

District Advisory Committee Minutes

April 4, 2018

The District Advisory Committee (DAC) met on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, at 5:15 pm at Mainland High School, media center.

Ms. Angela Kopnick, chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. March minutes were posted on the web for review prior to the meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved. Mr. Carl Persis, school board member; Ms. Susan Freeman, area superintendent; Ms. Rose Roland, area superintendent; Ms. Rachel Hazel, executive director, K-12 curriculum; Dr. Kati Dyer, coordinator of professional learning and school improvement; Ms. Susy Peterson, coordinator of Volusia online learning; and Ms. Nancy Wait, director of community information, were all in attendance.

Ms. Kopnick opened the floor for nominations for the upcoming school year DAC Chairman and Vice Chairman positions. The nominating committee reported no nominations were received prior to the meeting. At the end of the meeting, the current Chairman and Vice Chairman, Ms. Angela Kopnick and Ms. Sydra Desaussure, submitted their names to continue their positions for 2018-2019 school year. The nominations are closed and will be voted on at the May meeting.

Ms. Susan Freeman, area superintendent, represented Mr. Russell who sent his regards because he was in Tallahassee. She spoke on three topics:

- Testing – many students have anxiety about testing. There is so much pressure on students and parents with testing. She encouraged parents and teachers to help make testing a positive experience. Some schools hold test pep rallies making motivational speeches or words on the morning announcements.
- STEM – STEM programs are really growing in our schools. Multiple STEM programs are in all grades, elementary through high school, throughout the district. Many schools have robotic and Lego teams who have competed in state and national competitions.
- Annual job fair – next Thursday, April 12. There are over 400 prospective applicants that will be interviewed. A team from every school will be doing the interviews. Our schools are ready to hire energetic, motivated, awesome teachers.

Ms. Rachel Hazel, executive director of K-12 curriculum, and 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 2019-2020.

Ms. Susy Peterson, Coordinator, Volusia Online Learning, gave a [PowerPoint](#) presentation. Volusia Online Learning teachers are district employees. All courses offered align to Florida standards and district curriculum maps. She explained the advantages of virtual learning listed below:

- to meet online credit for graduation requirement
- to accelerate
- to recover credit through credit retrieval and/or credit recovery
- to participate in a course not offered by the school
- to participate in extracurricular activities offered during the school day
- to have flexibility to work at anytime of day and at any place with internet access

Ms. Peterson also discussed the options of the following types of virtual learning available to students: full-time; part-time; eLearning Labs at high schools; credit retrieval; and credit recovery. For more information please visit: www.volusiaonlinelearning.com or call Susy at (386)-506-0014.

Mr. Carl Persis, school board member, spoke about safety and security concerns. He stated the school board heard encouraging words that both federal and state governments have allocated more money for security measures. The school board members are waiting to see if there are guidelines and stipulations on how the funds must be spent, or can it be used wherever the district feels the areas of need are.

School Successes

Longstreet Elementary – The Lions Club of Ponce Inlet holds an annual peace poster contest. Last year Longstreet's student won locally, state level, regional level, national level and now is competing internationally.

Deltona Lakes Elementary is very excited and appreciative they will receive fencing around their school in 2 weeks versus the initial 2020 date it was scheduled for.

The next meeting will be May 2 at Deltona High School. The topic will be Half-Cent Sales Tax Update (Technology, Facilities, Safety/Security).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.