

LIBERTY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

September 15, 2022, at 9:30am

WELCOME *by DAC Chairperson, Becky Shuler*

ATTENDANCE

- Supt. Kyle Peddie
- Asst. Supt. Jeff Sewell
- Becky Shuler
- Mandie Fowler
- Jessie Bennett
- Beth Brown
- Grant Conyers
- Tim Davis
- Lara Deason
- Stephanie Davis
- Tessa Byler
- Mary Flowers
- Chesnee Layne
- Jessica Peddie
- Tayson Lewis
- Robin Blackburn
- Taryn Kincaid
- Melissa Kincaid
- Cari McSpaddin
- Michael Richter
- Mitch Willis
- Danielle Summers
- Janna Moran
- Haven Davis
- Kaleb Conyers
- Elizabeth Arnold
- Riley Graham
- Tammy Pullam

APPROVED MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING – April 7, 2022

OLD BUSINESS - N/A

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT- *Report given by Mr. Kyle Peddie*

- We had a wonderful first month of school. PM1 (Progress Monitoring 1) testing has taken place. We now have a baseline of data from which to grow. We have some work to do for sure, but I'm confident in the instructional leadership at our school to get the job done.
- The School Board approved the Guardian Program for our District. We will work hand in hand with the Sheriff's Office to ensure this is one of the most professional programs in our schools. We are assisting the Sheriff in the writing of the grant. This will bring in up to \$100,000

for full implementation this year.

- Many thanks to our finance office staff. This has been a busy summer with new leadership producing the budget. Melanie King is our new Director of Finance.
- Mandie Fowler is our new Director of Instructions and Curriculum
- The monthly PAEC Board of Directors Meeting was yesterday in our boardroom. Tim Hay, the Director of School Safety with the Florida Department of Education was with us talking about school safety being the #1 priority in the state.
- Pre-K numbers are booming. We are expanding at Tolar to add another room to alleviate the numbers.
- Some concrete work has been done at the new field house. We are awaiting new doors to secure the building.
- The ½ cent sales tax referendum will be on the ballot in November. These funds can't be used for salaries of any kind. It can only be used for capital projects (construction and renovation) and computer needs. Our big projects are finishing the football field house at LCHS, Construction of softball field house at LCHS, and computer upgrades.
- We are updating the Strategic Plan for Liberty County Schools, and we would Appreciate your input.
- Governor DeSantis signed the state budget this summer. Liberty County will receive all our Legislative Appropriation Requests; \$121,000 for a new school bus, and \$92,000 for the new digital communication systems at Tolar School and Hosford School. Work is currently taking place on the communication systems and the school bus has been ordered.
- We have submitted an application through the Environmental Protection Agency for two electric school buses at a cost of \$365,000 per bus and an additional \$20,000 for charging infrastructure. The total award to the district would be \$770,000 in buses and infrastructure.
- It was a BUSY summer, but we are indeed excited about being an "A" district again this year! This honor was complemented by our re-accreditation through Cognia through 2027. We will be honoring our schools for this accomplishment at the October School Board Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

School Reports:

W.R. Tolar- *Report given by Jessie Bennett*

- 22-23 WR Tolar School Improvement Plan. 21-22 FSA Data, ELA Achievement 52%, ELA Learning Gains 49%, ELA Lowest 25th Percentile 43%, Math Achievement 59%, Math Learning Gains 55%, Math Lowest 25th Percentile 46%, Science Achievement 38%, Social Studies Achievement 64%. Based off this data, the WR Tolar Leadership Team along with input from all stakeholders (parents, community partners, and district supports) established two major goals centered around ELA.
- **Goal #1 Improve ELA Learning Gains**
Monitoring- *Progress will be monitored* by classroom teachers' ongoing data review
Quarterly data Chats will happen at three different levels

Tier 2 and Tier 3 students are identified at the beginning of the school year and receive an additional 30 minutes of remediation.

- **Goal #2 Improve Writing Scores**

Area of Focus- Writing is an important component of ELA performance. Students/teachers will need training to incorporate new expectations into lessons.

Measurable outcome-District writing assessments will be administered three times prior to the state assessment

Monitoring- Writing assessment scores will be monitored after each progress monitoring.

