

District Advisory Council Meeting

Wakulla County Schools

October 29, 2013



Expected Outcomes:

- Updates on District Initiatives: Dual Enrollment; CTE; AVID; Anti-Bullying/Cyberbullying
- Overview of Abstinence Education Curriculum
- Discussion and Approval/Disapproval of Title I District Parental Involvement Plan
- District Update from the Superintendent

Task	Notes
Attendance, Review Agenda, Approve/Disapprove Minutes	Attendees: Andrea Carter, Louis Garcia, Amy Geiger, Sonya Hicks, Deonne Hill, John Nichols, Diane Perez, Tiffany Sandberg, Sue Anderson, Vicki Benton, Beth Brown, Jodie Martin, Sharon Kemp, Beth Mims, Beth O'Donnell, Robert Pearce, Missy Rudd, Vicki Tillman, Donna Daugherty-Branch, Tonya Hobby, Heather Mursell
Updates on District Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dual Enrollment • Career and Technical Education (CTE) • AVID Schoolwide Strategies • Anti-bullying/Cyberbullying 	Beth O'Donnell provided updates on the following district initiatives: Dual Enrollment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district is seeing an increase in student access of Dual Enrollment courses. Last year 45 students were enrolled in Dual Enrollment courses; this year there are 111 (some of these are duplicated). Last year students took 350 hours of Dual Enrollment courses; this year we are already over 700. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Question: What support is being provided for students who matriculate to college campuses at a young age and who may be pulled into high-risk behaviors? <i>Support is built into the Dual Enrollment program. AVID students, who are first generation college attenders, are receiving strong support throughout their high school career. In addition, more and more students are participating in the college visits. Also, a number of programs within the curriculum are designed to help students make healthy choices.</i> ○ Question: Are all of the Dual Enrollment courses offered on campus at WHS? <i>Some of the courses are offered at WHS, and some are offered at the Wakulla TCC Center. Some students choose to go to the TCC campus or take online courses. A Dual Enrollment student may take courses in all four venues at some point before graduation.</i> ○ The district is working to assure that students have the prerequisites necessary if they wish to pursue the Dual Enrollment track. The key is to improve the Guidance services that students receive. To this end, the new Student Services Center at WHS has been established and should be complete after Thanksgiving. ○ Question: Are middle school students told of their future options for Dual Enrollment? <i>The district is strengthening this communication, but there is no wish to pigeon hole students into decisions too early. Again, counseling is the key</i> Career and Technical Education (CTE): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One motto for the CTE programs that are beginning is 'Career in a Year', alluding to the idea that students can move directly into a career upon program

	<p>completion. The new Automotive Program is a partnership between Wakulla and Lively Vo-Tech (Leon).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All of Wakulla’s CTE programs lead to Industry Certifications. ○ Question: If students begin a program, is it hard to change if they determine that the program is ‘not for them’? <i>No. All programs include core courses, so students are able to make changes. Students can access most individual CTE courses at any time within their high school career.</i> ○ Question: Has the district considered including Phlebotomy and Pharmacy Technician as certifications within the Medical Academy? <i>No, but that can be researched for future.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AVID Schoolwide Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The AVID program has expanded to over 300 students in the actual AVID class(es). As a result, many AVID strategies are being implemented with all students. Examples include <i>Cornell Note Taking and Binders</i>. Fifth-grade teachers have also received training and support to begin implementation prior to students entering middle school. ○ One-day field trips to colleges now include Juniors and Seniors who are not AVID students. This exposes and prepares even more of our students to their options once they complete high school. ● Anti-Bullying and Cybersafety Training in schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mrs. O’Donnell briefly spoke of the precautions and prevention strategies that are ongoing in the schools. When a bullying issue ‘comes to the school door’ and affects the school, then school and district administration become involved. The school district takes all situations seriously. Some preventive measures in place include, but are not limited to, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changing the way School Resource Officers (SROs) are assigned to assure that an SRO is on campus during the school day. This has been done at a cost to the district. ▪ The Girl Scout Program at the middle schools – <i>Be a Friend First (BFF)</i>. ○ All bullying investigation forms are available on the district website. ○ Question: If we know of an issue in the community that may put a student at risk, how do we report it? <i>School administration can be contacted. Mr. Pearce also suggested contacting Sgt. Billy Jones who oversees the SROs working on the COPS grant to prevent bullying.</i> ○ The district is planning to hold town-hall meetings for each level of the district (elementary, middle, and high) to address the issues that exist and help parents cope with the issues facing their students. The focus will be on <i>Bullying and Cyberbullying</i>.
<p>Title I Parent Involvement Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review ● Approve/Disapprove 	<p>The Title I Parent Involvement Plan was sent out by email prior to the meeting. It was also reviewed with the entire council at the meeting. The following input was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spell out all acronyms to make the document more user friendly. <i>This has been addressed in all district response sections. The district is unable to change anything on the first page or in any sections in which the Department of</i>

