

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

*District Advisory Council*

*September 12, 2018*



*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.*

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**Call to Order/Minutes**

Mr. Andy Erickson, Vice Chairperson, welcomed the audience and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Scott Hertz made a motion to accept the May 16, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Joan Downen. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment (Non-DAC Members – Agenda Items)**

None

**Board Update**

Mary Fischer discussed the upcoming election on November 6, 2018, and encouraged committee members to become informed on the School Board candidates. She also encouraged committee members to become informed about the district's capital funding challenges, by following the link below. She shared that research shows that education is one of the most important single economic drivers in a community, promoting higher incomes, better jobs, and healthy growth.

[https://www.leeschools.net/our\\_district/change\\_for\\_change](https://www.leeschools.net/our_district/change_for_change)

**Parliamentary Procedure**

Mr. Robert Dodig, School Board Attorney, updated the committee regarding School Board Policy 1.20: Community Involvement Opportunities. He discussed the role of both the chair and vice chair of Board Advisory Committees. He also discussed Sunshine Law, which requires openness of business in government. Sunshine Law makes meetings, records, votes, deliberations and other official actions available for public observation, participation and/or inspection.

**Volunteerism within the District**

Carol Woelke, Administrator for Parent Communications, presented the process on becoming a volunteer in the district. She shared a few ways in which parents may become involved with a school. Dr. Denise Carlin, Executive Director, Strategic Planning and Community Engagement, shared the volunteer opportunities currently available at the district level.

Dr. Thomas Millins, Principal, North Fort Myers Middle Academy for the Arts, Julie Dutko, Assistant Principal, and Heidi Bungard, Parent Coordinator, shared the importance of

volunteers at North Fort Myers Academy for the Arts. They discussed the ways in which they reach out to parents and community members to engage them to become a volunteer. They shared the volunteer opportunities their school has available.

Edward Mathews, Principal, South Fort Myers High School, presented the parent involvement opportunities his school has to offer, such as Open Houses, Senior Parent Night, Band Boosters, and Athletic Boosters to name a few. Mr. Mathews also shared current student involvement opportunities at South Fort Myers High School.

### **Questions Submitted on Cards After the Presentations/Answers from Administration**

**Q. How do we get the message out to community members who do not have kids in school about volunteer opportunities? How do we market to them?**

*A. Schools have a variety of ways in which opportunities are shared, such as newsletters to business and community partners and announcements at community based meetings. We encourage District Advisory members to encourage volunteerism as well. Response provided by Dr. Denise Carlin, Executive Director, Strategic Planning and Community Engagement*

**Q. Can student name and teacher's name be added to the volunteer form?**

*A. On the Volunteer Application form, there is a place where you can list specific teachers. Response provided by Carol Woelke, Administrator for Parent Communications*

**Q. Why is the district not investing in a software platform that schools can use for tracking volunteers? There are programs that will help with scheduling and tracking of volunteers.**

*A. The district uses a system called Keep N' Track to track volunteers. The system does not have a scheduling feature. Response provided by Carol Woelke, Administrator for Parent Communications*

**Q. How does every school get a paid parent coordinator position?**

*A. Title I schools have a parent involvement specialist, which is funded by Title I (federal) funds. The current budget is insufficient for non-Title I schools to have parent involvement specialists. Response provided by Dr. Denise Carlin, Executive Director, Strategic Planning and Community Engagement*

**Q. What number is the sales tax referendum on the ballot?**

*A. The sample ballot for the November 6, 2018 election may be viewed by a Lee County voter, via the following link: <https://lee.electionsfl.org/Admin/Check-my-Registration-Status>. (Voters accessing this site will need to scroll to the bottom of the page and complete three (3) questions in order to access their individual ballot.) The sales tax referendum will be one of the last items,*

*if not the last item, on the ballot. Response provided by Dr. Denise Carlin, Executive Director, Strategic Planning and Community Engagement.*

**Q. When will sub buses and/or sub drivers be added to the *Where's My Bus App*? Currently parents cannot follow the bus on the app if it is a sub bus and/or sub driver.**

*A. Our mechanics update the system daily with substitute buses. However, last minute changes are difficult to update due to the short notice. Response provided by Robert Codie, Director, Transportation*

**Q. Have we considered assigned seats on buses?**

*A. Elementary students have assigned seats. Middle and High school students are allowed to select their seats. However, a seating chart is assigned to all buses (required by law). Response provided by Robert Codie, Director, Transportation*

**Q. Has the district considered incorporating Mindfulness in the curriculum?**

*A. Many elementary and middle school counselors alike incorporate some mindfulness type of activities in their lessons, small groups, and individual counseling. They do not use a set curriculum, rather each school counselor may choose to incorporate components that they deem most appropriate based on the students they are assisting.*

*We currently have not identified Mindfulness as a district level strategy for high school. Individual schools may independently incorporate Mindfulness. Response provided by Dr. Wanda Creel, Chief Academic Officer*

**Q. Why do PTAs pay for curriculum, if there is a curriculum department at the district?**

*A. More than likely, these purchases are for programs or applications that are outside of our district's purchases for schools. Response provided by Dr. Wanda Creel, Chief Academic Officer*

**Q. Does each high school have a guidance counselor or parent volunteer who works with juniors and seniors on both academic and athletic scholarships?**

*A. Each high school counseling team works with students on college applications, scholarships, financial aid, and other post-secondary needs. High schools post scholarship opportunities electronically for students to review at their convenience and work with students on the scholarships for which they desire to apply. In reference to athletics, each school counseling team has a designee for post-secondary needs of the college-bound student athlete. This is especially important for NCAA requirements.*

