



District Advisory Council Minutes August 26, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:16 pm by Chairperson, Steve Dobbs, and the following people were in attendance:

Steve Dobbs, Chairman, Adam Cohen, Vice Chairman, Lisa Bell, Secretary, Ken Kenworthy, Superintendent, Katharine Williams, Director of Mental Health and Behavioral Supports, Heather Siler-Dobbs, Director of Grants and Special Programs, Jeff Diefendorf, Director of Operations, Lauren Myers, Principal Okeechobee High School, Sean Downing, Principal, Osceola, Vicki Goggins, Principal Freshman Campus, Tuuli Robinson, Principal North Elementary, Cynthia Kubit, Principal Central Elementary, Audi Ash, Assistant Principal OAA and representative from Virtual, Sonya Smith, Assistant Principal Seminole Elementary, Cheryl Hollin, representative Everglades Elementary, April Butler, representative Yearling Middle School, Hope Sheppard, TSA Grants and Special Programs, Dan Thomas, Dean Okeechobee High School

Mr. Dobbs asked for a motion to approve the written minutes from the last meeting. A motion was made by Adam Cohen and seconded by Cheryl Hollin.

Mr. Kenworthy was first on the agenda with updates about our district. He said that we are always striving to either meet or succeed the state averages. He reported that in many ways our latest statistics give us a check mark in the right direction. Congratulations and shout-outs were extended to both Everglades Elementary and Seminole Elementary; Everglades for their higher than state average scores in 4th and 5th grade math, 5th grade ELA and for earning a "B" grade overall and Seminole, for steadily improving for the past 3 years and for scoring well enough in reading to pull them out of the ranking for lowest scoring 300 schools in the state. Because of these improvements the district will opt in for a new grade for both schools.

The following slides give more detailed information regarding our district's academic scores by school:



2020-21 End of Year Academic Results

District-wide

- 3rd and 7th grades math exceeded the state average
- 4th and 9th grades ELA out performed their prior year scores
- 4th grade ELA, 7-9th grades ELA all narrowed the gap between district and state performance
- The gap between district and state performance decreased in Algebra I, Biology and Civics
- Okeechobee's graduation rate increased nearly 14 percentage points (19% over-all) in the past 4 years

Everglades Elementary School:

- Above the state average in 5th grade math and 4th grade math
- Above the state average in 5th grade ELA, improving 9% compared to prior year
- Tied the state average in 5th grade Science
- Everglades Elementary earns a "B". With that tremendous improvement, the school will be "opt-in" for a school grade.

Seminole Elementary School:

- 5th grade ELA improved 2% compared to prior year
- Above the state average in 4th grade Math
- Above the state average in 4th grade ELA & improved 14% compared to the prior year
- Above the state average in 3rd grade ELA & improved 2% compared to the prior year
- Seminole Elementary eliminates lowest 300 designation. With the significant improvement in ELA achievement and ELA learning gains, Seminole Elementary will "opt-in" for a school grade.

North Elementary School:

- Above the state average in 4th grade Math 9% & improved 5% compared to the prior year
- Above the state average in 4th grade ELA by 8% & improved 10% compared to the prior year
- Above the state average in 3rd grade Math by 16%

Central Elementary School:

- Exceeded the district average in 5th grade math

South Elementary School:

- Above the state average in 3rd grade Math by 9% & improved 1% compared to the prior year
- Above the state average in 3rd grade ELA by 5% & improved 7% compared to the prior year

Osceola Middle School:

- Above the state average in 6th grade Math by 6% & improved 7% compared to the prior year
- Above the state average in 7th grade Math by 6%
- Above the state average in Civics by 10% & improved 5% compared to the prior year
- Above the state average in 8th grade Math by 3%
- Tied the state average in Algebra 1