	<p><i>Education is providing an interpretation of law.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mention the availability of open computer labs for parents to complete the annual Climate Survey. <i>This is being added.</i> • Include the school SAC (School Advisory Council) chairperson in the training. <i>This is being added.</i> <p>After review, Jodie Martin made the motion to approve the plan with the above edits. Amy Geiger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>Overview of <i>Choosing the Best</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for implementation • Parent Meeting Opportunity 	<p>Council Members were given a brief overview of the <i>Choosing the Best</i> program. Donna Branch from the Health Department spoke of how the program would be delivered and the availability of parent training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question: When will parent training take place? <i>November 7th from 6:30 – 8:30 at the TCC Welcome Center. Brochures and advertisement are forthcoming.</i> • The curriculum materials are available for review in Beth Mims’ office and at the County Health Department.
<p>Comments from the Superintendent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$9500.00 was raised as a result of the <i>Support for Seniors</i> initiative. This amount should top the \$10,000.00 goal when the last fundraiser, which is planned by the WHS Drama Department, is completed. Riversprings Middle School collected the highest amount of donations with Crawfordville Elementary coming in second. Superintendent Pearce thanked the schools and community for their support of this worthy endeavor. • The District Office has implemented a keyless entry system with the use of Homeland Security Grant Funds. Mr. Griner has worked closely with this program. This is a pilot to determine if a similar entry system can be used at the district’s elementary schools. The goal is always student security. • The district is seeing more evidence of student stress and mental health issues this year. Evidence is noted in the number of Baker Acts that have already occurred, where students had to be removed from the school for their own and others’ safety. This is being watched closely and could result in the district having to employ a full-time social worker for the district to serve students. • The district received the Energy Education Pacesetter Award for its stellar results with the Energy Conservation Program. Mrs. Beth Brown oversees this program in the district. Over a 15-month period, the district has seen an average reduction in energy usage of 29%. This reduction in energy usage benefits the district through cost avoidance, not through actual dollars earned. • Wakulla was one of the first districts in the state to provide teacher raises through performance pay. Many districts have still not signed off on contracts. Superintendent Pearce credits the thoughtful work of Randy Beach, CFO, Karen Wells, Chief Negotiator, and the union representatives for making this a positive process in Wakulla. • While it is still too early to tell, there are positive noises coming from the Capitol in regards to school funding for 2014-15. • The state is still in limbo regarding standards and assessment. • Over the next year, Superintendent Pearce will be working to assure that students have the best instructors and opportunities as they come to school each day.

<p>Questions/Comments from the Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Is there anything that we can change to make this a better meeting for you?</i> • <i>Are there topics that you would like to see addressed?</i> 	<p>One comment was submitted from the council requesting that the Superintendent's Comments go out to all teachers via email.</p>
<p>Future Meeting Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 21, 2014 • March 25, 2014 • May, if necessary, TBD at the March meeting. 	<p>The next meeting will be held on January 21, 2014 at 8:00 in the School Board Room. Due to an expressed interest by the Council, this meeting will focus on the different ways the district is supporting students to prevent bullying and address cyberbullying.</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 9:40.</p>