

District Advisory Committee Minutes

November 1, 2017

Mrs. Linda Cuthbert, school board vice chairman; Mr. Carl Persis, school board member; Mr. Tom Russell, superintendent; Ms. Kim Gilliland, director, exception student education; Mr. Greg Akin, chief operation officer; Ms. Annette Hood, volunteer/partnership programs facilitator; and Nancy Wait, director, community information services, were all in attendance.

Mrs. Angela Kopnicky, district advisory committee chairman, made introductions. A request to motion approval of October meeting minutes was made. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Russell touched on three areas that he will be discussing with Volusia County legislators on taking place Friday, November 3.

- DCD – due to the unfair funding formula, Volusia County Schools has lost \$11 million this year alone. Mr. Russell will also be asking for an increase on our BSA (Base Student Allocation) BSA impacts the classroom, programs.
- EOC – Mr. Russell will recommend the percentage of the students' grade from end-of-course exams be decreased from 30% of their grade to 20%
- Recommendation of multiple pathways to graduate with a high school diploma. Students who graduate with a certificate of completion versus a diploma because they could not pass the algebra exam or the tenth grade FSA limits the student with career choices.

Mr. Russell stated Volusia County Schools have reported 179 new student enrollments due to hurricane Irma. Sixty-two of the students came from south Florida and south west Florida and 117 students Puerto Rico.

Next Ms. Annette Hood, facilitator for volunteer and partnership programs, reported on the process of becoming a volunteer and reporting volunteer hours. She distributed a [school volunteer handbook](#) which explains roles and responsibility of a volunteer, the clearance process on how to become a volunteer and volunteer job descriptions. Before January 2016, it would take 3 to 4 weeks to be approved to volunteer. Now thorough the Raptor Management System anyone with a proper photo identification can be cleared in a matter of seconds. The Raptor Management System provides a sexual predator/offender database check to maximize the safety of our students and to meet Florida legal requirements. After you have been cleared to volunteer, the school volunteer coordinator will provide an orientation on school policies and volunteer procedures. A meeting will be scheduled between you and the individual you will be assisting. Ms. Hood also explained the importance of recording volunteer hours. Please be sure to sign-in through the Raptor Management System as a volunteer and not as a visitor to keep track of the volunteer hours. All hours that you provide as a service to the school, including work done at home for the school, will be recorded

through Raptor. If you need further assistance you can contact Ms. Hood at (386) 255-6475, ext. 38381.

Mr. Greg Akin, chief operation officer, presented a [PowerPoint](#) on safety. The school district has to have procedures and infrastructure to protect our students on campus. A through emergency comprehensive plan is updated every few years. Our comprehensive emergency management plan addresses a range of events and hazards caused by both nature and people. Extensive training takes place with teachers, administrators and security teams. Volusia County Schools is the 85th largest school district in the United States and the 13th largest in Florida. Even though there is a comprehensive plan in place we have look at the probability of something happening. Our county experiences severe weather every school year. We practice by doing drills and tabletop exercises to prepare for emergency situations. Four strategies that strengthen security and provide protection are:

- Access control – limit access to our students and staff by keeping all doors locked at all times
- Gate control – limit access to the campus by securing all gates except the main gate
- Visitor management procedures- require all visitors to report to the main office
- Communication – inform staff if they “See Something; Say Something”

Mr. Akin shared a couple of safety videos. On the district’s website you can view what parents need to know about [safety and security](#).

He mentioned the improvements that are beginning to take place at 13 schools due to the half-cent sales tax such as fencing, cameras, cypher locks and repeaters. The 13 schools receiving upgrades at this time are: DeLand High, Deltona High, Mainland High, New Smyrna Beach High, Pine Ridge High, DeLand Middle, Holly Hill School, Blue Lake Elementary, Champion Elementary, Citrus Grove Elementary, Indian River Elementary, Starke Elementary and Turie T. Small Elementary. Additional schools will be added in the next phase.

School successes

Spruce Creek High – girls’ volleyball team is competing at semi-regionals

Ormond Beach Elementary – multiple updates and repairs taking place to help keep the school safe which includes a new camera at front desk, a/c and window repairs

Ortona Elementary – held a Kickball Festival. Principal Mr. Adkins volunteered for the dunk tank and 100% of staff was involved with the festivities

University High – joined the Winners Circle in Victory Lane program through the Daytona International Speedway

George Marks Elementary – held their walk-a-thon. This is the first year they collected online contributions. They raised over \$16,000 and their profit was almost \$12,000

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, at Deltona High.