

District Advisory Council Meeting - MINUTES

Wakulla County Schools

January 21, 2014



Expected Outcomes:

- Update on Climate Survey
- Calendar Committee Representative
- Review and Discussion of Ways the District is Addressing Bullying Prevention

Task	Notes
Attendance, Review Agenda, Approve/Disapprove Minutes	<p>Attendees: Andrea Carter; Louis Garcia; Amy Geiger; Sonya Hicks; Deonne Hill; Heather Mursell; Diane Perez; Tiffany Sandberg; Mindy Silcox; Jennifer Taylor; Vicki Benton; Beth Brown; Jodie Martin; Sharon Kemp; Robert Pearce; Missy Rudd; Vicki Tillman; Judy Myhre; Beth Mims</p> <p>Minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.</p>
Comments from the Superintendent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wakulla High School achieved an “A” grade for last year. It looks like the recognition dollars for WHS, WMS, RMS, and RES will be approximately \$100/FTE. The distribution of these dollars must be approved by the School Advisory Council, and the money must be used for the receiving school. • There will be a change in how school choice is handled in the district. In the past, most out-of-zone requests were granted. Due to the requirements of class-size requirements, this has become unmanageable. The result this year is that even after adding co-teachers to address class overages, one class remained out of compliance. Beginning next year, there will be only 12 allotted slots at each elementary and 12 allotted slots at each middle school. This meets the letter of the law, but it is a change from previous practice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School Board employees still have choice. ○ Questions may be directed to Beth O’Donnell at 926-0065; mary.odonnell@wcsb.us ○ An in-depth article on the change is available the district web page under ‘District News’ -- http://wakulla.schooldesk.net/b • District is still not in a growth pattern, but fewer FTE were lost this year. • Superintendent Pearce stressed that the school grade is only one measure of a school’s success and does not tell the whole story of the work being done at the school. • The Common Core Standards have been ‘tweaked’. It appears that they will be referred to as the <i>Florida Standards</i>. • We will have a welding program at WHS next year. It is costing the district approximately \$250,000 dollars in start-up costs. There will be three two-hour block classes. • The Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement with TCC has allowed the district to bill 50% of the cost back to TCC. This has been a real benefit to the district. Not all colleges around the state have been this generous.

Task	Notes
Follow-up on Topics from Previous Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Questions • Town Hall Meetings to Address Bullying Issues 	<p>Mr. Pearce spoke about the Town Hall meetings regarding bullying prevention that were held for each level (elementary, middle, high) during the fall. The sessions were not well attended, but the Sheriff's Department did a good job with the presentations.</p> <p>How can we involve more parents in the discussion?</p>
Climate Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review • Set Dates Calendar Committee Representative	<p>The Climate Survey was not ready for review. Mrs. Mims will work to have this at the March meeting. The district is hoping to open the survey from March through April.</p> <p>Tiffany Sandberg agreed to be the Calendar Committee representative from the Council.</p>
Bullying Prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of programs • Discussion • Q and A 	<p>Mrs. Mims reviewed the presentation prepared by Mrs. O'Donnell regarding the variety of programs that address bullying prevention and cybersafety in our district. A handout was shared that gave the meaning of a variety of text messages.</p> <p>Council members discussed the information. Questions were asked regarding technology and the different programs that teens are accessing as parents become conversant with older programs. Council members stressed the need for parents to communicate with each other, to remain aware of their students' activities and involvement, and to talk with their students' friends.</p> <p>Council members requested that someone from the Sheriff's Department attend the next meeting to talk about these issues. Mr. Pearce suggested that Billy Jones would be a good resource. Mrs. Mims agreed to contact him for the next meeting.</p>
Questions/Comments from the Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Are there topics that you would like to see addressed?</i> 	<p>Beth Brown gave a quick update regarding the district's energy conservation program. She stated that the district has accrued \$694,000.00 in cost avoidance since the program's inception.</p> <p>Mrs. Mims spoke briefly about specific changes in the standards that the state has approved. These changes will have little effect in our district, because Wakulla has maintained instruction in the areas that the state tweaked.</p>
Future Meeting Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 25, 2014 • May, if necessary; TBD at the March meeting. Adjourn	<p>Our next meeting will be on March 25, 2014 at 8:00 in the district Board Room.</p>