The

scores will be part of quarterly data chats.

LIBERTY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL-Report given by Tim Davis, Assistant Principal

- The LCHS Homecoming game is Friday night against Franklin County, Parade will start at 1. Football Team is doing well this year. We are 2-1
- Volleyball is 9-1 they will be playing NFC today. They are #4 in the state
- We are an A school again this year. We had our A Celebration yesterday as part of our Homecoming Week activities. Thanks to the Calhoun-Liberty Credit Union for cutting us a check for \$1000.00 to help fund our A Celebration.
- Mrs. Hosford had Thomas Flowers, from the Calhoun-Liberty Employee Credit Union to speak to her financial class.
- School Improvement Plan goals were written by the LCHS Leadership Team along with input from all stakeholders (parents, community partners, and district supports). Math scores are weak and need some work. ELA scores are some of the best in the state. LCHS was #1 in the state for college and career acceleration.
 - Parent involvement opportunities were discussed, including:
 - Parent Meeting
 - Parent Square
 - Open House
 - Grade Level Scheduling
 - Dual enrollment night
 - Bright future Parent night
 - 8th grade parent meeting

Hosford -Report given by Stephanie Davis, Principal

- Open House went well. Then we went straight into FAST testing to establish baseline data. Data has been reviewed by school leadership staff. We have met with teachers and students to see how we can improve their performance during data chats. Thanks to district leadership for participating in these data chats.
- Sports – Volleyball is going well. We have our in county rival this afternoon.
- School Improvement Plan- The Hosford Leadership Team along with input from all stakeholders (parents, community partners, and district supports) established SIP goals,

targeting increased literacy and writing. Due to Covid we see issues with 4th and 7th grade specifically. We are targeting them with interventions to help them. The goal for K-3 is for those children to read on grade level.

- Parent Involvement Opportunities:
 - Open House
 - Data Chats and individualized parent meetings
 - Family Reading night
 - Heritage Day is coming up in October.
 - Family Breakfast Coming up in April.
 - Family Dance Coming up in February.

Liberty Pre-K – Report giving by Chesnee Layne

- Our goal is to be kindergarten ready.
- Started out the year with full classroom near 20 in each class. We had to cut back on some classes due to the fire last year. We had a lot of students come out to sign up in August. We were able to open new classroom in Hosford and Tolar in order to get as many students as possible into the program and to get kids off the wait list.
- Once a child is diagnosed with a disability it's our job to service that child. The sooner we can the better it is for them to be ready for kindergarten.
- We currently have 63 3 and 4 year olds with 32% of the students who have an IEP. We expect to have around 70 by the end of this year.
- Our next PreK screening day is next Tuesday.

Student Concerns – New students for this school year.

- Hosford, Trayson Lewis and Tayln Kincaid.
- Tolar, Haven Davis and Kaleb Conyers
- LCHS, Elizabeth Arnold and Riley Graham

They didn't have any complaints or concerns at this meeting. School is going well, they all agreed that the lunchroom was great and sports were going well. They all like their classes and teachers.

Parent Concerns -

- Mr. Conyers talked about the concession stand at Tolar. He said it was a good money maker for PTO and the concern about signing up to work. Mr. Conyers also talked about a break-in at the concession stand. They stole a few dollars' worth of change. Not sure about candy and drinks but the damage to the building was extensive (going through the roof). Mr. Ricky was called to investigate. We need better lighting and more cameras at the concession stand. No money is kept in the concession stand but we do have machines that are costly to replace.
- Beach Volleyball: do we have any updates? Mr. Davis said they were in the process of getting a spot cleared out to put the court. Nancy Dillmore was instrumental in

facilitating both labor and material to get that set up. Mrs. Dillmore has lined up the sand and construction. Beach Volleyball is a spring sport and would coincide with softball season.

