

**District Advisory Committee
April 2, 2025
Minutes**

Opening

Chairman Jennifer Marinaccio called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. School Board Member Jessie Thompson, John Cash, Chief of Staff; Stefanie Workman, HR Executive Director, Tiffany Fuller, Recruitment, Support and Retention Coordinator, Mike Cimino, REA Analyst and Danielle Johnson, Communications Specialist were all in attendance.

March minutes and the revised Bylaws were unanimously approved. The floor was open the entire meeting for any 2025-2026 District Advisory Council chair and vice chair nominations. At the end of the meeting there were two nominations: Jennifer Marinaccio for Chair and Angela Kopnicky for Vice Chair. Voting will take place at the May meeting.

Mr. Cash brought greetings on behalf of Dr. Balgobin. Mr. Cash shared it is testing season, and he is confident the teachers and students have prepared themselves to do really well.

[Local, Formative Assessments: Volusia Benchmark Assessments \(VBAs\)](#) – Mr. Mike Cimino, REA Analyst

Mr. Cimino share detailed testing information. Some of the highlights are listed below.

The purpose of a formative assessment is to:

- monitor student learning
- provide ongoing feedback
- identify strengths and weaknesses

There are two big assessments given to students: Progress Monitoring (State) and VBA (District). The difference between the two are Progress Monitoring test on content given for the year and VBA test on information taught per quarter. Both tests provide different data points. The PM data reflects the question number, benchmark (standard) and if the student got the item correct or incorrect. What it does not provide what content is being accessed in the benchmark. In the PowerPoint presentation Mr. Cimino gave a detailed explanation of how to use student data dashboard to identify which students are struggling to grow.

[Human Resources Update-](#) Ms. Stephanie Workman, HR Executive Director and Ms. Tiffany Fuller, Coordinator for Recruitment, Support and Retention

Ms. Workman and Ms. Fuller provided the total number of hires to date, how many recruitment events have taken place and a 3-year snapshot shown below.

School Year	Hiring Events	End of Q1 Vacancies	Total Hires
2022-23	70	149	636
2023-24	90	83	644
2024-25	30	70	284
Mid-Yr. Update	40	56	384

They highlighted Pathways Programs to become a VCS Teacher such as:

- Para to Teacher Program
- Teacher Apprentice Program
- Volusia Associate Teacher Substitute (VATS) Program

- Volusia County Schools New Teacher Academy offers support for new hires such as mentoring, professional learning and wellness opportunities. Another support alternative is The New Teacher Academy Showcase Classrooms which offers 5 options. Schools can choose to lead their own Showcase Classroom with new teachers using one of the formats of the 5 options. Sub funds will be provided for new teacher participants and mentors as need. Contact Meg Roa for details.
- Multiple pathway options to become a teacher, receive help with certifications and required testings and much more are explained in the detailed PowerPoint. For more information regarding hiring and recruitment please contact Ms. Fuller at tnfuller@volusia.k12.fl.us

Ms. Jessie Thompson, school board member expressed her gratitude for the detailed presentations given. She also reassured DAC representatives that she had taken notes and will provide additional support when possible.

Ms. Tara Riddle, Deltona Lakes Elementary, shared: The Volusia Council for Exceptional Children held their annual banquet to celebrate remarkable staff and families who work together to support our children with exceptionalities.

We are pleased to be sponsoring 7 scholarships to students who are pursuing career training after graduation.

The meeting ended at 6:47 p.m.