

LIBERTY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 7, 2017

DAC Chairperson, welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order. The following members and visitors were present: Gay Lewis, Becky Brown, Jessica Bennett, Beth Brown, Amy Combs, Lynn Guthrie, Monica Brinkley, Mary C Davis, Eric Willis, Mary Flowers, Lara Deason, Chesnee McCaskill, Miranda Ellis, Stacy Sanders, Mary Waller, Becky Shuler, Jodi Speciale, Duncan Hosford, Mary Beth Brown, Nate Pullam, Sydney Sewell, Jordan Wahlquist, Amanda Smith.

The minutes of the March 23, 2017 meeting were disseminated and Chairperson Brown asked those in attendance to read over the minutes for approval. Becky Shuler made a motion to approve the minutes and Lara Deason seconded and all were in favor and minutes were approved.

Director of Instruction, Gay Lewis went over the guidelines and goals of the District Advisory Council.

Superintendent Report: Report given by Superintendent David H. Summers

Mr. Summers discussed Hurricane Irma that is heading for us. He had been in contact with our local emergency management and Governor Rick Scott and said we need to get prepared for the storm. At this time our schools weren't closing but there is a chance that we might have to close so pay attention to the news and make sure each school knows their emergency tree. He went over the new high school negotiations with the County Commissioners' to move the public library possibly between ACE Hardware and the Sherriff's office on HWY 20. They are scheduled to meet on September 14, 2017 at The School Board Room to wrap up negotiations. Mr. Summers discussed that we have hired a Lobbyist, Patrick Bell, to lobby for our district. As of this far Mr. Bell has found money to fund the school on moving the public library so we can start the new high school. He has also found money to on the AC units at current high school, the pickup area for Tolar school, and bus barn.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

School Reports

HOSFORD ELEMENTARY & JR. HIGH SCHOOL – Report given by Jessica Bennett, Principal

Mrs. Bennett discussed goals Hosford has like increase the percentage of students who make gains in the lowest quartile in ELA from 48% to 58%, increase the percentage of students who make gains in the lowest quartile in Math from 59% to 69%, and increase support options for students in exceptional education from all inclusion to a continuum services. She also went over a few resources like middle school wheel class, iready, fontas and pinnell, chrome books and laptops, discretionary projects, and credit recovery/edgenuity. She also mentioned some barriers they will have to overcome like no wheel classes in k-5, limited staff, time and scheduling issues, materials-especially phonics, limited training in new programs and for new teachers, and no bench for great teachers who leave or retire.

WR TOLAR – Report given by Gay Lewis, Director of Instruction

She went over Tolar's scores that gave them the grade of an "C". She mentioned some achievements they have made which were significant gains in Science, increased in MS Acceleration (MOS/ALG1) and maintained in Math. She discussed some goals and strategies to help bring up their scores like increased inclusion/remediation, purchase and implementation of iReady and other resources, one to one devices in 3rd-8th, targeted remediation built into MS schedule, constant review of test item specs and standards for assessment/focused instruction, and increase knowledge of working with a diverse population at Tolar (ESE/ELL/Inclusion). She also mentioned barriers they have to overcome like maintain consistent staff (they have a high turnover rate) and have 8 new instructional staff members this year which is lower than the 16 last year.

LIBERTY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL – Report given by Eric Willis, Assistant Principal

English Language Arts

- 2017: 46%
- 9th grade: 53% (42 out of 80)
- 10th grade: 39% (32 out of 82)
- ELA learning gains: 43%
- ELA lowest quartile: 38%

Mathematics

- 2017: 27%
- Algebra I: 18% (3 out of 17)
- Geometry: 27% (27 out of 101)
- Algebra II: 33% (10 out of 30)
- Math learning gains: 36%
- Math lowest quartile: 35%

Science

- 2017: 45% (37 out of 84)

US History

- 2017: 72% (43 out of 60)

Acceleration Success: 80% (55 out of 69)

Graduation Rate: 90%

LCHS received a school grade of a C.

Liberty Early Learning Center- Report given by Chesnee McCaskill, Early Learning Center Supervisor

Currently, Liberty Early Learning serves 128 students with 33 students in preschool with an IEP (Individual Education Plan). 32% of the preschool population qualifies for PreK disabilities. We meet or exceed student/teacher ratios. We serve students through a variety of programs including Head Start, VPK, and PreK ESE services. We serve students through a blended service delivery approach with children from various programs mainstreamed into a variety of classroom settings.

