

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

District Advisory Council

April 17, 2019



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 to advise the Board and develop recommendations for constant improvement of our educational system.

Approved on 5/15/19

Call to Order/Minutes

Mr. Scott Hertz, Chairperson, welcomed the DAC Members and called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Andy Erickson made a motion to accept the March 13, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Amelia Cepeda. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment (Non-DAC Members – Agenda Items)

None

Board Update

Board Chair Gwynetta Gittens discussed the Bus Stop Safety Town Hall, which was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2019. The County Manager, City Managers, law enforcement, elected officials, School Board Members, school district staff, representatives from several community organizations, parents, and community members attended the Town Hall. Mrs. Gittens and Dr. Adkins, Superintendent, shared information about school bus stop safety, the Student Enrollment Plan, and the ways in which the District has partnered with municipalities, the county, and other organizations to address issues associated with bus stop safety. Participants wishing to speak were provided with time to ask questions and to share ideas and comments. Facebook Live was utilized as a platform for discussion and a method to gather ideas, comments, and recommendations. Several participants at the Town Hall submitted cards to the district, on which they provided suggestions and offers of assistance. The District will consider all suggestions and continue to partner with stakeholders regarding the implementation of long- and short-term solutions.

Mrs. Gittens expressed the importance of everyone's engagement regarding bus stop safety. This is a community-wide issue; and, it requires participation and support of all stakeholders to address the challenge. She reminded parents and guardians of the importance of discussing bus stop safety with their children and that supervision by parents and guardians at the bus stop is essential. Schools are also discussing school bus stop safety with students. For more information about the ways in which the school district is addressing this important issue, please visit our website: www.leeschools.net.

Mrs. Gittens also shared information regarding the following topics: a) School Board communications and their work, focused on the District Strategic Plan; b) Legislation, including "Grow Your Own," which is legislation regarding teacher recruitment; and c) the Student Enrollment Plan.

Vaping Presentation

Mary Lynn Rodriguez, Coordinator, Student Services, introduced Sara Thompson and Kathleen Wynne, Prevention Specialists, Student Services. They presented an update on vaping and answered questions from committee members. The PPT presentation may be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.leeschools.net/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=19477181>.

Ms. Rodriguez, Ms. Thompson and Ms. Wynne attended elementary, middle and high school breakout sessions, during which they engaged parents in additional discussion about vaping and elicited input regarding the most effective ways to share information with students, parents and guardians, including but not limited to the following:

- E-cigarette education to begin by 4th or 5th grade
- High school students who are earning volunteer hours present to the elementary school students about the dangers of vaping
- Assign each school club a month to develop and run a vaping prevention campaign to educate other students about the dangers of vaping
- Develop a short (5-10) minute presentation on vaping for all parent open houses and meetings at the beginning of the year. It should be short and to the point
- Utilize social media to better reach the kids. Some parents reasoned that students would not follow District social media. A high school junior was in the meeting; she stated her classmates would not follow a District-based social media site
- Find more videos on YouTube which appeal to young people that warn them about the dangers of vaping. Have students watch them in school
- Find some students who now regret vaping and have them speak to other students about their regret
- Facebook Live
- School-wide presentations
- Presentations in different languages
- Morning news
- Have a dentist or doctor come in to speak on effects of vaping
- Have schools go on a pep rally schedule to allow for these presentations to be given school-wide
- Imbed in health courses
- Parent nights - have a presentation available or a PowerPoint scrolling with information, offer dinner
- Student clubs
- Ground clings
- More student-created materials
- YouTube
- Snap Chat filters
- Facebook and targeted ads for parents
- Instagram targeted ads for students
- Share statistics based on consequences
- Stream videos while students and parents wait for scheduling during orientation
- Share data (i.e., how the expense of vaping effects parent's pockets)
- Invite a lawyer to speak on legal consequences and ramifications

Additional Comments/Recommendations:

- Elementary level inquired about how the parent presentations are being advertised. It was shared that information about parent presentations is also conveyed via Peachjar, news, district website, prevention Twitter page, and Lee.gov Community News and Events. Many parents stated that they are not signed up for Peachjar

- DARE Program and lack thereof - Some parents stated that DARE was not an evidence-based program, others stated that it helped their older children when it was available
- Update the Code of Conduct
- Implement a vaping alarm system

Questions Submitted on Cards After the Presentations/Answers from Administration

Q. Can principals confiscate vapes, Juuls, etc.?

A: Yes, school administrators will confiscate these items, as they are not permitted on school campuses. Parents/guardians will be contacted. If the instrument contains drug residue, it will be turned over to the School Resource Officer. Vapes and Jules free of drug residue will be returned to the parent/guardian.