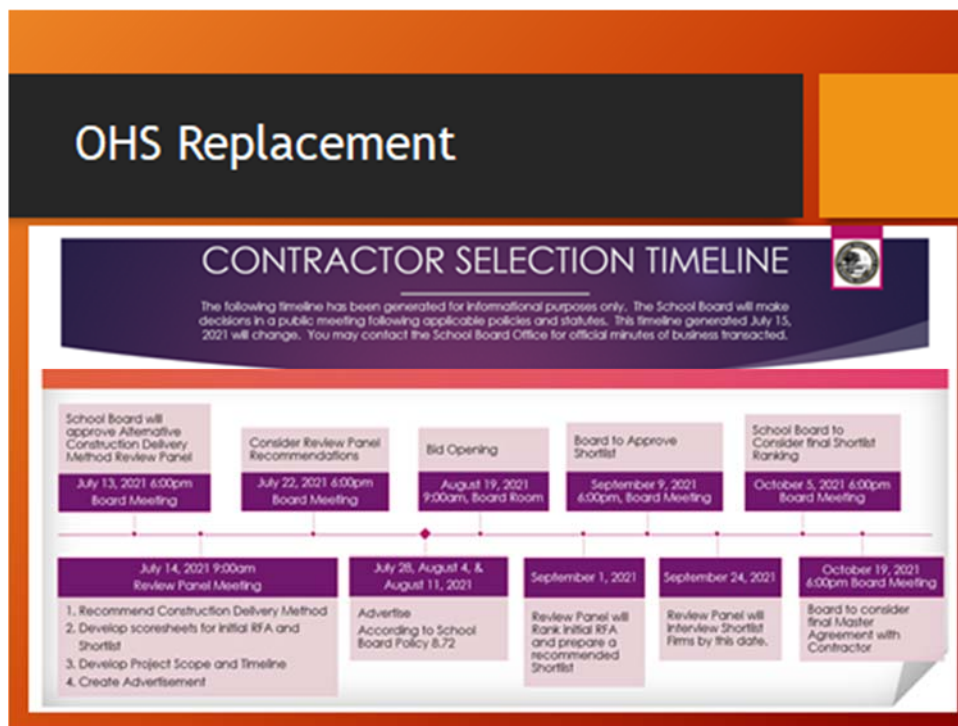
Yearling Middle School:

- Above the state average in Algebra 1 by 13%
- Above the state average in 7th grade Math by 5%

Okeechobee High School:

- 9th grade ELA Improved 2% compared to the prior year
- Above the state average in Biology by 4%
- Above the state average in 9th grade Biology by 19%
- 12th Grade US History improved 19% compared to the prior year
- Improved graduation rate by 8% over the previous year
- Earned 386 individual industry certifications which is less than 10 from pre-pandemic numbers.
- Improved the passing rate on Advanced Placement (AP) assessments by 14% over last year matching per-pandemic scores.

Regarding the new high school timeline, the Bid has been opened and potential contractors will be short-listed. The short-list will be Board Approved on September 9th and the final short-list ranking on October 5th. The following timeline was presented:



With regard to enrollment for the 21-22 school year, Mr. Kenworthy reported that most school were growing. As of August 24, our total enrollment was 6143 which was only 48 less students than our projected enrollment. The following is a breakdown of enrollment by school:

Enrollment

11th Day of School August 24, 2021														1 YR WARM BODY																						
Membership														Warm Body Projected		•		•																		
SCHOOL	CENTER	PRE	K	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH	7TH	8TH	9TH	10TH	11TH	12TH	ESE	TOTAL	8/27/2020	2021-2022	Warm Body	Projected															
OKEE	HIGH SCH											7	440	332	318	33	1,130.00	846.00	1,052.26	284.00	77.74															
Oke High Sch	OKEE FRESHMAN											508					508.00	302.00	470.00	206.00	36.00															
OSCEOLA	MOOLE								227	226	217					12	682.00	624.00	653.67	58.00	28.33															
YEARLING	MOOLE								209	231	219					15	674.00	589.00	647.54	85.00	26.46															
OKEE	ACHIEVEM	13					2	3	3	13	17	31	32	25	21		160.00	72.00	139.46	88.00	20.54															
CENTRAL	ELEM		88	74	102	88	80	83								13	528.00	430.00	537.17	98.00	(9.17)															
EVERGLADES			99	97	107	119	94	103								23	642.00	508.00	620.76	134.00	21.24															
NORTH			86	96	82	85	90	90								12	541.00	493.00	560.50	48.00	(39.50)															
SEMINOLE			70	74	69	54	58	78								38	441.00	413.00	467.51	28.00	(26.51)															
SOUTH			95	102	103	101	80	87								33	601.00	481.00	570.35	120.00	30.65															
TAP		1															1.00	-	2.03	1.00	(1.03)															
OKEE	VIRTUAL SCHOC		6	11	11	19	9	19	14	23	11	36	24	33	19		235.00	1,218.00	450.00	(963.00)	(215.00)															
JAIL																				-	-															
GRAND TOTALS																	14	444	454	474	466	413	463	453	493	464	582	496	390	358	179	6,143.00	5,976	6,191.25	167.00	(48.25)

