

District Advisory Committee Minutes

December 6, 2017

The District Advisory Committee (DAC) met on Wednesday, December 7, at 5:15 pm at Deltona High School, multi-purpose room.

Ms. Angela Kopnicky, chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. School Board member Mrs. Melody Johnson; Mr. Tom Russell, superintendent; Mr. Gary Marks, area superintendent; Ms. Rachel Hazel, executive director of K-12 curriculum; Dr. Amy Hall, coordinator of student and government affairs; and Ms. Nancy Wait, director of community information services, were in attendance.

The November minutes were posted on the web for review prior to the meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Mr. Russell, superintendent, shared with DAC members the recent contributions received from Volusia County Sheriff department. A donation of two retired squad cars were received by Atlantic High School, law and government academy and New Smyrna Beach High School, criminal justice academy. They also donated 77 bicycles, one bike to every school. School staff will choose a student in need who shows strength in ABC (attendance, behavior and course work.)

Next Mr. Russell spoke about the recent bomb threat that took place at DeLand Middle school. A threat was called into the 911 Emergency Communications Center and then an unidentified backpack was located on campus. The school was placed in lock down until the bomb squad could verify what was in the bag. Fortunately, there was never any danger; however, all threats are taken seriously. This two and a half-hour hoax caused unnecessary stress and money. The two students who made the call were caught.

Mr. Russell closed with inviting DAC members to attend the upcoming annual high school showcase on December 14 and many of the holiday events, such as music and choir concerts, and dance recitals.

Dr. Amy Hall, coordinator of student relations and government affairs, spoke to DAC members about revisions and updates to the Student Progression Plan (SPP) and the 12th Annual High School Showcase. Dr. Hall gave a [PowerPoint](#) presentation explaining the purpose and format of the SPP. The recommended policy changes and legislative changes can be viewed in the attached [PowerPoint](#) link. Minimum changes were made this year. The SPP is scheduled to be approved by the board in January.

Dr. Hall shared information regarding the 12th Annual High School Showcase. The High School Showcase event will be held Thursday, December 14, at the Volusia County Fairgrounds/Tommy Lawrence Arena from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The purpose of the High School Showcase event is for 7th and 8th grade middle school students and their parents to learn about the outstanding programs and career academies available to high school students in Volusia County Schools. If you would like to contact Dr. Hall, she can be reached at 386-255-6475, ext. 20658 or alhall@volusia.k12.fl.us

Mrs. Melody Johnson, school board member, spoke about the district cost differential (DCD). Mrs. Johnson is headed to Tallahassee in January and will bring attention to the DCD when she meets with senators and house representatives. She stated the CRC

(constitution revision commission) has not moved forward with research on the DCD; however, there are two CRC members that are now actively engaged.

Mrs. Johnson closed with encouraging parents of middle school students to get their children involved with any kind of club, arts, sports, and extra-curricular activities in high school. Middle school students go from a much smaller student population to a very large campus with thousands of students. If they feel like they belong to an activity connected with their school it will make high school less overwhelming.

School Successes

George Marks Elementary held a fun, successful STEM day.

There will be NO meeting in January. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, February 7,** at Mainland High School, media center. The topic will be code of student conduct.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.