

District Advisory Committee Minutes  
Special Budget Meeting  
February 21, 2018

The District Advisory Committee (DAC) met on Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at 5:15 pm at Mainland High School, media center.

Ms. Angela Kopnicky, chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. Mr. Tom Russell, superintendent; Ms. Susan Freeman and Ms. Rose Roland, area superintendents; Ms. Deb Muller, chief financial officer; Ms. Teresa Marcks, chief academic officer; Ms. Rachel Hazel, executive director, K-12 curriculum; Ms. Kim Gilliland, director of ESE and student services; and Ms. Nancy Wait, director of community information, were all in attendance.

Mr. Russell spoke about safety and security in Volusia's schools and outlined the district's response to recent threats. He encouraged parents to check their children's social media accounts, as well as their backpacks.

Next Ms. Deb Muller, chief financial officer, spoke regarding Volusia County Schools budget. Prior to the meeting District Advisory Committee members received via email a budget planning questionnaire listed below and [district priorities](#). The committee was divided into small groups. Groups reported on priorities and discussion followed. Priorities will be discussed by district personnel during budget planning meetings, costed as applicable and shared with DAC members at a future meeting or by email.

Budget planning questions:

1. What current instructional or support programs do you believe are the most effective for increasing student achievement (please be as specific as possible)?
2. Are there areas or programs in your school that, in your opinion, do not support increased student achievement (please be as specific as possible)? Have you discussed this with school leadership?
3. Are there instructional or support programs that you would like the district to explore and consider implementing in the next 3 years (please be as specific as possible)?
4. Total per student funding has increased just 6.4% over the past 10 years, while inflation has increased more than 17%. Do you have ideas that would cut costs and could be redirected and used more effectively elsewhere (please be as specific as possible)?

The next DAC meeting is a regular meeting and will be held March 7, 5:15 p.m., at **Deltona High School, media center**. At this meeting, Mr. Russell will be talking to DAC members about the issue VCS is having with chronic absenteeism and how it is affecting student achievement.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.