*It is important for families to understand that schools make information readily available and meet with students to encourage them to avail themselves of these opportunities and provide*

*assistance. Students and parents reserve the right to determine their active pursuit of these opportunities made available by the school counseling team. Response provided by Lori Brooks, Assistant Director, School Counseling Services*

**Q. When was the last time the District reviewed the policy on requirements for individuals that apply for coaching positions? Are length of experience, knowledge of a specific sport, etc. taken into consideration when choosing a coach?**

*A. Coaching positions are bargained and part of the TALC contract. 5.06 Employment Opportunities (d) Instructional Supplements. The current TALC Contract may be viewed, via the following link: <https://www.leeschools.net/common/pages/UserFile.aspx?fileId=3233547>. Response provided by Dr. Angela Pruitt, Chief Human Resources Officer*

**Q. In view of today's cyber security and security in general, could we review the public information rule? It seems like identify thieves could obtain points of information which may facilitate identity theft.**

*A. To mitigate information risk, a combination of SETA (Security, Education, Training, & Awareness) initiatives, policies, and security technologies are required. The District actively employs the above to protect our information assets, including the redaction of exempt information from a public records request. Response provided by Trey Davis, Chief Information Officer*

**Q. Has there been and discussion on the formation of an Athletic Advisory Committee?**

*A. Not at this time. Response provided by Dr. Angela Pruitt, Chief Human Resources Officer*

### **Good of the Order**

None

### **Adjournment**

Vice Chairperson Erickson called for a motion to adjourn. George Miller made the motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. and it was seconded by Jessica Downen. The motion was carried unanimously.

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**Thank You to the following schools for having representation at this DAC meeting:**

**Elementary Schools:** Allen Park Elementary School, Bayshore Elementary School, Caloosa Elementary School, Cape Elementary School, Colonial Elementary School, Diplomat Elementary School, Edgewood Academy, Edison Park Creative and Expressive Arts School, Fort Myers Beach Elementary Schools, Franklin Park Elementary School, G. Weaver Hipps Elementary School, Gateway Elementary School, Gulf Elementary School, Hancock Creek Elementary School, Hector A. Cafferata Jr. Elementary School, Heights Elementary School, Lehigh Acres Elementary School,

Manatee Elementary School, Mirror Lakes Elementary School, Orange River Elementary School, Orangetown Elementary School, Patriot Elementary School, Pine Island Elementary School, Rayma C. Page Elementary School, Riverhall Elementary School, Skyline Elementary School, Spring Creek Elementary School, Sunshine Elementary School, Tanglewood Elementary School, Three Oaks Elementary School, Tice Elementary School, Tortuga Preserve Elementary School, Trafalgar Elementary School, Treeline Elementary School, Tropic Isles Elementary School, Villas Elementary School

**Middle Schools:** Bonita Springs Middle School, Caloosa Middle School, Challenger Middle School, Cypress Lake Middle School, Diplomat Middle School, Gulf Middle School, Lexington Middle School, Mariner Middle School, North Fort Myers Academy for the Arts, Oak Hammock Middle School, Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School, The Alva School, The Sanibel School, Three Oaks Middle School, Trafalgar Middle School, Varsity Lakes Middle Schools, Veterans Park Academy of for the Arts

**High Schools:** Bonita Springs High School, Cape Coral High School, Cypress Lake High School, Estero High School, Fort Myers High School, Ida S. Baker High School, Island Coast High School, Mariner High School, North Fort Myers High School, Riverdale High School, South Fort Myers High School

**Special Schools:** Buckingham Exceptional Center, Cape Coral Technical College, Dunbar Community School, Fort Myers Technical College, Royal Palm Exceptional Center, Lee Virtual School, Success Academy

**Principal Liaison:** Mary Blackmon, Middle School, and Dr. Ruthie Lohmeyer, High School

**School Board Liaison:** Mrs. Mary Fischer

**Staff Liaison:** Dr. Denise Carlin, Director, Strategic Planning and Community Engagement

**Presenters:** Robert Dodig, School Board Attorney, Carole Woelke, Administrator for Parent Communications, Dr. Thomas Millins, Principal, North Fort Myers Academy of the Arts, and Edward Mathews, Principal, South Fort Myers High School

**Guests:** N/A

**Schools not represented at this DAC meeting:**

**Elementary Schools:** Bonita Springs Elementary School, Dr. Carrie D. Robinson Littleton Elementary School, Harns Marsh Elementary School, James Stephens International Academy, J. Colin English Elementary School, Pelican Elementary School, Pinewoods Elementary School, Ray V. Pottorf Elementary School, San Carlos Park Elementary School

**Middle Schools:** Fort Myers Middle Academy, Harns Marsh Middle School, Lehigh Acres Middle School

**High Schools:** Dunbar High School, East Lee County High School, Lehigh Acres Senior High School

**Special Schools:** DJJ Sites and LAMP

The next meeting of the **District Advisory Council** is scheduled for October 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room, 2855 Colonial Blvd. Ft. Myers, Florida.

**Presentation: Student Enrollment/Assignment Plan and Academic Update**

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Cassandra Bishop, Recording Secretary

*An audio-visual recording of this meeting has been produced to provide a verbatim record of the proceeding and may be viewed on the School District's Website at [www.leeschools.net/district-advisory-committee](http://www.leeschools.net/district-advisory-committee). Members of the public wishing to obtain a copy of the recording of this or any meeting of the District Advisory Council must make a request through the District's Communication Department at (239) 337-8327.*