

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

*District Advisory Council*

*February 20, 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 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. Scott Hertz, Chairperson, welcomed the DAC Members and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Eric Riemenschneider made a motion to accept the January 16, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Amy Jane McWilliam. The motion carried unanimously.

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

None

**Board Update**

Board Chair Gwynetta Gittens welcomed the committee and opened the floor to committee members to ask questions. Mrs. Gittens answered questions regarding school safety.

Mrs. Gittens encouraged committee members, including members from District 5, to either volunteer or recommend someone to apply for one of the Board Advisory Committees. To complete the Board Advisory application, please follow the link below.

[https://www.leeschools.net/leadership/school\\_board/advisory\\_committee\\_information/online\\_application](https://www.leeschools.net/leadership/school_board/advisory_committee_information/online_application)

**Site Selection Committee**

One of the DAC representatives from the West Zone is no longer available to participate on the Site Selection Committee. Chairperson Hertz made a request for another DAC member from the West Zone to serve as a committee representative at the February 27, 2019 Site Selection Committee meeting. A vote occurred and Amy Jane McWilliam from Island Coast High School will be the second DAC representative from the West Zone.

**Transportation Presentation**

Roger Lloyd, Transportation Department Director introduced James Buchanon, Jarriad McKinney and Richard Perdue, Senior Administrators, Transportation Department. They presented an update on Transportation and answered questions from committee members.

Several of the committee members expressed concerns about late buses. Mr. Lloyd stated that the primary reason for late buses is the shortage of both regular and substitute bus drivers. Mr. Lloyd shared several strategies to assist with remedying this challenge. The district has a tentative agreement with the union, which would include a raise for drivers. In addition, the district is looking at offering an incentive package that would cover the cost of training and eliminate the high school diploma requirement.

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

Q. What is the process for students under Project A.C.C.E.S.S. to obtain transportation?

*A. Answered by Roger Lloyd, Director Transportation*

<b>Step</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
1.	Bus stop request sent to zone routers, zone supervisors and zone senior administrator	Student Welfare and Attendance
2.	Zone routers assign stop, times and bus within 72 hours; stop will be made effective 3 days after to give time to parents of established riders so that they may make adjustment to their schedules	Routers
3.	Zone routers communicate stop information to Student Welfare and Attendance within 72 hours	Routers
4.	School and parents are notified of bus assignment	Student Welfare and Attendance
5.	Postcards and copy of new route sheet are sent to the school and Student Welfare and Attendance	Routers
6.	Drivers are notified of route change	Supervisors

Q. When a student under Project A.C.C.E.S.S. moves to a new location, what is the priority for that student to continue receiving transportation?

*A. To be fair and equitable to all students, the routers complete bus stop requests in the order in which they are received. Project A.C.C.E.S.S. requests are given priority and are moved to the “top of the pile” to be completed within 72 hours. Answered by Roger Lloyd, Director Transportation*

Q. How is overcrowding addressed on busses? Sometimes we have several students per seat on the bus, plus instruments, book bags, etc. There are also anecdotal stories of students having to sit on others’ laps. What is the best way to get these complaints addressed quickly?

*Technically, our new buses have a seating capacity of 77 passengers. However, this obviously does not hold true for the middle and high school students. According to School Board Policy, the maximum loads on a 77 passenger bus should be 52 high school students, 60 middle school students or 71 elementary students. Our unwritten, department policy does not place more than 2 middle or high school students in a seat, so the bus capacities are actually lower. (We might have three students per seat if the first stop is a few minutes from school and a large number of students are assigned to that stop.) Instruments and book bags should be carried on the student’s lap when seating is an issue. For this reason, the District has a list of instruments that may be transported and a list of instruments that we should not be transporting. If a bus is overcrowded, our drivers are usually the first to report it to our supervisors. Students and parents may also report the overcrowding to the school or Transportation Department directly. The District (school/Transportation) will then do a “head count” to verify that the bus is overcrowded. Our routers will then move stops to another bus to ensure that all assigned students have a seat. Answered by Roger Lloyd, Director Transportation*

Q. How will the half-cent sales tax alleviate transportation issues?

*A. Currently, sales tax revenue will not directly alleviate these issues as this revenue is not specifically designated for transportation expenditures, projects, etc. Answered by Greg Blurton, Chief Finance Officer*

Q. Will building more schools make transportation issues better or worse?

*A. The redistribution of students increases the number of bus routes and as a result, increases the number of drivers needed. This will be a challenge, as we are already short bus drivers. However, we are working to alleviate this challenge by increasing salaries and increasing incentives for exemplary employees. Answered by Roger Lloyd, Director Transportation*

Q. Could a policy be put in place that, if a parent wants their child to go to a school other than their “neighborhood” school, they have to arrange their own transportation?

*A. Our current Student Enrollment Plan centers on school capacity at each school and as everyone is aware, our seats are limited. While we want parents and children to be enrolled in the school they want and in their neighborhood, that is not feasible at this time. A proximity plan is being developed for elementary children to have limited school choices in an area near their home. With the continued influx of families to Lee County, this needs to be vetted with great care. Answered by Soretta Ralph, Executive Director, Student Enrollment*

Q. Why haven't textbooks been fully replaced by digital textbooks across the district? This is very inconsistent, as some students have 15 lb. backpacks and some only have Chromebooks and a binder.

