



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

*District Advisory Council
September 13, 2006*

Mission Statement: The District Advisory Council in cooperation with the Lee County School Board will gather information and seek input from the schools and the community at large in an effort to advise the Board and develop recommendations for constant improvement of our educational system.

Call to Order/ Minutes

Dr. Cynthia Lott welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Dr. Lott asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the DAC Meeting of May 10, 2006. Ms. Christina Chuderski made the motion to accept the minutes as presented, the motion died for lack of a second.

Ms. JoeAnne Thomas-Joseph asked that the following additions/corrections be made to the minutes:

- On page 4, #13, noted that she asked for the categories to be changed, because they do not reflect the true representation of the DAC.
- On page 5, second bullet, need to add Varsity Lakes Middle.
- On page 5, fifth bullet, spell out "regarding."
- On page 6, correct the spelling of "Diplomat" in the paragraph showing elementary school representation.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2006 District Advisory Council Meeting with the stated additions/corrections by Ms. Chuderski and seconded by Mr. Joe Mancini. The motion carried.

Public Comment (Agenda Items)

None

Board Member Update

Dr. Scricca stated that the School Board held a workshop yesterday (9/12/06) regarding the Board Advisory Committees, discussing their tenure, number of members, and their direction from the School Board. The Strategic Learning survey results from the 5/10/06 meeting were shared. The School Board discussed ways of promoting parent involvement. Dr. Scricca indicated that the Board is looking into the feasibility of the District providing daycare during DAC meetings (including cost, liability, and insurance issues). Also, the Board is looking into having a DAC brochure and the cost entailed. Dr. Scricca added that the Board will be meeting again, hopefully in the next few weeks, to review chairpersons' input.

Dates for DAC Meetings

One of the handouts was a listing of dates already established for DAC and the Executive Committee for DAC meetings.

Dr. Lott indicated that there might be an issue with the 2/14/07 date for the February DAC Meeting. Alternatives to the 2/14/07 date were considered and voted upon. The voting was as follows:

	<u>Votes</u>
• Keep the February DAC Meeting date as is.	6
• Change the day of the February DAC Meeting.	23*
• Keep the 2/14/07 meeting date, but have a short meeting.	2
• Cancel the February meeting.	20

Ms. Susan Cook made a motion, based upon the results of the voting*, to change the day of the February DAC Meeting to February 21, 2007. Ms. Chuderski seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representatives for Calendar Committee

Dr. Lott explained that DAC needs to have two community representatives from each zone represent them on the Calendar Committee. The first Calendar Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20th, at 6:00 p.m., in the Human Resources Conference Room. Dr. Lott added that for members who would like to give input on next year’s calendar, that this is an excellent opportunity to do so. She asked that persons interested, submit their names to Ms. Susan Johnson, recording secretary.

Nominating Committee

One of the handouts was the “Board Advisory Committee Chairperson Duties.” Dr. Lott stated that the Executive Committee decided to handle submissions of names for the Chairperson of DAC position through a Nominating Committee. She asked for volunteers to gather the names of those interested and present them to DAC at the meeting next month. Persons volunteering for the Nominating Committee were Dan Allen (Dunbar Middle representative) and Carrie Chase-Robideaux (Veterans Park Academy for the Arts representative). Dr. Lott asked that these volunteers meet with her just before the breakout session.

Strategic Listening Results

Dr. Lott shared that at the School Board Workshop on the previous day Dr. Browder was asked to look into the feasibility of providing daycare during the DAC meetings. There was discussion regarding if the daycare would be provided for members as well as nonmembers and that maybe this would be a possibility for all public meetings. Dr. Lott noted that we are closer to having a DAC brochure. She brought up that DAC is a large group and that we want parental involvement. Several people said that they never knew DAC existed. There was discussion about schools submitting three names for DAC representation, that they felt that someone coming to the meeting was better than no one. It was noted that in Board Policy 3.31, it states that each school shall have a representative and an alternate to DAC. Ms. Callie Lawrence noted that the same people coming to the meetings provides continuity. Whoever the DAC representative is they need to communicate the issues and the results of DAC voting back to the schools. Ms. Thomas-Joseph said that she

feels that it is quality and not quantity of membership that matters.

Survey question #4. Informing parents of the SAC meetings at other school functions. Dr. Lott explained that this could be piggy-backed on the brochure. Survey question #5. Conducting a survey to find out what parents know about SAC and DAC. Dr. Lott said that the Board will handle this. Survey question #12. The mission statement for DAC is being fulfilled through the present format. Dr. Lott stated that 49% do not agree that the mission statement is being fulfilled.

The following statements/ questions were made:

- If DAC members are not satisfied that they are fulfilling their mission, that they need to look at themselves.
- People feel that they are not being heard at different levels.
- Ideas do not leave this group.
- How does this group affect the decisions of the School Board?
- It is not DAC's purpose to address the School Board agenda.