Currently, we have position vacancies. We have 2 vacant Administrative positions, 16 classified and 15 instructional positions.

In the interest of time and because he wanted to yield the floor to the Grants and Special Programs Department, Mr. Kenworthy quickly mentioned the following things that will be coming soon or have recently been implemented:

Up and Coming!

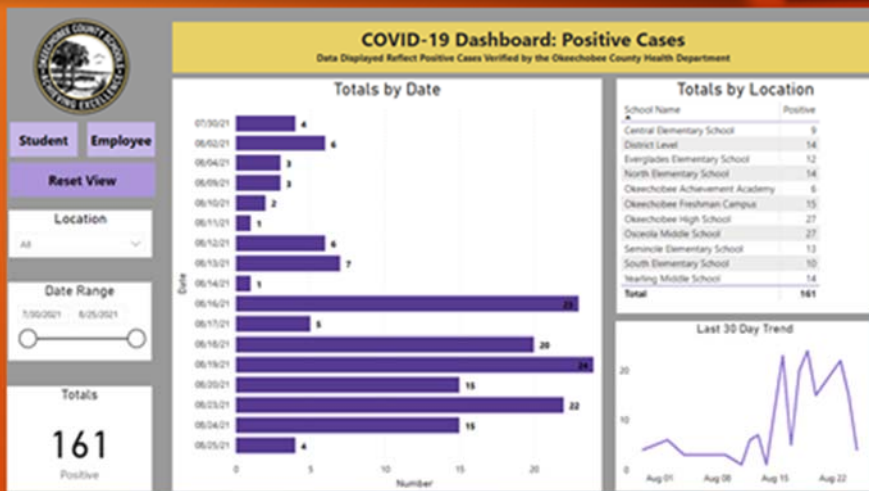
- CPR
- Alyssa's Law
- Moment of Silence
- BEST Standards
- New 6-12 ELA Instructional Materials
- Health Insurance Increase - 5%
- Increase in Beginning Salary Mandate
- ESSER II Access
- Strategic Plan Implementation
- New Worlds Reading Initiative
- Revisions to U.S. Government Curriculum
- Revisions to Health Education Curriculum

More Up and Coming!

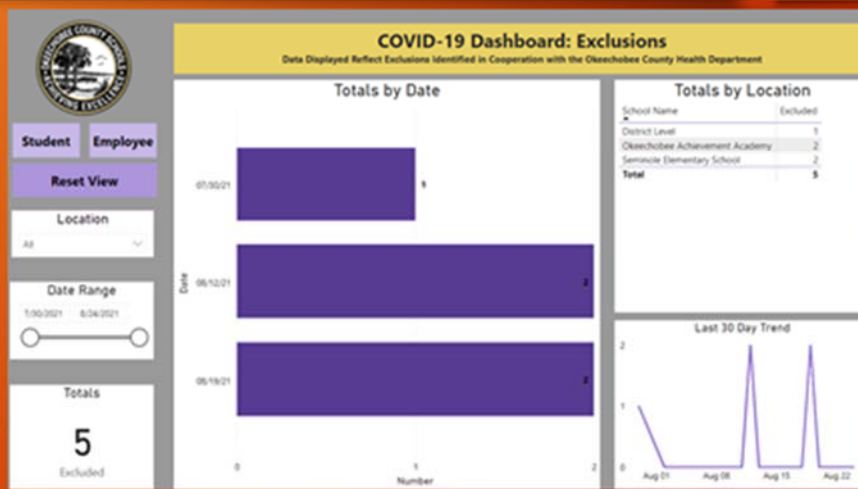
- Prohibition of seclusion and reexamination restraint policies
- Must implement PBIS
- IEPs must begin transition discussion at age 12 instead of 14
- Parental contact must occur prior to a Baker Act
- Districts must provide worker's compensation insurance to students under 18 in an unpaid work experience setting
- Districts must expand their Educator Misconduct policy to non-instructional employees

Lastly, Mr. Kenworthy gave us an update on COVID exclusions and the student exclusion protocol. Since Jul 30, 2021 and up until August 25th, we have excluded 2218 students, with another 100 students being excluded today. He noted that the Surgical Center, which was being used for COVID testing would be closed and that AG/Civic Center would be opened. The following slides were presented:

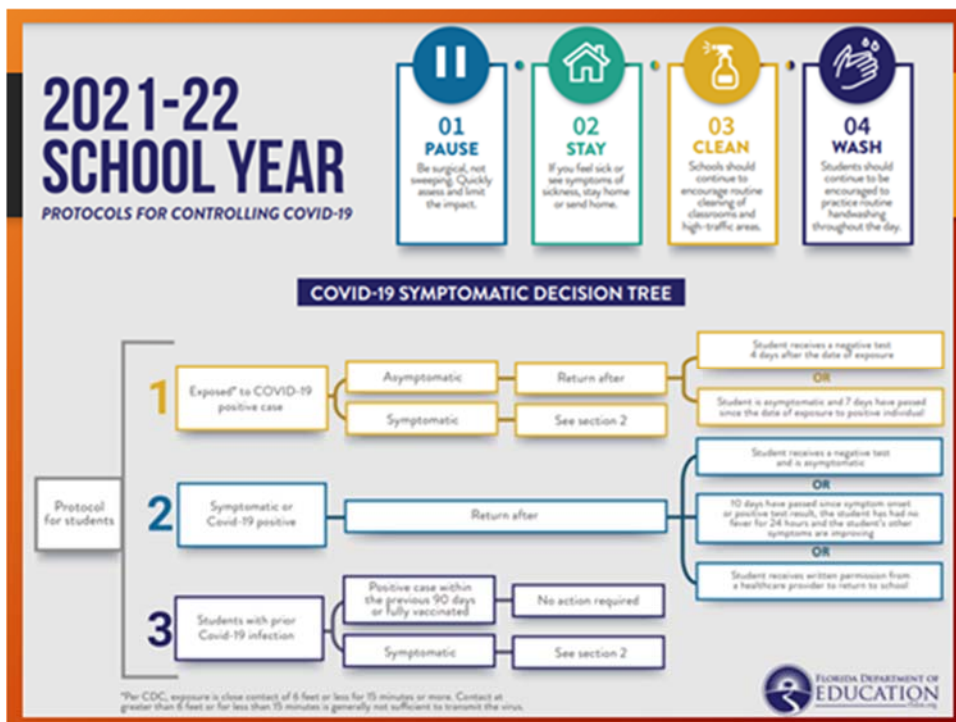
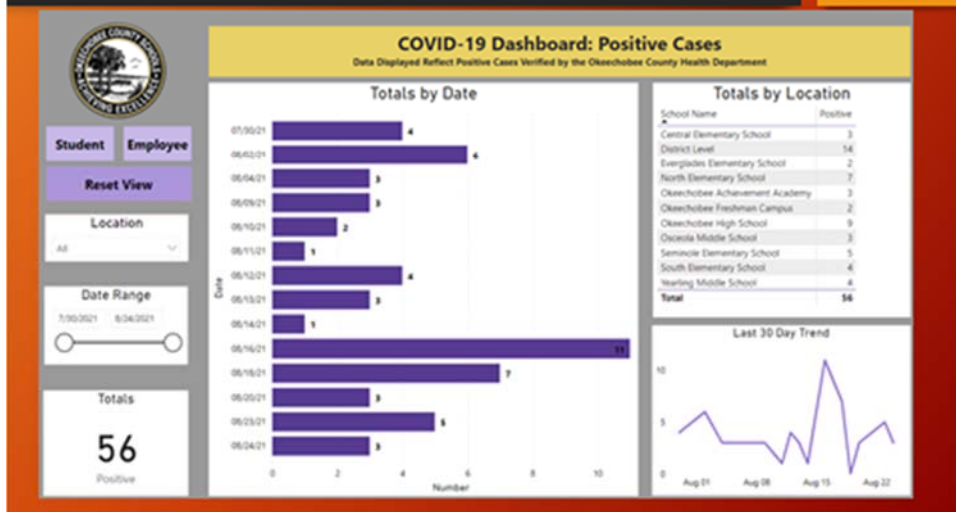
Dashboard Student +



Dashboard Employee Excluded



Dashboard Employee +



Next on the Agenda, our Grants and Special Programs gave several updates. Hope Sheppard presented Footsteps2Brilliance data with us. In the last year we have logged 7,523 hours of reading with 30,862 books read, 68,433 games played and 11,764 books written. During this

summer's Migrant camps, participants visited the Public Library, the Public Pool, and the Kennedy Space Center. Twenty-four students wrote books that are being published.

Mr. Kenworthy asked about these books that were written and being published. Hope explained that the books written were done so using a technique called Right Brain. Illustrations were chosen first and then a story was created based on the illustrations. They looked at colors, textures and characters to bring the story to life. Hope said that these stories were quite unique and special. In a light-hearted comment, Ms. Sheppard offered to send Mr. Kenworthy one of her own published books to read.

Heather Siler-Dobbs took the group then to an update on the Title Federal Grants. For the 2021-22 school year, we have received \$3,531,949.00. For Title I Part A, the following slides were presented:

Set-Aside Areas of Support

- Family Engagement \$24,483.37
- Homeless \$14,568.32
- Neglected & Delinquent \$ 5,000
- Private Schools \$59,465.50
- Transportation for Children in Foster Care \$ 2,000

\$2,437,111

Salaries - \$1.69m

- 11.1 Title I Paraprofessionals
- 7 Migrant Advocates (7%)
- Homeless Liaison (20%)
- Federal Programs Director (23%)
- Coordinator of Assessment & Accountability (15%)
- Federal Programs Resource Teacher (30%)
- Federal Programs Bookkeeper (35%)
- Shared Services Advocate (17%)
- Shared Services Secretary (5%)
- 12 Instructional Coaches
- 2 Technology Specialists

Supplemental Instruction Supports & Supplies

- Curricular materials for reading, math, and science
- Software subscriptions
- Library books
- Technology
- Professional Development

\$2,437,111

For Title 1 Part C, the following slide was presented:

Salaries - \$ 555k

- 7 Migrant Advocates (93%)
- Federal Programs Director (43%)
- Federal Programs Resource Teacher (30%)
- Federal Programs Bookkeeper (35%)
- Migrant Secretary (95%)
- Tutorial teachers
- Bus drivers for Tutorial

Supplemental Instructional Supports & Supplies

- Bilingual books
- Supplies
- Medical, dental, and vision support services
- Family Engagement
- Professional Development

\$678,289

For Title 1 Part D, the following slide was presented:

Support for Everglades Youth Opportunity and Okeechobee Achievement Academy

- Curriculum Software (math, reading, science, career development, and network security)
- Curricular materials
- Paraprofessionals
- Federal Programs Director (5%)
- Federal Programs Resource Teacher (20%)
- Federal Programs Bookkeeper (5%)

\$80,689

For Title IV, the following slide was presented:

Well-Rounded Education

- K-12 Fine Arts Program Enhancements (instruments, SMARTMusic, Fun Music, art supplies, music in AfterCare)
- K-8 Science Program Enhancements (Gizmos, Mystery Science, Science Olympiad / STEAM tutorial)
- Agriculture (EES)
- STEAM (SEM)

Safe & Healthy Schools

- AVID training and supplies
- Behavior Interventionist
- Crisis Counselor
- Second Step SEL for Adults
- PE supplies
- Florida After School Alliance membership

\$188,870

For Title V, the following slide was presented:

Supporting Title I, Part A

- [Federal Programs Bookkeeper](#) (10%)
- Summer remediation materials

Supporting Title II, Part A

- Teacher Certification exam support (study materials and a facilitator)

Supporting Title IV, Part A

- Graduation Coach (50%)
- Behavior Interventionist (20%)
- AVID training & supplies

Supporting Family Engagement

- APTT materials
- Federal Programs Resource Teacher (15%)
- Family Engagement Teams

\$146,990

SCHOOL REPORTS

A theme for all schools was the launching of clubs again.

OHS

Lauren Myers reported that they had 250 more students on campus so far this year over last. The Club Fair was coming up soon and the overall feeling on campus is a positive one.

OFC

Vicki Goggins tried a couple of times unsuccessfully to give a report via our ZOOM meeting but added her notes [here](#).

CES

Cynthia Kubit talked of having a good kick-off and good attendance (530). She was especially excited to see their Student Advisory Council meeting next week and getting clubs started again. The student council and the safety patrol are expected to expand this year. Among club choices, these will also be included: Girls Run Club, Reading, Math, Science, STEM for K-2 and 3-5 with Lab and Hands-on Science. There will also be a Reading Room available. All-in-all, CES is trying to bring their A Game with work and academics.

OMS

Sean Downing said that clubs will be starting at Osceola as well. Teacher planning opportunities have increased by building time into the current day. There will be time in the mornings during homeroom a couple of days per week. Sean expressed some challenges in keeping everyone safe (COVID) but said that staff were not as affected as students had been. He said that OMS is on the path for a great school year.

Virtual School and OAA

Mr. Audie Ash talked about an ELearning Center for online students where they could go in a clean environment and where wifi was available. He was very excited to report 3 online students are already graduation ready.

EES

Cheryl Hollin reported that Everglades students showed tremendous growth on both iReady assessments and on FSA assessments. Despite the challenges they faced throughout the year, the students moved forward in their learning, a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Everglades students, staff, and families. They are continuing to embrace the Professional Learning Plan with the implementation of ECRI in K-2. ECRI is a research based, explicit and systematic program in phonics and foundational reading skills. Our Professional Learning Plan at Everglades involves professional development and monthly coaching and feedback sessions with our ECRI consultant. She extended an invitation for DAC members to visit our school, attend our children's programs, meet the teachers and staff, and become an active member of our Parent Teacher Organization, School Advisory Council, Parental Involvement Committee, and School Volunteer Program. They are looking forward to an awesome 2021 - 2022 school year!

YMS

April Butler gave an update for Yearling Middle School. She said that clubs had started. Through ENCORE Mentoring Program the school is giving more time to meet with kids and interact one-on-one. Staff are developing basketball and softball teams and upcoming is a Skate Night and Movie Night.

SEM

Sonya Smith said that the staff was very positive this year. She was very excited about the ELA data over last year's data and said that the kids were also very excited about Math --- especially, the 3rd graders. Teachers are in the process of recording lessons for students who go into quarantine. A shout-out was given to the 5th grade class for 600 books completed!

NES

Tuuli Robinson was excited to share about their readers, many of whom had achieved 100 points and a couple who had achieved the 50 point level. APPT will continue this year on early release days. Kindergarten and first grade parents will be on alternating early release days. She said that the staff has been so amazing as they work with homebound exclusions, teacher

assistants, and other areas. On a sad note, the memorial garden for those NES family members, who past away last year, is about finished. Benches have been ordered in memory of their loved ones. Thank you's were given to OHS and the Maintenance Department for their work and support with the garden.

OPERATIONS

Jeff Diefendorf reported that the Transportation & Food Service Departments were down people. He thanked Lisa Bell for her service while 14+ people were out. He also thanked Steve Dobbs for his collaboration with "Tuuli's Garden".

NEW BUSINESS

None

Before Adjournment, Adam Cohen suggested that all the club information be put on the Schools' Facebook pages, especially with quarantined students in mind. He thought this might also field and avoid a lot of questions.

A shout-out was given to Mr. Dan Thomas for becoming the new Dean of Okeechobee High School.

The meeting was adjourned by Steve Dobbs at 7:09 p.m.