*A. During the adoption process, our Textbook Adoption committee members provided a recommendation on how the course material should be delivered. They had a choice of print and digital, class sets and digital, or digital only. With some adoptions, the committee has recommended digital only, such as for our High School Social Studies courses and our High School Earth Space Science, Marine Science, Physics, and Chemistry courses. Other adoption committees have recommended class sets and digital, such as for our Middle School Science, Biology, and Environmental Science courses. Typically, elementary committees recommended print and digital for every student, since only some of the elementary classes have 1:1 devices.*

*During the math adoption process in October, our math committees recommended print and digital textbooks for all students. They felt that, with math, it was important that students have the print and consumable materials as well as having access to the digital resources provided on the platforms.*

*We have always tried to honor our committee's recommendations, but due to cost, sometimes we are unable to do so. For example, for our science implementation, we only purchased print for students and digital for teachers. We try to meet the needs of our teachers and students in the best way possible within the budget we receive from the State. Answer provided by Karen Babor, Coordinator, Instructional Technology/Instructional Materials*

Q. One of the issues with overcrowding on busses for middle school is that the textbooks have not been fully replaced by Chromebooks, so students have to take everything back and forth from their home because most middle schools do not have lockers. How can this be addressed?

*Students could bring home their chrome book with access to the internet if they have it. If it is a high school student and they do not have access, we can provide a data point from Sprint for home access to the internet. Additionally, families could utilize homework messages from teachers to ensure that students aren't bringing home books unnecessarily. If these options are not solving the situations, I would encourage the family to speak with administration to develop a plan for not overburdening a student with the weight of a book bag. Answers provided by Karen Babor, Coordinator, Instructional Technology/Instructional Materials and Dr. Wanda Creel, Chief Academic Officer*

Q. The evening is often the busiest time for families. Could other times or rotating times for DAC meetings be explored? Could the entire district of parents be polled for times that work best for them?

*A. These questions will be discussed at the April 1, 2019 Executive DAC Meeting. Response provided by Cassandra Bishop, Recording Secretary, DAC*

Q. What plans are being made to secure walkway coverage from portables to buildings so students aren't trapped there in inclement weather?

*A. Our portables are intended to be temporary classrooms. As such, there are only requirements for covered walkways if the portable is in place for four years or more. Answered by Richard Parfitt, Director, Safety and Security*

### **Good of the Order**

None

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Hertz called for a motion to adjourn. Eric Riemenschneider made the motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. and it was seconded by Andy Erickson. The motion was carried unanimously.

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

**Elementary Schools:** Bayshore Elementary School, Bonita Springs Elementary School, Caloosa Elementary School, Dr. Carrie D. Robinson Littleton Elementary School, Edgewood Elementary School, Edison Park Creative and Expressive Arts School, Fort Myers Beach Elementary School, Gateway Elementary School, Gulf Elementary School, Harns Marsh Elementary School, Hector A. Cafferata Jr. Elementary School, Heights Elementary School, James Stephens International Academy, J. Colin English Elementary School, Orange River Elementary School, Orangewood Elementary School, Patriot Elementary School, Pine Island Elementary School, Ray V. Pottorf Elementary School, River Hall 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, Caloosa Middle School, Challenger Middle School, Cypress Lake Middle School, Gulf Middle School, Lehigh Acres Middle School, Mariner Middle School, Oak Hammock Middle School, Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School, The Alva School, Three Oaks Middle School, and Varsity Lakes Middle School

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

**Special Schools:** Buckingham Exceptional Center, Cape Coral Technical College, and Fort Myers Technical College

**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:** Roger Lloyd, Director, Transportation, James Buchanon, Senior Administrator, Transportation, Jarriad McKinney, Senior Administrator, Transportation, and Richard Perdue, Senior Administrator, Transportation

**Guests:** N/A

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

**Elementary Schools:** Allen Park Elementary School, Cape Elementary School, Colonial Elementary School (excused), Diplomat Elementary School, Franklin Park Elementary School, G. Weaver Hipps Elementary School, Hancock Creek Elementary School, Lehigh Acres Elementary School, Manatee Elementary School (excused), Mirror Lakes Elementary School, Pinewoods Elementary School, Rayma C. Page Elementary School, Three Oaks Elementary School, and Treeline Elementary School

**Middle Schools:** Diplomat Middle School, Fort Myers Middle Academy, Harns Marsh Middle School, Lexington Middle School, North Fort Myers Academy for the Arts, The Sanibel School, Trafalgar Middle School, and Veterans Park Academy for the Arts

**High Schools:** Cape Coral High School, Dunbar High School, and East Lee County High School

**Special Schools:** DJJ Sites, Dunbar Community School, Lamp, Royal Palm Exceptional Center, Success Academy, and Lee Virtual School

**The next meeting of the District Advisory Council is scheduled for March 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room, 2855 Colonial Blvd. Ft. Myers, Florida.**

**Presentation: Inclusion**

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.***