

## **District Advisory Committee March 1, 2023 Minutes**

### **Opening**

Chairman Jennifer Marinaccio called the meeting to order at 5:15pm. Jamie Haynes, School Board Chairman, Ruben Colón, School Board Member, Dr. Earl Johnson, Chief Operations Officer, Rose Roland, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services, Angel Gomez, Communications Director, Craig Pender, Coordinator, Student Relations, and Ron Young, Planning and Construction Director were all in attendance.

Mrs. Marinaccio, DAC Chairman opened the meeting by thanking the membership for their commitment thus far, and reminding everyone that there are only two more meetings this year. DAC member Michael Ninnivaggi was congratulated for being recognized by the School Board for his dedication to his students at Pine Trail Elementary School. The minutes from the February 1, 2023, DAC meeting were unanimously approved.

### **Nominating Selection Committee**

Mrs. Marinaccio reviewed the responsibilities of the DAC Nominating Selection Committee

- The Committee is composed of three DAC Representatives
- Duties may be fulfilled virtually/by email
- The District will send out an email with Nominating Committee members' contact information to all DAC members
- Committee members will be contacted by DAC members interested in serving as DAC Chair or Vice-Chair for the 2023-24 academic year
- Committee members will forward the names of all DAC members interested to Lisa Long prior to the April DAC meeting
- At the April DAC meeting the Nominating Committee will report with any nominations that were submitted; nominations will also be taken from the floor
- At the May DAC meeting each nominee will have the opportunity to briefly address the members before voting
- The members of the Nominating Committee are:
  - Rhonda Lawhun, Indian River Elementary, [Roofingrhonda@gmail.com](mailto:Roofingrhonda@gmail.com)
  - Randol Hentges, Pride Elementary, [rdhentge@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:rdhentge@volusia.k12.fl.us)
  - Katina Marchione, McInnis Elementary and Taylor Middle-High, [Katina.marchione@gmail.com](mailto:Katina.marchione@gmail.com)

### **Safety and Security, and Code of Conduct**

Dr. Earl Johnson, Chief Operations Officer, and Rose Roland, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services discussed Safety and Security:

- Dr. Johnson shared that student safety is the number one priority for Superintendent Balgobin and the District; if students do not feel safe they cannot learn
- In addition to implementation of structural safety improvements, there are also mental health interventions to address student discipline issues to ensure a safe learning environment
- Rose Roland reviewed Social Emotional Learning initiatives in place to address underlying issues resulting in student discipline concerns

- Sample Harmony is being used in our elementary schools; Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) is the primary SEL intervention used in our middle and high schools
- During summer 2022 100% of schools were trained in PBIS
- Restorative Practices is an initiative that encourages students to reflect on and take responsibility for their actions and come up with a plan to repair harm; last year each school had a Restorative Practices team. Due to teacher shortages and the need to reassign those staff members to classrooms, Restorative Practices groups are conducted at schools around the county by Nick Prince with Student Services. Groups are conducted with up to 10 students, primarily in middle and high schools
- PASS (Positive Alternative School Suspension, previously ISS) conducts Restorative Practice discussion circles every morning; as a result the suspension rate has dropped
- Discipline issues have increased following students being out of school for COVID, presenting increased challenges

Rose Roland, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services, and Craig Pender, Coordinator, Student Relations, presented a PowerPoint on Code of Student Conduct and Discipline policy 208E and 208S

- The Code defines four levels of discipline offenses and a selection of appropriate responses for each level
- The Code can be found under School Board policies on the District website as well as on the website for every individual school
- There are different Codes for elementary (208E) and middle and high schools (208S) to recognize that discipline issues may not be applicable due to age, including those involving telecommunication devices, unauthorized absences, and vehicle violations
- When a referral is received by the school administration, the following steps are set in motion:
  1. School investigation into referral, including student's explanation
  2. Administration determines appropriate offense(s) codings and appropriate response
  3. Parents/Guardians may request a conference with the school principal
- Level III infractions may be referred to the District; Level IV infractions must be referred to the District
- Recommendations for revisions to the Code are currently being accepted through March 30, 2023. Revisions are recommended to reflect SESIR (School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting System) changes, respond to community trends/concerns, and support school staff
- Recommendations for Code revision must be submitted through Forms Document available on the District website or by email to Craig Pender [clpender@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:clpender@volusia.k12.fl.us)
- Potential revisions will be reviewed by the Legal Department, and the Superintendent and Cabinet, and then a draft will be disseminated for review. A draft will be presented to the Board for approval to advertise; a final draft will be advertised for 28 days, after which there will be a public hearing and Board vote
- Analysis of Code infractions was provided by PowerPoint, to include:
  1. Ten primary Code infractions for high school, middle school, and elementary school, with yearly comparison for the years 2019 through 2023
  2. Yearly comparison of interventions for 2018-19 through 2022-23

3. Yearly comparison of infractions by Level, and further broken down by elementary, middle, and high school, for the years 2017 through 2022
- Rose Roland shared proactive adjustments made to improve school safety, including:
  1. Campus walkthroughs by Captain Shivers, Craig Pender, and Rose Roland
  2. Two counselors are assigned to elementary schools with 600 or more students
  3. A Mental Health Therapist is now assigned to each middle school, as well as each high school
  4. All School Guardians have received de-escalation training
  5. There is District-wide reinforcement of positive behaviors through the “Schools of Character” campaign, in which each month has a positive characteristic as its theme; February is Kindness, March is Citizenship, April is Self-Control
- Alternative Education for the elementary level is being discussed, as there is a now a need for this placement

### **Orange City Elementary Construction Update**

Dr. Earl Johnson, Chief Operating Officer, and Ron Young, Director, Planning and Construction presented a PowerPoint updating the progress of Orange City Elementary

- The project is a total school replacement
- Conditional upon Board approval, construction will begin in December 2023
- Students will attend school in portables on site during construction
- The target date for completing construction and student occupation is Summer 2025

### **School Board Member Comments**

**Ruben Colón** – Mr. Colón emphasized how complex the student discipline process is; parents of students who were the victims of an offense would like the student committing the infraction to be removed from the school, parents of the offending student would like their child to be able to return and they may disagree about the severity of the infraction, behaviors may have a different context when more is learned about the circumstances, removal of students is complicated by the potential for students who are out of school to create issues in their communities. Mr. Colón urged that any analysis of student discipline issues must include awareness of the complexities surrounding consequences for infractions.

**Jamie Haynes** – Ms. Haynes urged parents to be empowered in their role as parents; there are many outside influences on students that may lead them to make poor choices, and parents need to establish rules and boundaries (e.g., with cell phone and computer use) that provide a foundation for students to adopt healthier decision-making skills.

### **Adjournment**

The next District Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, 5:15pm, at Mainland High School. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm