

**Pinellas County (FL) Schools
District Monitoring and Advisory Committee Minutes
March 9, 2017, 6:00 pm
North Greenwood Recreation and Aquatic Complex**

DMAC Members Present: Lawrence Clermont, Dr. Valerie Brimm, Marty Shapiro, Ron White, Thomas Bradwell, Lynne Tucker, Cara Walsh, Rick Bose (quorum present)

Guests: David Koperski, School Board Attorney; Dr. Dan Evans, Executive Director, Assessment, Accountability and Research; Paula Texel, Assistant Superintendent (Human Resources); Mike Gandolfo (President PCTA); Marilyn Turman; Mary Schoonover (League of Women Voters, North Pinellas); Brittany Frye

Meeting was called to order by Lawrence Clermont at 6:35 PM.

The recording device was out of order so this meeting was not recorded. (Recording device started working at approximately 15 minutes into meeting.)

1. Introductions
2. Agenda approved
3. Minutes approved with correction - Larry should be changed to Lawrence
4. Mr. Bradwell - Motion to limit special speakers to 20 minutes.

Rick Bose asked that speakers be able to talk as long as necessary for presentation since they are on the agenda. Paula Texel suggested we make the motion to be effective in future meetings. Motion was withdrawn by Mr. Bradwell.

Lynne Tucker made a motion for future meetings - limit speakers to two (2) and each speaker limited to no more than 20 minutes and that DMAC members have time for deep discussion. Motion withdrawn by Lynne Tucker.

Lynne Tucker made a motion for future meetings to limit time for guest speakers to a total of 40 minutes to allow for robust discussions of DMAC Committee members. Motion passed. The 40-minute time allowance may be extended by a motion to allow for further discussion.

5. Dan Evans – Mid-year data review on Transformation Zone schools. This includes five schools in St. Pete, plus 3 additional schools. (Lakewood Elementary, Melrose, Maximo, Fairmount Park, Campbell Park, High Point, Midtown Academy and Sandy Lane)

Work based on the five (5) Essentials – Leadership, culture and climate, rigorous instruction, collaborative staff, aligned families. Shared a 60-page report with findings. Includes quantitative data and qualitative soft data -surveys of teachers and parents.

Conclusions/Findings -

- 1) Culture and Climate – improved by every measure, suspensions and referral are down, walk through for positive behavior indicators.

- 2) Academic achievement and student growth – is progressing, but those data are determined at the end of the year with FSA testing. Gains have been large – in particular Maximo. Leadership is making a difference
- 3) Training of staff – less turnover, more professional development.

Lynne Tucker – asked if there has been a Cost Benefits analysis – Dan Evans responded – no – we have invested a lot of money for paraprofessionals and extended day pay for teachers. In due time we will need to do that.

Thomas Bradwell – asked for specific data – the number of students transferred outside and within transformational zone schools. Carol Cook discussed students moved back to JHOP from Midtown.

Dan Evans explained the stability rate being the number of students in schools for October and February FTE periods. Dan Evans said there is no other present data about student transfers. Mr. Bradwell asked why he did not receive this data when he requested it more than once and three weeks in advance.

Lynn Tucker thanked Dr. Evans for the data presented.

Dan Evans quickly outlined the report provided. Beginning of report is narrative which includes recommendations and the study design. Beginning on page 20 are findings followed by data charts for each of the 5 Essentials.

Thomas Bradwell again requested the data of student transfers to other schools – Paula Texel apologized for not having this data and stated said she would work on providing it.

6. Valerie Brimm – Family Engagement

Identifying what defines family. How do we define engagement from event to result components? Must be integrated in everything, not as a sidebar. The framework our district uses is dual-capacity frameworks – looking at both families and school/district staff. Twenty-nine schools were involved in this work with five (5) components. 1) Linked to learning – parents leave event with tools to support learning in the home, 2) Relationship – with families, 3) Collaboration, 4) Interactive, and 5) Developmental. The number of parents attending an event should not be the measure of family involvement.

Each of the 29 schools have formed a team that includes teacher, parent, community member, liaison, and administrator. Family event numbers have increased in all schools, but we need to look at the link to learning events as the measure. The district has a plan to monitor engagement. How do we adjust to millennial parents? Community members are being asked to mentor with teachers to help increase understanding of ethnic and cultural differences.

Dr. Brimm passed out the Family and Community Engagement School Guide 2016.

In answer to the question about focusing on the most disadvantaged students and families, Dr. Brimm stated that we are going out to the home – home visits.

Lynne Tucker asked if we have family involvement separate in the strategic plan. The response is that Family Involvement is embedded. Is PTA being utilized to spread the word? Dr. Brimm responded with no and Carol Cook suggested including the district plan for family engagement at the PTA workshop.

Rick Bose suggested building the relationship with students early in the school year. Everyone agreed.

Dr. Brimm suggested getting to know the kids during Summer Bridge. Assigning the teacher to kids they may have in class the following school year.

Lawrence Clermont asked about the engagement team at the schools. He has not heard of these teams at the two schools in which he is involved.

7. To clarify motion of 20 minutes per speakers. The speaker has up to 20 minutes uninterrupted time. Committee questions at the end.
8. David Koperski – outlined the process for committee recommendations. Motions are sent to Paula Texel, who in turn sends them to the superintendent. He sends it to the board along with his recommendation. Recommendations should fall under the items covered by DMAC Bylaws.

Changing DMAC policy has a different process.

When a recommendation goes to the board, keep in mind a definite four week advance to get on board agenda.

9. Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.