Our program receives funding through VPK, school readiness, IDEA, ESE, and Head Start funds. We also have a working relationship with Liberty County School District 21st Century Community Learning Center, an after-school program, and with the Liberty County Health Department dental van. Qualifying families may choose to participate in these programs and receive additional services. We are licensed through the state of Florida Department of Children and Families. (License # C02LI0315)

Transitioning Students

Early Steps/ Pre-K Transition Plan

–Early Steps Case Manager contacts Early Childhood Coordinator monthly with list of transitioning students. Transition meetings are set up for families within 90 days of child’s birth date.

-At transition meeting a schedule of evaluations and responsibilities is determined.

-Final evaluations are completed.

-IEP evaluations are completed.

-Individual education plan is developed and child begins services within the school setting.

Pre-K/Kindergarten Transition Plan

-Early Childhood Coordinator meets with each Pre-K teacher (Pre-K disabilities, Head Start, School Readiness, VPK, etc.) by class and with the group to discuss Pre-K children individually and as a group.

-Recommendations will be made to coordinator regarding individual student’s behavior, academics, placement, special needs, etc.

-Early childhood coordinator and /or Pre-k teachers will meet with kindergarten teachers and /or guidance counselor to discuss issues regarding transitioning students.

-Recommendations will be made to assist receiving schools in most appropriate placement of each student.

-Parent involvement is encouraged in the discussion and placement of all children when possible.

Goals

- Increase school readiness rate for children entering kindergarten.
- Increase participation in parent involvement activities.
- Lead teacher in each classroom to secure degree and certification in early childhood education.

Parent Involvement Plans:

HOSFORD ELEMENTARY & JR. HIGH SCHOOL – Report given by Jessica Bennett, Principal

Mrs. Bennett shared a handout of events scheduled for this school year. She went on to explain that Open House in August was a huge success with several classes having a 100% attendance. Some events highlighted were Grandparent's Breakfast, Fall Festival, Donuts for Dad, Daddy Daughter Dance, Volunteer Appreciation Lunch and Muffins for Moms.

WR TOLAR – Report given by Gay Lewis, Director of Instruction

PTO is focusing on increasing parent involvement. Dads Take Your Child to School Day was a success. Tolar has monthly Family Reading Nights scheduled and has worked with the Health Department and they will give both a parent and student presentation in conjunction with FRN throughout the year.

LIBERTY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL – Report given by Eric Willis, Assistant Principal

Mr. Eric Willis introduced parents present for LCHS. He highlighted a few of the upcoming events: Dual Enrollment Night, Bright Future's Parent Night and Student Aid Night that will be conducted by Donna Summers. They have a Title I booth planned to be set up at the ballgame this Friday night. Mr. Willis reported that they had 163 people attend their Open House. He also explained about their Senior meeting that helped with preparation for college as well as importance of grades. 8th Grade Parent Night is also scheduled as well as the 8th Grade Orientation for Hosford and Tolar 8th grade students.

DISTRICT PARENT INVOLVEMENT PLAN – Report given by Gay Lewis, Director of Instruction

Mrs. Gay Lewis stated that Title I fund helped with parent involvement activities. Law requires 1% to be set aside for parent involvement activities and that comes to approximately \$7000. These funds have been used to pay staff for Family Reading Nights in the past. Tolar has gone to volunteer staff at their FRN and Hosford has reduced the number of staff that received pay so this is freeing up funds. Mrs. Lewis also mentioned including parent training to understand FSA at all schools.

Student Concerns:

HOSFORD ELEMENTARY & JR. HIGH SCHOOL – Student Reps: Sydney Sewell and Nate Pullam

Read Parent Concerns

WR TOLAR – Student Rep: Not Represented

No concerns.