Dr. Scricca noted that usually the items discussed at the Board Briefing Meetings are the items on the agenda for the Board Action Meetings. She indicated that it would be a lot of work to prepare for since the DAC only meets once a month and the Board usually has two meetings per month.

Mr. Joe Vetter stated that he feels that there is a disconnect between the mission statement and the productivity of DAC that there should be a running log to keep the group focused. Dr. Lott indicated that is the purpose of the agenda and notebooks for the breakout groups.

Dr. Lott noted that Mr. McNerney, the Staff Liaison for DAC, and Dr. Scricca, the Board Liaison for DAC, have direct lines to Dr. Browder and the School Board.

Dr. Scricca stated that she reports back to the other four Board Members, as they do for their assigned Board Advisory Committees; however, others' perception can be quite different. She said that she thinks that she is hearing that DAC would like to have the opportunity for more direct input to the Board.

It was noted that sometimes complaints that are brought up to the DAC just need to get back to the principal to be resolved.

Ms. Donna Butts said that what Dr. Scricca mentioned about Board Agenda items would add meat to the DAC. Possibly it could be narrowed down to one or two items on the agenda.

Dr. Scricca noted that, for example, Dr. Kuckel has been working with the Compliance Advisory Committee and the effectiveness of the Call Center. Dr. Kuckel brought it to the Board and they will workshop it. Dr. Scricca added that the Board Advisory Committees do have an influence on the School Board; however, their input might not be immediately acted upon.

Ms. Butts added that the DAC asked for input on Board agendas two years ago.

Dr. Lott stated that the job of the DAC members is bringing information/ questions from the SACs and sharing with the group.

It was noted that several years ago there was a Superintendent's Advisory Committee and that the Superintendent attended those meetings. Mr. Andy Erickson added that he thought that the Superintendent was going to push for that committee again.

It was mentioned that parents should know what is on upcoming Board agendas. Dr. Scricca indicated that the Board Agendas are posted 1-2 weeks ahead of the meetings and that the public can make comment at the Board Meetings to items that are not on the agenda.

Dr. Lott noted that some representatives just come once in a while to the DAC meetings and do not realize that certain topics have already been addressed. That is why there is a process in place for the subcommittees. There are agendas in the notebooks and the subcommittee chairs need to stick with the agenda. She feels that if all members will stay positive at the meetings then the DAC will meet its mission; however, a lot of negativity holds the group back and is not the level of professionalism required for this advisory committee.

It was noted that there will also need to be new chairpersons and secretaries for the subcommittees.

Dr. Scricca said that she will bring to DAC upcoming Board issues. The first issue she will bring up to DAC will be the Call Center. Dr. Scricca said that she has the statistics on this project and will bring them to the next meeting. Also, hopefully she can get a speaker to discuss the Call Center. The charge to school representatives will be to discuss the Call Center with their SAC.

Ms. Lawrence said that her school has posters about the Call Center and they put a notice in their newsletter; however, the schools have no idea how it is working.

Ms. Thomas-Joseph said that she feels that there should be a process in place to respond to the person that initiates a question or concern. Dr. Lott noted that she asked for feedback as to what the Board thinks.

Dr. Scricca indicated that there should be a project for each committee to work on. Dr. Lott noted that these projects can be brought up in DAC Executive Committee.

Mr. Keith Martin, School Board Attorney, is tentatively planning a training session for new Advisory Committee Members. Mr. Erickson noted that next month he might hold a session for new members. Mrs. Johnson will notify members if they need to be early for the DAC meeting for a training session with either Mr. Martin or

Mr. Erickson.

Breakout Group Discussions

Due to time constraints and the fact that the Strategic Listening results were already discussed in the large group, there were no breakout group discussions.

Breakout Group Reports

None were given. See above.

Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

None

Good of the Order

Ms. Butts asked that new members not get frustrated with the process, that difficulties will get worked out in the first couple of meetings and that all are welcome. Dr. Lott noted that she appreciates everyone's participation and that a lot can be accomplished if everyone stays with the issues.

The lockdown at four schools in the East Zone on Friday, September 8th was discussed. Dr. Lott noted that this would be an ideal subject to go to the subcommittees. Mr. Marty Mesch said that there was a debriefing of the Superintendent and District staff involved with the lockdown on the Monday after the event and some very positive things came out of that meeting. Mr. Mesch asked that anyone wanting to voice concerns or give suggestions, to get with him after the meeting or call him or come see him anytime.

Adjournment

Ms. Candace Farmer made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Thomas-Joseph. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee for District Advisory Council has been scheduled for: Monday, September 25, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's Conference Room, third floor of the Dr. James A. Adams Public Education Center, 2055 Central Avenue, Ft. Myers, Florida.

The next meeting of the District Advisory Council has been scheduled for: Wednesday, October 11, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room, first floor of the Dr. James A. Adams Public Education Center, 2055 Central Avenue, Ft. Myers, Florida.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan M. Johnson