- Mr. Conyers would like to see a Vertamax purchased for all sports. Mr. Conyers will donate, and all sports can pitch in. Mrs. Shuler asked what a Vertamax was. Mr. Conyers said, It was an exercise equipment that helps with vertical jump. It will be housed in the weight room. Mr. Peddie said, get him an invoice and we can have a purchase order ready in 10 minutes, if there is funding available.
- Mrs. McSpaddin asked about middle school sports. They always seem to have trouble with uniforms. She mentioned that coaches need to plan ahead but acknowledged the lack of continuity for middle school coaching from year-to-year. Mr. Peddie would like each small group of extracurricular activities to be self-sufficient and to utilize gate money and concession stand funds to support referees, bus drivers/fuel, and uniforms. Mr. Peddie mentioned a mullet dinner fundraiser for the Hosford girls basketball team to fund new uniforms. He encouraged the schools to utilize their parent groups. Mr. Conyers added to start planning for next year regarding JV football instead of only having a varsity team. With the 8th graders coming up they need a JV team and now is the time to make the schedules.
- Mr. Peddie mentioned how hard it was to get teachers to come in and coach or teach. This is an issue statewide, but harder for Liberty County because of our rural location. Mr. Peddie pointed out the main reason it was hard to bring in new teachers was housing.
- Mrs. Kincaid asked what would keep most people from pursuing a teaching job? The number one answer was insurance cost. Mr. Peddie agreed that this was another issue statewide, and also pointed out housing for out-of-town employees.
- Ms. Moran asked why do we only offer baseball, softball, volleyball, and basketball as extracurricular activities? The same students get picked for these sports. She feels that we have students that would love to play tennis, chess, book club, or other sports at the middle school level. They would like to play soccer. Mr. Peddie said we have added 3 new sports cross country, wrestling, and beach volleyball since he took office. LCHS has lots of clubs that are sponsored by staff. Mr. Peddie also added that we are open to clubs at Tolar if Ms. Moran was interested in helping. Mrs. Kincaid pointed out that the rec. dept offered soccer and couldn't get coaches. Mrs. Byler mentions offering different sports at P.E., Pickle Ball specifically.
- Mrs. Moran mention the need for an adult Spanish to English class. Parents can't get involved because they can't speak English. What can we do to open up a class? Mr. Peddie said that he and Ms. Mandie Fowler had talked about expanding evening course offerings for adult education. One area that is already being discussed is remodeling the old PE pavilion at LCHS to offer CDL Class Training. We have Grant Money for a teacher for that class and have someone working to complete the instructor training. We also have adult ed money for an adult ed classroom with a credited teacher to teach additional courses as needed. Mr. Sewell mention that we had purchased Rosetta Stone in the past to help teach English to Spanish speak individual.

- 21st Century is off and running! The Summer Program was well attended, and we had successful sign ups at the Open Houses. Enrollment and attendance have been great this fall. 21st CCLC leadership attended a conference in Early September.
- Some of the areas we report on to DOE overlap from the school day; such as Reading, Math, and Science.
- If there are any programs that we can work with students on during 21st Century time, let us know. We also report on referrals and regular school day attendance, Our hope is that Character Ed and Careers/Dropout Prevention will assist with lower levels in these areas.
- Tolar had a successful Family Reading Strategies/ Baggin' Books event last evening. Hosford has a Family Reading/Book Fair planned for Sept. 20th.
- Attendance Averages for August:
Hosford: 92 students
Tolar: 109 students

District Reports:

Food Service-NA

ESE, ELL Director- Lara Deason

ELL

- Added interventionist at WR Tolar whose first priority is to serve and support students in the ESOL program. This position was funded through one of the ESSER grants.
- Screening for entry into the ELL program is currently underway and we have approximately 23 students classified as ELL this year so far (screening assessments are still taking place).
- District ELL plan and related information can be found on the district website.

ESE Program

- 3 self-contained/Resource ESE classrooms; 6 inclusion support teachers
- Hosford: 68 students with ESE services
- LCHS: 40 students with ESE Services 1-Defer of Graduation
- Tolar: 96 students with ESE services

These are approximate numbers as we may have some students entering or leaving the ESE program on daily basis.

Many of these students have multiply related services in addition to their primary exceptionality.

ESE Matrix level 254/7 students and 255/4; These students require more intensive services.

H/HB-1 current and 2 in process (which will move them to matrix level 255)

school 12-Empowerment Scholarships to attend school at school of choice (all private selections)

As with ELL ESE Information and Resources can be found on the district's website.