LIBERTY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL – Student Reps: Mary Beth Brown and Duncan Hosford

Read Parent Concerns

Parent Concerns: Parent Reps: Jordan Wahlquist (Tolar), Amanda Smith (Hosford), Becky Shuler (LCHS)

- State testing – takes away from student learning and puts pressure on the teacher to teach to the test.
- School Choice – is it mandated?
- Funding for facilities?
- Student teacher ratio (early education)
- Testing anxiety/strategies
- Brain storming session with Sen. Bill Montford/staff to include members of the DAC committee.
- Lobbyist be utilized to lobby county concerns as well as funding.
- Instructional coach positions
- Increase class time at Hosford School for Science and social Studies
- No homework
- Read in evenings instead of homework.
- Behaviorally inclined children are going to have to have different discipline procedures. They constantly take away from other's education.
- More even class periods for science and history as opposed to other subjects.
- Developmentally appropriate activities in Prek-Kindergarten.
- More freedom for teachers to change curriculum.
- Less testing/more teaching.
- Invite school board members to sub/shadow in classes.
- Exit interview for teachers leaving the district.
- District wide "conscious Discipline"
- Ask school board to reduce their salaries and give \$\$ to teacher positions.
- Art and Music in K-2
- Candy and drinks are being sold at schools, why? Where does the money go?
- Invite Senator/Legislator to sub one day. Ensure at least 5 teachers are at DAC
- Can we opt out of common core.
- School board members come to DAC.
- Increase number of subs
- More frequent DAC meetings with follow-up to discussion.
- Education Foundation involvement both??

District Reports:

Food Service/Assessment- Report Given by Amy Combs

The new school year seems to be going very smoothly. We have implemented some changes to both our menu and our a la carte, and we have noticed a marked increase in participation.

Recently received a Farm-to-School Grant in the amount of \$15,000 from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the 2017-2018 school year. The purpose of the grant is to increase the amount of locally-produced fresh fruits and vegetables served as part of the National School Lunch Program. In addition, a portion of the funding may be used to expand school gardens and nutrition education within the district.

Testing

Attended the Assessment Conference last week and received updates regarding any changes that will be implemented this school year. More information will be received and distributed as the testing windows near.

Director of Special Education Report- given by Lara Deason, Director of Special Education

· New Director of Special Education - Lara Deason (also: LLC, LELC, Adult Ed.)

Staffing specialist are Erica Smith and Chaille' Eikeland; Sec-Gabby Dame

ESE Student Demographics Update

Primary Exceptionality	W.R. Tolar	Hosford	LCHS	LLC	LELC
Intellectual Disability	17	6	17		
Other	9	6	3	2	
Developmentally Delayed		3			15
Autism	7	2	2		2
SLD	33	18	16		
Emotional		1	1	1	
Visual	2	1			
Deafness/Hard of Hearing	3	1			
Language	29	6	1		6

Speech	15	28	1	6
ELL	24	1	1	
Enrollment	504	439 (Pre-K included)	340	9 91

Note: Schools have not totally completed schedules for all services so some numbers are lower

• **Contracted Services**

*Behavioral (Engage Behavioral Health)

*Counseling (Community Wellness Counseling and Support Services, LLC)

*Vision (Specialized Education Associates, LLC)

*Hearing (Linda Davis HI Teacher)

*Speech/Lang. (K. Bradley; J. Williams; B. Day)

*Occupational Therapy (T. Byler)

*Physical Therapy (M. Wahlquist)

*ELL interpreters (2 currently contracted as needed)

	W.R. Tolar	Hosford	LCHS	LELC
Full-Time ESE Classrooms	2	1	2(needing teacher for 1)	3Certified Teachers (increased +1)
Inclusion Services	5	1	1	

Vocational Rehabilitation Services at LCHS

· Increased to 2 Employment Specialist (help students with disabilities learn job related skills and help with placement into payed job positions)

Liberty Learning Center

· 2016-17 School Grade- “F” -Based on only 1 of the school grade components (Graduation Rate)

Prompted Turn around plans and School Improvement Plans

· Currently 9 students enrolled: 1 Teacher, 1 Paraprofessional, 1 Health Aide

· School Improvement Goals for LLC

90% of students will demonstrate growth in math as measured by STAR

90% of students will demonstrate one year of growth in reading as measured by STAR

70% of students will have passing grades of 70% or higher in each subject area

90% of enrolled students will maintain an average daily attendance of 85%

- New Curriculum and structure for the school

Blended curriculum (not fully online)

More structure in school day

Uniform policy (included in board approved Parent/Student Handbook)

Parent communication increased

- UNiSIG Grant Funds-Will be applying for this to help with improving the program (\$15,000)

