received at the April meeting.

Mr. Russell spoke regarding great things happening around the district, bell schedules and textbooks:

Great things are happening with great people in our schools. Here are some of the activities he participated in on Wednesday, March 6:

- He served breakfast at Freedom Elementary.
- Mr. Colón and Mr. Russell participated in the Leader in Me program at Sunrise Elementary.
- Interviewed by University High students in a forum similar to "Meet the Press".
- West Volusia Chamber of Commerce recognized 35 VCS employees with the Crystal Apple award.

Bell schedules:

- A committee made up of teachers at each level; district staff; principals at each level and parents appointed by school board members have been tasked with creating options for the community to respond to on a survey
- This committee met 4 times. The survey is scheduled to be released the week of March 11
- A special board meeting will be held Thursday, March 28. (workshop at 2 p.m. and meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the DeLand Administrative Complex, board room.) This meeting is for the sole purpose of determining school start times and will have time for public input at 5:30 p.m.
- Please share this information with your SAC members and help spread the message to express your opinion on the survey

Textbooks:

- The Governor ordered the state to get rid of Common Core. Legislature will not begin reviewing this until next year and will take 2 to 3 years to complete new standards
- Textbook adoption stopped because of changing of the standards

- Next year is a “Gap Year” meaning there is no adoption
- School board approved purchase of math books but there were sufficient funds to purchase both ELA and math books because of it being a gap year the 2017 books were able to be purchased at the 2014 price
- Results from teacher survey showing 85% voted they would like both ELA and math books
- If board approves textbooks for K-5, both math and ELA will be purchased for school year 2019-2020

Dr. Kati Dyer, coordinator of professional learning and school improvement, gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the accreditation process. Accreditation is a voluntary method of quality assurance developed more than 100 years ago by American Universities and secondary schools. The goal of accreditation is to evaluate, verify and improve an institution's quality. To be accredited, schools must:

- Meet the AdvancED standards for quality schools
- Engage in continuous improvement
- Demonstrate quality assurance through internal and external review

There are five standards that must be met in addition to internal and external reviews. The climate survey that was recently offered on the district's home page is part of the evaluation process. We are currently within an internal review cycle and have completed our Accreditation Progress Report. We are planning for our third external review during SY 2020-2021 (originally scheduled for 2019-2020 but was extended by AdvancED).

Dr. Dyer divided DAC members into groups to discuss and share thoughts and questions regarding climate survey. Each group created suggestions that Dr. Dyer will analyze.

Mr. Ruben Colón, school board member, thanked District Advisory Committee members for their time and commitment to coming to the meetings and sharing the information with their schools.

School Successes

Ms. Leslie LaRue shared, as a school employee, she attended the first SIS (student information system) training and she is very pleased with the new system.

Ms. Barbara Diaz, VCCPTA president, announced scholarship and award nomination forms have been posted on the web. The opportunity for two graduating seniors to win a \$1,000 scholarship is available to any student in VCS district. The student's school does not have to be a PTA member however; the applicant has to be a member. They can join a local elementary school or our Sunshine State PTSA which is available online. Please see the link below for award and scholarship information.

<http://myvolusiaschools.org/Community-Information-Services/Pages/VCCPTA.aspx>

The next meeting is scheduled for April 3 at Mainland High school.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.