Q. What is the district's policy on electronic cigarettes?

A: Students are not permitted to possess or use electronic cigarettes on school campuses and/or at school-sponsored events. (See the Students' Code of Conduct.) School administrators will confiscate electronic cigarettes and contact the student's parent/guardian.

Q. It is my understanding that some students vape on buses. Who monitors that?

A: Bus operators and/or attendants are responsible for the safe and orderly operation of school busses, including supervision of students. Violations of the Students' Code of Conduct (i.e., vaping) are reported to the school's administration.

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

None

Good of the Order

None

Adjournment

Andy Erickson made a motion to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. and it was seconded by Dante Cioffi. The motion was carried unanimously.

Thank you to the following schools for having representation at this DAC Meeting:

Elementary Schools: Allen Park Elementary School, Bonita Springs Elementary School, Cape Elementary School, Colonial Elementary School, Dr. Carrie D. Robinson Littleton Elementary School, Edgewood Elementary School, Edison Park Creative and Expressive Arts School, Fort Myers Beach Elementary School, Franklin Park Elementary School, G. Weaver Hipps Elementary School, Gateway Elementary School, Hancock Creek Elementary School, Hector A. Cafferata Jr. Elementary School, James Stephens International Academy, J. Colin English Elementary School, Lehigh Acres Elementary School, Manatee Elementary School, Orange River Elementary School, Orangewood Elementary School, Patriot Elementary School, Pelican Elementary School, Pine Island Elementary School, Pinewoods Elementary School, Ray V. Pottorf Elementary School, Rayma C. Page Elementary School, San Carlos Park Elementary School, Skyline Elementary School, Spring Creek Elementary School, Sunshine Elementary School,

Tanglewood Elementary School, Tice Elementary School, Tortuga Preserve Elementary School, Trafalgar Elementary School, Tropic Isles Elementary School, and Villas Elementary School

Middle Schools: Bonita Springs Middle School, Challenger Middle School, Cypress Lake Middle School, Diplomat Middle School, Gulf Middle School, Harns Marsh Middle School, Lehigh Acres Middle School, Lexington Middle School, Mariner Middle School, Oak Hammock Middle School, Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School, The Alva School, The Sanibel School, Three Oaks Middle School, Trafalgar Middle School, and Veterans Park Academy for the Arts

High Schools: Bonita Springs High School, Cape Coral High School, Cypress Lake High School, Dunbar High School, East Lee County High School, Estero High School, Fort Myers High School, Ida S. Baker High School, Mariner High School, and South Fort Myers High School

Special Schools: Buckingham Exceptional Center, Cape Coral Technical College, DJJ Sites, Dunbar Community School, Fort Myers Technical College, and Royal Palm Exceptional Center

Principal Liaisons: Christine Siebenaler, Elementary School, Mary Blackmon, Middle School (excused), and Dr. Ruthie Lohmeyer, High School

School Board Liaison: Mrs. Gwynetta Gittens

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

Presenters: Mary Lynn Rodriguez, Coordinator, Student Services, Sara Thompson and Kathleen Wynne, Prevention Specialists, Student Services

Guests: N/A

Schools not represented at this DAC meeting:

Elementary Schools: Bayshore Elementary School, Caloosa Elementary School, Diplomat Elementary School, Gulf Elementary School, Harns Marsh Elementary School, Heights Elementary School, Mirror Lakes Elementary School, Orange River Elementary School (excused), River Hall Elementary School, Three Oaks Elementary School, and Treeline Elementary School

Middle Schools: Caloosa Middle School, Fort Myers Middle Academy, Harns Marsh Middle School (excused) and North Fort Myers Academy for the Arts

High Schools: Island Coast High School, Lehigh Senior High School, North Fort Myers High School, and Riverdale High School

Special Schools: Lamp, Success Academy, and Lee Virtual School

The next meeting of the District Advisory Council is scheduled for May 15, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room, 2855 Colonial Blvd. Ft. Myers, Florida.

Presentation: Year-End Review by Dr. Adkins, Superintendent of Schools, and Legislative Update by

Carole Green, the district's Legislative Consultant

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.leechools.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.