



**District Advisory Council Minutes
October 22, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairperson, Steve Dobbs, and the following people were in attendance:

Ken Kenworthy, Superintendent, Pat McCoy, Assistant Superintendent, Dylan Tedders, Assistant Superintendent, Steve Dobbs, Chairman, Lisa Bell, Secretary, Ellen Williams, representative from Yearling Middle School, Cheryl Hollin, representative from Everglades Elementary, Tuuli Robinson, Principal from North Elementary, Alyson Shirley, Assistant Principal from North Elementary, April Butler, representative from North Elementary School, Pamela Presley, representative from Okeechobee Achievement Academy, Katharine Williams, Director of Mental Health and Behavioral Supports, Heather Siler-Dobbs, Director of Grants and Special Programs, Hope Sheppard, Teacher on Special Assignment, Christie Torres, Assistant Principal at Central Elementary, Dan Thomas, representative from Okeechobee High School (OHS), Michele Cohen, a parent representative with children at OHS and Osceola Middle School, Kim Cook-Morrison, Director of ESE

Dylan Tedders started the meeting out by giving us a COVID update from Human Resources. He explained that we have had Thirty-Three students test positive since August 11th and have had 258 student exclusions. In addition, he said that we have had 3 positive staff members and 27 staff exclusions. Mr. Tedders continued that Dr. Stanley, Human Resource Director, works hand-in-hand with the Department of Health to go through the “surgical process” of Contract Tracing so that we exclude as we should. He said that the administrators, teachers and staff are doing a great job of being aware of who should be excluded so that we are only having to exclude 9-20 per incident. He concluded that we are confident that we have detected and stopped a lot of spread inside of schools but are remaining cautious so that we don’t have to shut down large classrooms or schools. Mr. Tedders then opened the floor for questions and/or comments with these two questions of his own:

1. Do your students have safety concerns while on campus and
2. Do they feel safe at school?

He continued by asking everyone in the room, “Are you checking the pulse of the environment on your campus and said that safety and security are still big deals and we want to continue to receive feedback as we can.

There were no questions.

Next on the agenda, Heather Siler-Dobbs, Director of Grants and Special Programs and Hope Sheppard, a Teacher on Special Assignment (TSA) with Grant and Special Programs presented information about Parent and Family Engagement. Heather started out by giving us year over year comparisons to the number of words our PreK- 3rd graders are reading through the mobile app, "Footsteps2Brilliance" (F2B). Since 2017, students, teachers and parents have read over 77,131,520 words in this application. Even though we were shut down for a quarter of the year with COVID last year, they read nearly 2 million more words than the previous year but read about one-half the number of books. They played about as many games but wrote far less. She went on to say that in a comparison of first quarter to first quarter, the number of hours spent on the application were surpassed but at a slower pace. This caused her to question whether virtual learning is keeping them off of the app because of online overload. The website address for Footsteps2Brilliance is www.okeereads.com.

COVID also affected the district-wide Family Engagement Events in ways we would have expected and in ways we wouldn't expect. In all events, there was a decline in attendance as we would expect. However, we had some schools with an increase in attendance. OAA for example, had 100% increase in attendance, NES had an 82% increase and EES had a 92% increase, while OHS/OFC had a 37% increase and OMS a 24%. While SEM and CES were down, SES and YMS were up as well at 33% and 7% respectively. In addition the APPT data showed that participation was up and down over the last 5 years with 2019-20 being the lowest due to the shut down.

Next Hope Sheppard shared the upcoming events with us. We have fourteen events coming up which include:

- 10/25 Migrant OSY Recruiting, Flea Market 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- 10/26 - 10/30 SEM APPT - Virtual or In-person
- 10/27 OFC, Turn Around Tuesday
- 10/29 EES and SES Trick or Treat Night
- 10/31 CES school partnership w/Abiding Hope. Fear Not 2020 Harvest Festival 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- 11/3 EES APPT Scheduled throughout the day
- 11/5 OMS - SAI Tutoring & MTSS Virtual (ZOOM) 5-6 p.m.
- 11/11 SEM Veteran's Day Flag Raising Ceremony live streamed
- 11/12 Migrant Parent Advisory Council, Online Learning & Hazard in person at OFC Auditorium and on ZOOM 6:00 p.m.
- 11/16 - 11/20 CES, Data & Donuts - Individually Scheduled
- 11/19 CES Family Read Night - Virtual

The floor was then opened to questions/comments for Heather and Hope.

Dylan Tedders stated that in the beginning we were very aggressive with Footsteps2Brilliance and questioned whether or not we were continuing to push it out aggressively. Heather responded that she and Hope were still very new to the App and had just recently received training themselves. She noted that there was lots of competition between schools, naming CES and SEM in particular and the group realized the need to possibly get a daycare competition going too. It was emphasized that 15 minutes per day of reading carried 7 months of learning gains in our “little people”.

