

LIBERTY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

February 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVED by DAC members on May 6, 2021

DAC Chairperson, Becky Shuler welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order. The following members and visitors were present: Superintendent Kyle Peddie, Assistant Superintendent Jeff Sewell, Becky Shuler, Gay Lewis, Jessica Bennett, Beth Brown, Anna Jo Carson, Grant Conyers, Kara Conyers, Robyn Conyers, Mary C. Davis, Tim Davis, Aaron Day, Lara Deason, Miranda Ellis, Mary Flowers, Lynn Guthrie, Joan Hall, Darrell Johnson, Chesnee Layne, Brylee Obryan, Imma Orama, and Carson Ramsey.

The November 10, 2020 meeting minutes were disseminated, and Chairperson Shuler asked those in attendance to read over the minutes for approval. Jessica Bennett made the motion to approve the minutes and Mary Flowers seconded the motion and the minutes passed.

Superintendent Report: Report given by Superintendent Kyle Peddie

Superintendent Peddie began by thanking everyone that was present for serving on the District Advisory Council. He announced that our school district has recently returned to Plan A of the Covid 19 Back to School Plan. He said that the decisions regarding the schools and Covid procedures are data-driven and facts must be checked out. He is proud of the staff and students for following the criteria set forth to keep everyone safe.

Mr. Peddie continued that meetings are going on this week in his office with district staff and administrators regarding curriculum for next year. He stated that the “softball lights are up; they are LED lights and are very bright.” We are still awaiting bathrooms at the softball complex.

There has been a bill for \$150,000.00 filed to supply additional CTE programs at LCHS. Two of our new school board members are in South Florida this week for trainings. He stated that everyone needs to be “lifelong learners.”

He announced that Richards School had a bus break down on Hwy 20 and we supplied them with a bus. To show their appreciation, Richards sent a box of cookies and chocolate covered fruit.

Mr. Peddie said that WR Tolar drop off and pick-up continues to be a problem, but there are plans underway to rectify that problem, possibly with a turning lane put in place.

The superintendent expressed his appreciation to WR Tolar’s thoughtfulness of giving the proceeds of last Monday’s softball game to the family of Wade McCoy, who was recently killed in a tragic accident. He stated that approximately \$ 1,750.00 was raised.

At this point in the meeting, the district reports were given due to commitments of some of the district personnel which had to leave early.

District Reports:

ESE/Mental Health– Report given by Lara Deason, ESE Director

See Ms. Deason’s notes below:

Mental Health:

Through grants facilitated by NWF Health we will be expanding our software and hardware to provide more telehealth services to students. This will provide them with easier access to counseling services without having to check out of school for appointments.

Through the DOE Expanding Access to Telehealth and Mental Health Services Grant we have hired 3 teachers to facilitate afterschool counseling groups. The sessions will focus on social and emotional skills. An additional 3 staff members will work after hours contacting students and families of Tier 2 and 3 students to mentoring, problem solve barriers to school success such as attendance, organizational skills, etc.

ELL:

Currently serving 21 English Lang. learners in the district

WIDA Assessment is currently open and will run through May 28th. An extension to the testing window was given to give more time to schedule students who may be participating in their education virtually.

Copy of District ELL plan and other resources are available on our District’s website.

ESE:

ESE department is currently serving 257 students.

· Currently down 1 ESE inclusion teacher at Tolar due to staffing shortages

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

See Ms. Brown’s notes below:

21st Century kicked off on January 25th. We are averaging about 75-80 students at both Hosford & Tolar. We have our contracts in place, and Liberty Arts has been coming out already. At Tolar students are learning to read notes and drum in music. In Art, students did collage pictures where each child did a section then it was put together to make a few pictures for Black History month. At Hosford, they did Mosaic Hearts and Pastel Hearts. Middle Schoolers did textile art and sewed their pictures. Jessica Peddie’s 2nd & 3rd grade class learned about African Americans. In class students are enjoying Creature Feature lessons. One fun lesson was hands-on and focused on learning how the different types of bird beaks determine the types of food birds eat. Students celebrated Groundhog Day.

Peggy Sullivan will be coming out to work with us, we are recruiting for her class. So, please send us any parents that may be interested in a class. There are perks to attending her class. She will come out to tell us all about it February 23rd at Tolar’s 1st Family Night. Hosford School is planning theirs for the end of this month also.

Technology – Report given by Lynn Guthrie

See Ms. Guthrie's notes below:

Multi-factor Authentication (MFA) – must have this turned on for all staff by next school year to meet new cyber requirements for insurance coverage. MFA for email and off-site network access.

- We kicked off last week with a target group of our district tech team. So far so good!

Cyber security training continues for all LC staff. Our baseline phish prone rating (November 2019) was 64%. Our last meeting percentage – 3.8%. Our current percentage is 2.6%.

E-Rate – We were awarded about \$200,000 last year in services/products and all paperwork has been filed for this funding year. Some of the projects we are focusing on this year are:

- New Aruba switches at Hosford, Adult School and PK
- Upgrade the fiber backbone at Hosford and finish Tolar's project (500 building, gym and PK)
- Accepting bids through February 19th

YouTube Channel

- Mainly to house School Board meetings but hope to live stream the meetings in the not-so-distant future.
- We are also hoping to have a section of Canvas How-to videos.

Canvas LMS implementation

- Teacher training began this week to provide additional support

Fun Facts...

Camera system – We currently have:

District – 11

Hosford – 41

LCHS – 62

Tolar – 30

Adult School – 15

TOTAL CAMERAS - 159

Clever logins this school year

- teachers – 33,400
- students – 559,700

Help Desk tickets submitted by staff

- this school year – 1,663
- WR Tolar has submitted the most tickets with 708

ParentSquare this school year

- 1,989 posts
- 49,204 direct messages in 4,891 threads

Safety Update – report given by Darrell Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported that he should be hearing soon regarding the status of a grant that he filed for. He is wanting to fix the gates at WR Tolar. Repairs were made to the gates at Hosford School yesterday. We currently have 4 School Resource Officers that have completed trainings and are certified. Along with our fire drills, we will be having an active assailant drill coming up sometime this school year.

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

See Ms. Lewis' notes below:

- We have had our first round of PD for the new B.E.S.T standards
- K-5 ELA textbook adoption and Reading intervention will begin in March.
- Planning for summer PD and the roll out of K-2 ELA B.E.S.T. standards is under way
 - We will also focus on 3-5 and intervention classes
- Conversations are under way with schools regarding curriculum used for each subject area
 - Beginning with ELA next year all adopted materials must have strong, moderate or promising ESSA evidence to be purchased by the district
 - All supplemental programs must also have strong, moderate or promising evidence
- We are in the planning process for the expansion of CTE programs for the 2021-22 school year
 - Our goal is to provide linkage to clock hour programs at Chipola/TCC/Lively for CTE
 - With the goal of linking our students to high wage/high demand jobs for our region
- Beginning in 2021-22 school year all teachers must be reading endorsed or certified to provide Tier II/III instruction
 - We have made significant progress towards meeting this goal
- The number of students in Liberty Virtual and iLiberty have decreased
 - Previously 109 iLiberty and 43 Liberty virtual
- Currently we have moved to a modified iLiberty programs and have teachers in place for K, 1,2,3,4 all other students are being served during the regular school day.
- Since our last meeting we have 3 addition CARES ACT grants
 - Civics Literacy
 - Reading Supplemental programs
 - Data Scientist
- We will continue daily COVID data reporting to ensure the safety of our students and staff
- We are continuing to look for ways to support of teachers with the technical support needed to provide support to students that are quarantined and those who have chosen iLiberty.
- Open Enrollment School Choice will begin April 1 – xxx
- FTE Audit is under way as well as CTE audit

Motion to approve the district reports was made by Jessica Bennett and seconded by Lynn Guthrie. Everyone agreed.

NEW BUSINESS:

School Reports

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

Ms. Bennett reported that baseball and softball are underway for HEJHS. Awards Day was last week and each grade level had their own. It was nice to see all the parents and grandparents see their student get their awards. Valentine celebrations are happening tomorrow, February 12th.

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

Mr. Davis related that LCHS baseball team played in Sneads in a preseason tournament on Monday. They won 3 to 2 over Cottdale. They play RF Munroe today in Sneads. LCHS' softball team will play in a preseason tournament this Friday at Arnold High School. Both weightlifting and track practice are underway.

Upcoming events are:

ACT School Day on March 2nd

SAT School Day of March 3rd

ELA Writing retakes are Feb. 23rd

Algebra 1 retakes are Feb. 24th & 25th

And Prom preparations are underway with Prom on March 19th, 2021.

