

District Advisory Committee Minutes

May 2, 2018

The District Advisory Committee (DAC) met on Wednesday, May 2, 2018, at 5:15 pm at Deltona High School, media center.

Ms. Angela Kopnicky, chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. April minutes were posted on the web for review prior to the meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved. Mr. Tom Russell, superintendent; Mr. Gary Marks, area superintendent; Mr. Greg Akin, chief operating officer; Ms. Saralee Morrissey, director of planning; Ms. Rachel Hazel, K-12 curriculum executive director; Mr. Mike Cicchetti, technology services director; and Ms. Nancy Wait, community information director, were all in attendance.

Ms. Angela Kopnicky and Ms. Sydra Desaussure were the only two nominees submitted for 2018-2019 District Advisory chairman and vice chairman. A vote was taken and unanimously approved for both to remain chairman and vice chairman for the 2018-2019 school year.

Ms. Saralee Morrissey presented a half-cent sales tax progress report discussing the items below:

- Construction prices are extremely volatile and still rising
- Pierson Elementary is running a little behind schedule but will be completed and open August 2018
- Chisholm Elementary construction is scheduled to begin this month with a completion date of Phase I the first semester 2019
- After Chisholm Elementary, any future construction will be affected by legislation the state passed last year which requires school districts to comply with a construction cost schedule, regardless of funding source. They only have one cost schedule for the whole state; it does not take into account different regions and does not reflect real price changes that occur in the construction industry
- George Marks Elementary design has recently begun with anticipation of a 2019 start construction date and opening date of 2020
- Deltona Middle is in the early phase of planning. Start of construction is scheduled for next summer
- Some delays are caused by having to wait for approval from DOE to demolish old buildings so the replacement buildings can begin construction
- Other major projects include Westside Elementary with construction start date of June
- Seabreeze High and Deltona High are getting ready for media center renovations
- High school athletics cost estimates are twice budgeted funds for field lights and track renovations; working to bundle projects to get a better bid estimate
- There are many HVAC projects taking place. These projects can take up to 18 months

Mr. Greg Akin spoke about safety and security:

- Fencing with single point access is underway; all campuses will become single point access. This will take about 12 months to complete. Thirty-four schools are already completed.

- Once fencing is complete, all schools will receive some sort of cipher locks or locking mechanisms. Whether it will be a buzz in system or key pads at certain locations will be determined on a school by school basis
- Looking at a camera system to allow police departments, to view cameras live

Next, Mr. Russell spoke about end of year events that are taking place such as banquets, concerts and graduation. He encouraged members take time to enjoy them. He brought regrets from School Board Member Mrs. Johnson was unable to attend because she was attending an end of year event. He then spoke about the items listed below:

- Ask your legislators what they can do to reduce testing and why new laws mandate how the half-cent sales tax can be spent
- Graduation is scheduled for the first week in June. It will stay the first weekend after Memorial Day except for 2020 because of a big event taking place
- There will be funding for mental health issues, but the state has not given any direction. Dr. Amy Hall will be leading our mental health task force and will devise a plan by July.
- Volusia County Schools would like to have an SRD or a police officer from a municipality at each of our schools. Some local police departments have provided officers to the district with the only cost being their salary. The Volusia County Sheriff currently requires the district to pay for uniforms, weapons and salaries (all cost).
- We are exploring the idea of hiring retired police officers with a 186 day contract

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.