Curriculum Update- report given by Mrs. Gay Lewis, Director of Instruction

Curriculum Updates:

- New social studies curriculum at all schools this year

- Focus on using technology software programs to fidelity this year

- iReady Tool Kit to support struggling learners

- Many instructional software programs have been purchased

- Teacher training next week to focus on standards based instruction

- o Teachers will look at class scores

- o Individual students' scores

- o State standards for subject areas and learn about ways to track standards that are taught and student mastery of standards

§ We will also look at iReady score reports that will help teachers know how to group students to maximize instructional opportunities

Title I, Part A

Allocation 338,277

Parent surveys indicated that they would like to see funds used for the following:

- Para Professionals
- Computer software
- Supplemental teaching positions
- Instructional materials

Funds were allocated for these activities. Additional activities included teacher salaries, and professional development for teachers.

Two Title I Schools this year: Tolar and Hosford

Allocation by School

- Tolar = 199,365
- Hosford=101,918
- o Allocation based on number of students in poverty
- Salaries = 187,327
- Software=94,016
- Materials and Supplies=16,677
- Professional Dev= 12,000
- Parent Involvement = 3033
- Homeless = 500
- N&D=1000
- Indirect cost=23553

Perkins:

Secondary \$13030

Will support new Ag program this year.

Travel for the teacher to state conventions: \$1000

Instructional materials and supplies: \$6500

Equipment: \$3000

Industry Certifications: \$2125

Perkins Sparsely: 28,307

Supports the salary of the Allied Heath Teacher

IT program: \$5,760

Industry Certifications continue to grow at each school and this weighted FTE is put back into the schools to support industry certifications.

Technology – Report given by Lynn Guthrie

Technology Update

- We have purchased 1160 student laptops and over 50 charging carts. Both K-8 schools have enough devices for each student. The high school now has 6 carts of 25 laptops for a total of 150.
- We feel like another need is professional development in relation to technology. We provided technology training again this summer for teachers. All teachers were invited to attend and were paid supplements. We had about 30 teachers district-wide take advantage of this training.
- Our new Instructional Technology Coach position is funded through Digital Classroom allocations. Mary Catherine Davis was hired and is filling the 12-month position.
- Digital Classroom Allocations also helped fund some of our software as well as add a few more applications to the list of those with SSO capabilities.
- Clever Badges for K-2 grades and Parent Square are among the new additions and have been implemented this year.

Current Project – VOIP phone system for entire district

21st CCLC Grant – Report given by Beth Brown, Project Manager

Summer Events -

- June 29th - Emergency Preparedness Event as well as slideshow featuring summer field trips and activities.
- July 14th - End of Summer Showcase - Music, Art, Science, and Nutrition were highlighted.

Summer field trips included: Gulf World Marine Park, Apalachicola National Estuary, St. Andrews Bay, St. Marks, and the Pat Thomas Planetarium with Chick-fil-A for lunch.

August 14th, we opened our doors for our After-School Program. We have had increased participation so far, this year. Attendance has been exceptional with gains at both schools. Hosford's average daily attendance is 114, Tolar's is 92. We look forward to beginning our Family Night Events during September. We have added a Family Service Coordinator, Mrs. Amanda Eikeland; we look forward to increased parental participation in these events. So far Liberty Arts and 4H have been assisting with our 21st CCLC Program. Liberty County Sheriff's Dept. is continuing their support with activities beginning this week.

Election of New Officers:

Gay Lewis nominated Becky Brown to remain chairperson and Jessica Bennett seconded the motion. The motion was passed with all in favor.

Becky Brown nominated Jordan Wahlquist to be Vice-Chairperson. Jessica Bennett seconded the motion, all were in favor and approved this motion.

Becky Brown nominated Stacy Sanders to be Secretary. Jessica Bennett seconded the motion, all were in favor and approved this motion.

Chairperson Mrs. Brown then asked if all were in favor of officers for 2017-2018 DAC Gay Lewis made the motion to approve the officers and Amy Combs seconded the motion. All were in favor and the officers were approved.

Set Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 9:00 AM.

Several members in attendance mentioned that they appreciated the email reminder for the meeting.

Adjourn Meeting:

Jessica Bennett made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Stacy Sanders seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.