LIBERTY EARLY LEARNING CENTER- Report given by Chesnee Layne, Early Learning Center Supervisor

Ms. Layne stated that Open Enrollment for VPK started on January 1st and is still underway.

Data Review and SIP Review

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

Ms. Bennett described was the 3 different levels of Tier mean. Tier 1 means that a student is proficient, Tier 2 means that they have some struggles and may not pass. Tier 3 means they are below grade level by 2 levels.

She reports that “Overall Placement” for students at HEJHS are as follows:

Tier 1 = 43%

Tier 2 = 38%

Tier 3 = 19%

She conveyed the 3 areas of focus for Students are English language arts, Math and attendance.

Their goal for the year was for 54% of the lowest quartile of 4th – 8th grade students will make ELA learning gains. As of right now, 35% of 3rd – 8th grade students have made ELA learning gains.

In Math, the goal was 53% of 4th – 8th would make Math learning gains. As of right now, 32% of 3rd-8th grade students have made Math learning gains.

In Attendance, the goal was 90% of students will attend at least 90% of the school year. Currently, the average daily attendance is at 86%, which is bad considering COVID!

WR TOLAR – Report given by Aaron Day, Principal

Mr. Day started his report by informing the council that he has been moving teachers and hiring some teachers to replace those that have left.

Extra-Curricular Events – Softball, baseball and track have begun. The last ballgame raised \$1750.00 for Wade McCoy’s family. He said that 21st Century is up and running and Title V and ESSER after school tutoring is beginning soon. He is certain that 21st Century and the tutoring will help his students improve.

Mr. Day reported that WR Tolar’s scores were low and that is what made him shift teachers in some of the positions. He informed the council of the following data.

In Math, tier 1 is at 28%, tier 2 is at 56% and tier 3 is at 16% (includes all grade levels)

In Reading, tier 1 is at 37%, tier 2 is at 41% and tier 3 is at 22% (includes all grade levels)

Mr. Day went on to say that they are targeting Math and he is excited to have the upcoming tutoring available from Title V and ESSER Grants. He thanked Ms. Lewis for providing the tutoring services through her grants.

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

Assistant Principal Tim Davis said that the Graduation rate last year was 90%!! And that CTE was at 88%.

Mr. Davis continued with his mid-year report. In Biology- 79% maintained or improved, Geometry 67% improved. “Algebra 1 numbers are taking a hit. And we are aware and addressing the issue,” he said.

ELA-Writescore data shows 86% at or above grade level in 9th grade and 90% at or above grade level in 10th grade. In CommonLit, the reading classes are made up of level 1 & 2 students. 58% are at or above grade level. The STAR data is a 31% at or above grade level.

In the area of School Improvement, attendance in 2019-20 there were 28 total students with seat time and 7 seniors. This year there have only had 18 total students with seat time and NO seniors!

Motion to approve the school reports was made by Mary Flowers and seconded by Beth Brown. Everyone agreed.

Student Concerns:

HOSFORD ELEMENTARY & JR. HIGH SCHOOL – Student Rep: Imma Orama

No comments

W. R. TOLAR K-8 SCHOOL – Student Reps: Kara Conyers and Brylee Obryan

No comments

LIBERTY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL – Student Reps: Anna Jo Carson and Carson Ramsey

Carson Ramsey said “We’re good.”

Parent Concerns:

Mr. Grant Conyers spoke about issues at W. R. Tolar K-8 school with teachers leaving and being out sick. He understands that it can’t be helped but it is contributing to issues with the students. He did mention the videos from Algebra Nation and said that they are “very good videos”. He has watched several and helped his child with learning algebra. He mentioned that “there doesn’t seem to be much instruction coming from the teacher.” There needs to be more “face to face direct instruction in math.

Ms. Lewis said that she thinks that all the changes that Mr. Day has made are “all for the good and will help stabilize those classes.”

Ms. Becky Shuler, “stated that ParentSquare is very helpful.” “I love the communication with the teachers.” She went on to say how she had to be out of state recently and that she was able to keep up with her children’s activities, and school work through ParentSquare.”

Set Next Meeting:

Gay Lewis set the next meeting for April 15th at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourn Meeting

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mary Catherine Davis. Lynn Guthrie seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.