

District Advisory Committee September 6, 2023 Minutes

Opening

Chairman Angela Kopnicky called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Annetta Burnette, school board vice chair, Ruben Colon, school board member, Carl Persis, school board member, Jessie Thompson, school board member, Dr. Carmen Balgobin, superintendent; Julio Nazario-Valle, chief academic officer; Patty Corr, asst. superintendent, student services; Kristy Castellanos, executive director K-12 were all in attendance.

Ms. Kopnicky, DAC chairman, thanked all District Advisory Committee members for volunteering their time. Both DAC Chair Kopnicky and DAC Vice Chair Marinaccio presented a [detailed orientation](#) which included the responsibilities, purpose, and expectations as a DAC representative. The minutes from the May 3, 2023, DAC meeting were unanimously approved.

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Balgobin shared the talking points below:

Great First Day Back

- Every school in the district was visited by the superintendent or cabinet during the first week of school
- The reopening of schools consensus reflects everything went smoothly across the district
- Dr. Balgobin has hosted several Listen and Learn sessions including with principals and ESE staff
- The district started out with 63,000 students and currently we have 62,560. This is around 800 students less than this time last year; however, we have not received how many families have opted for HB1
- 4,576 instructional employees and 4,017 classroom teachers. We have about 70 teacher vacancies compared to 300 last year
- Custodians are providing a positive impact on the district now they are in-house employees. Fun fact: 468 custodians used 1,866 gallons of wax to wax 3.5 million square feet of floors
- Gale Lemerande donated \$500,000 to a program that helps out our students and families in the 32114 zip code. Sixty families have been identified to participate and will be transported from T.T. Small Elementary and Palm Terrace Elementary, five days a week to Daytona State College. The families will receive hot meals and the parents will be given the opportunity to engage in certificate courses while the student will have the opportunity to engage in acceleration/remediation classes. This will be happening the entire school year from 4:30- 6:30
- Seven new CTE programs/academies starting this school year. One of the classes being taught is aeronautical engineering in space and will be taught by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. VCS is very thankful for

the partnership which allows great opportunities for the students

Academic Update- Dr. Nazario-Valle

- Dr. Valle presented in a [PowerPoint](#) on ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies scores including VCS rankings in these categories. Please see some of the improved rankings below:
 - VCS State Rankings in ELA : Improved 16 placements overall in ELA rankings in the state from 2021-22 to 2022-23
 - VCS State Rankings in Math: Improved 10 placements overall in Math rankings in the state from 2021-22 to 2022-23
 - VCS State Rankings in Science: Improved 3 placements overall in Science rankings in the state from 2021-22 to 2022-23
 - VCS State Rankings in Social Studies: Improved 6 placements overall in Social Studies rankings in the state from 2021-22 to 2022-23
 - In science this past year VCS ranked 8th in science in the state out of 67 districts. One of the reasons VCS performs so well is because science is introduced in third grade versus fifth grade. Teaching science in third, fourth, and fifth grades definitely reflects in state rankings

Oopsie Project – www.goodforgirlsiniative.com

Ms. Carolyn Deni gave a presentation on the Oopsie project. Three years ago, founder Gina Elmazi began the initiative to stuff bags with women's hygiene products to provide to school nurses. Three years later, more than 24,000 bags have been stuffed, and this year 75 school nurses have received bagged hygiene items to distribute to students as needed. If you would like to be involved or help in any way, please visit www.goodforgirlsiniative.com

School Board Member comments

Ruben Colon- thanked the DAC members for volunteering their time

Adjournment

The next District Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 4**, 5:15 p.m. at Deltona High School, Learning Commons. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.