

**District Advisory Committee
May 5, 2021
Minutes**

Opening

Chairman Jennifer Marinaccio called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Dr. Scott Fritz, Superintendent; Ms. Jamie Haynes, School Board Vice Chairman; Mr. Ruben Colon; and multiple cabinet members were all in attendance.

April minutes were unanimously approved.

Ms. Marinaccio explained there were only two nominees submitted by the end of the April meeting for 2021-2022 District Advisory Committee chairman and vice chairman. The two nominees were Ms. Jennifer Marinaccio for the chairman position and Ms. Angela Kopnicky for the vice chairman position. Ms. Marinaccio and Ms. Kopnicky both gave a brief introduction of themselves. Ms. Marinaccio and Ms. Kopnicky were voted in as the incoming 2021-2022 DAC Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Superintendent's Comments

Teacher, Substitute Teachers, and Nurse Appreciation Week

- May 3-7 we celebrated teachers and substitute teachers, and May 6-12 we celebrated school nurse week

State Emergency Order

- In an emergency order from the Florida Department of Education, some assessment requirements are being waived.
- The emergency order provides school districts across the state with flexibility on issues such as graduation requirements for current seniors, student promotion and retention decisions, and Bright Futures awards.
- The emergency order also gives the school district the opportunity to waive the state testing requirement on a case-by-case basis.
- We have more details and Frequently Asked Questions on our website homepage – www.vcsedu.org.

Learning Options for Next School Year

- Parents will have two options for their students for next school year – face-to-face learning at their zoned school or Volusia Online Learning.

Graduation Tickets

- VCS graduates will now receive up to 8 tickets each for their graduation ceremonies.
- Ceremonies are scheduled to be held June 3-6 at the Ocean Center.

New COO and Seabreeze High Principal

- Dr. Mark Shanoff has been appointed as the district's new Chief Operating Officer of Operations, effective June 1. Dr. Shanoff comes to VCS from Orange County Public Schools, where he has been principal of Edgewater High School since 2016. He previously served as a principal at the elementary and middle school levels in Orange County. He will succeed Greg Akin, who retired earlier this month.
- Dr. Earl Johnson Jr. will be the new principal of Seabreeze High School, effective June 1. Dr. Johnson is a Seabreeze High graduate, and held his first teaching job there as a math teacher, and served as an Assistant Principal of the school. He served as principal of Osceola and Turie T. Small elementary schools and Matanzas High School in Flagler County. Currently he is Executive Director of Student and Community Engagement and Operations for the Flagler County School District. He will succeed Seabreeze Principal Joe Rawlings, who plans to retire at the end of this school year.

Cambridge International

- The prestigious Cambridge International program has selected VCS as its District of the Year for medium-size U.S. school districts for the 2020-2021 school year.
- We doubled our student enrollment in Cambridge in our first three years of participation and had a 94% pass rate for the program's Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) diploma.

Summer Programs Update

- Most of our Summer Programs invitations will go to families this week. (The process was delayed a few days because the state emergency order affected our selection criteria for elementary.)
- We encourage all eligible families to take advantage of this excellent opportunity.
- We are still looking for some teachers for Summer Programs, so please spread the word.

Edgewater Public STEM Recertification

- Edgewater Public School, the first elementary school in Florida to earn national STEM certification by Cognia, has successfully recertified its STEM accreditation through 2026.
- This national certification recognizes the excellence of Edgewater Public's STEM educational programs based on 16 standards in the Cognia STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) framework. Edgewater Public first achieved STEM certification in 2016.

Kindergarten Roundup Reminder

- Kindergarten registration is going well.
- Registration is done online through the VCS website.

Cardiac Screening Presentation

Mr. Erik Nason & Ms. Anna Donaldson, AdventHealth; and Ms. Kelly Amy, Manager, Strategic Partnerships gave a presentation on cardiac screening. Please click [here](#) to view the presentation and [here](#) to view free sports physical flyer.

School Board Member Comments

Ms. Jamie Haynes shared with the group her experience she had attending the FUTURES Turn Around event. This event celebrates students that have shown a dramatic improvement in grades, behavior, attitude, and/or citizenship.

She also shared with DAC members that the VCS Teacher of the Year has been selected as one of the five finalists for the statewide Teacher of the Year. Mr. Frank Garaitonandia, Citrus Grove Elementary, will find out at a banquet in July if he is the winner for the state.

Mr. Ruben Colon shared the process and timeline of revising the district's current mask policy.

School Successes

Ms. Joanna Kaney Olivari shared Ormond Beach Middle school will be hosting a 5K on May 22.

The meeting ended at 5:50 p.m.