Mental Health

Restructured the program a little this year and these services are funded through the Mental Health Funding Allocation.

LCSW Mental Health Coordinator for district (requirement now to have a designated Coordinator/ Mrs. Deason works in conjunction with the LCSW to fill the duties of this role)

We now have 2 certified counselors proceeding after-school counseling services

We also utilized state and private agencies to provide counseling services to our students

- We have had no threat assessment evaluations so far this year
- We have had 2 Baker Act Situations

Again, the District Website is a resource for information related to mental health.

Technology- *Mandie Fowler, Director of Curriculum & Instruction*

- Purchased through ESSER III, 150 laptops for Staff and an additional 4 SmartBoards. At this time, all district technology is less than 2 years old.
- Bell system at Tolar are up and running and Hosford should be up next week.
- Since pre-planning we've had 672 Tech tickets. We had 512 Tech tickets last year. Thanks to everyone for following the proper procedures.

Assessment- *Asst. Superintendent Jeff Sewell*

- We are an A district – Everyone needs to brag on our students and staff. 2018-2019 was the last year school grades were given and we were an A District out of 67 Counties we were 1 in 24. This year we were 1-14 in the state, while many high performing districts have slipped, LC has remained high.
- College and Career Celebration in Liberty County we were #1. This is because of our dual enrollment courses offered on campus and at Chipola & TCC, as well as our vocational CTE and dual enrollment programs. LCHS has done an excellent job.
- Fall EOC next week.
- State assessments are online and baseline data has all been collected at this point.

School Safety- *Report given by Ricky Sansom*

- School safety is going well. Thanks to everyone doing their part to keep doors locked.

Curriculum- Report read by Mandie Fowler

- Brief overview given of the currently approved federal grants.
Title II, Title IX-McKinney-Vento, K-3 Reading Tutors (RAISE), Vocational Dual Enrollment, Reading Targeted Instruction, Summer Extended Learning, Civics Curriculum, ESSER III, Perkins Rural, Perkins Secondary
- Brief overview of submitted/not-yet-approved federal grants
Stem/Math Target Instruction, Instructional Materials, Title I A, Title I N&D, Title IV, Title V, Outside the School Day Grants
- Brief overview of in-progress grants:
Computer Science Professional Development
- All federal grants are written to enhance our curriculum, instruction, or professional development
- We are excited about our Reading Plan and how it ties into the school improvement plans and are all supported by our Title I Part A federal grant. Last year we added the 2 position that Jessica Peddie and Danielle Summers are in. This year we added 1 more at Hosford and at Tolar. I believe this is going to help the goals with the goals the schools have set. Mary Catherine is going in and doing extra coaching.
- We've increased our mentor program this year. We are able to support and are more likely to keep new teachers through this program.
- Math and ELA Books are in with a few things trickling in.
- Social Studies is up for adoption, and we would like public input, the final adoption will be based on the state adopted curriculum list.
- Our Summer extended learning programs went really well. We targeted individual groups this summer and piggy-backed on the 21st CCLC summer program. We will have funding for the next 2 years.
- The district has all approved grants and curriculum posted on the district website.
- There is a link for public comments on the website for any areas we are currently seeing public input on.

Election of Constitutional Officers:

Ms. Becky Shuler opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary.

- Any nominations for Chairperson? Melissa Kincaid nominated Becky Shuler. No other nominations were given. There was a vote to elect Becky Shuler as Chairperson. The vote was unanimous to elect Ms. Shuler as Chairperson.
- Any nominations for Vice Chairperson? Michael Richter nominated Grant Conyers. No

other nominations were given. There was a vote to elect Grant Conyers as Vice Chairperson. The vote was unanimous to elect Mr. Conyers as Vice Chairperson.

- Any nominations for Secretary? Stephanie Davis nominated Tammy Pullam. No other nominations were given. There was a vote to elect Tammy Pullam as Secretary. The vote was unanimous to elect Ms. Pullam as Secretary.

Ms. Becky Shuler announced our next meeting will be Dec. 1, 2022, at 9:30am

Adjourned Meeting:

Move to adjourn given by Grant Conyers, seconded by Tim Davis.