April Butler commented that her daughter was in one of our AfterCare programs and that many of the kids there, just go outside and sit. She questioned if we could possibly pull those kids in more? Heather responded that we could certainly think about that, although the kids would be in the cafeteria where no tools or electronics are readily available. Mr. Kenworthy commented that in the past, a tutorial teacher had been hired to serve the students in the cafeteria who were in AfterCare and that possibly we could open up a room with the resources needed to make this happen. Mrs. Dobbs replied that this was a great idea and that she would like to pursue it. She also mentioned that there were high school students who might like to be utilized in this area.

Mr. Kenworthy also brought up the issue of screen time and the need to look at that aspect as well.

Mrs. McCoy spoke about using Footsteps 2 Brilliance (F2B) curriculum for PreK transition to Kindergarten. She said this is what we used for our rising PREK to K and that we had a great deal of uses for this program.

Mr. Kenworthy also spoke about how wonderful the simple toggle over to spanish was.

The meeting was then moved forward to school highlights.

OAA: The Leadership Team is looking at the REACH Program. They are very pleased that out of the 20 retained students, the majority of them are on-track to return to OHS to the 11th grade. Additionally, 10 of the 11 students in the PAT program have fulfilled their credit requirements and are all waiting for their SAT scores to see if that score is good enough or if they will have to retake the FSA again. The Discovery Program is going well. There have been no altercations and the students have been compliant with mask wearing and have had really good behavior so far. Danny Thomas gave a report for the virtual program and started out in fun, saying that he was happy that he could report no fights as well! He said that everyone has had to learn how to be Option 3 teachers and have had to make many adjustments, but that they were finally over the “hump” and students were beginning to talk. The tutoring program has been developed and they were anticipating a large participation. He reported that the second 9-weeks was going much better than the first.

Mr. Kenworthy asked if Mr. Thomas had a sense yet of whether or not students were going to remain in Option3. Mr. Thomas said there would be some staying and some going back to F2F. The ones returning seemed to be in favor of having a schedule.

Ellen Williams commented that at the after-school tutorial on Fridays, many students were saying that they were going back to F2F learning and that they were “rocking along very well”.

CES: Christie Torres reported that at their second “Read Night” on October 15th, they had over 60 families in virtual participation. Students read the books during this event. Each grade sponsored one of the Read Night’s. If a student was in attendance, they received a goodie bag as well.

Data and Donuts events start in November and community partners are hosting a Harvest Night. Everyone is looking forward to these events.

EES: Cheryl Hollin At Everglades Elementary School, we have dedicated employees who are devoted to their students and make a positive impact on their lives each and every day. Each DAC, we’d like to highlight those who impact our students’ academic performance, social and emotional development, and make Everglades a HOME for our students.

I would like to recognize our teachers, staff, students, and parents at Everglades for all of their hard work during the first nine weeks. Everglades has had a successful start to the school year and it is due to the dedication of our wonderful faculty and staff.

Our school is continuing to embrace our Professional Development and Learning Plan with Literacy First. This week our Literacy First consultant was on campus for two days of observations, coaching and feedback with teachers.

The consultant will return for two days of professional development in November that will be based on trends that were seen during the coaching and feedback days from this week.

We have a couple of Parent Involvement events scheduled during the second nine weeks. Everglades Drive Through Trick & Treat Night is scheduled for October 29 th and our Virtual APTT meetings are scheduled for all grade levels on November 3 rd .

NES: Dr. Tulli Robinson and Alyson Shirley. Great things are happening at North Elementary. APPT has continued virtually, while some are being done on an individual basis. Every teacher had ZOOM meetings with at least one student during the week of APPT.

After school tutorial programs have started with 49 in attendance. Of those 49, 22 are Kindergarten students, but they are just so tired at the end of the day. Dr. Robinson was wishing that they could carry out classes over the weekend or when they are fresh.

Mrs. Shirley was congratulated on receiving the district title recently of Assistant Principal of the Year.

North opened its school for instructional partners, as well as, for Dr. McCoy to walk with them in the classroom. This was well received and they had “great, great reactions”.

Teachers are getting “crafty” as the days of traditional teaching are now over. “They are learning to use much more online resources”.

They have a new math coach and are hearing many more math discussions!

Maintenance paved new walkways to the recess area and they are making great strides for getting new equipment for the playgrounds.

In other business:

Pat McCoy introduced Kim Cook-Morrison as our new Director of ESE.

A move to adjourn was made by Pam Presley and seconded by Heather Siler-Dobbs.