

Teacher Advisory Council
April 11, 2017 – 3:30 p.m.
Minutes

Present:

Cartner, Larry
(Superintendent)

Lassiter, Steve
(Asst. Superintendent)

Boone-Thompson, Elsie
Davis, Linda
Fulford, Monica
Hinton, LaQuitta
Hughes, Shelby
Jackson, Sarah
Jackson, Kristin
Lilley, Linda
Palmer, Alicia

Rountree, Eugene
Russell, John
Santana, Myraida
Sutton, Katrina
Wooten, Elizabeth

Dr. Cartner opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Time was provided for members to read the response to the question submitted prior to the meeting.

Dr. Cartner asked for additional questions/concerns.

Dr. Cartner reminded members that questions pertaining to specific school matters should be routed to the principal.

A question was asked about “rumors” regarding teachers being moved and the letter sent out about voluntary/involuntary movement.

Dr. Cartner responded that letters are sent out every spring regarding staff transfers and are required by State law. He indicated there are no plans to “wholesale” move teachers. Things that can impact movement are the two schools in the Restart Model and what eventually happens with the legislative class K-3 size mandate. He asked members to please help put the rumor to rest and share that there are no plans to shuffle teachers just for the sake of moving people.

A question was asked about the status of the legislative K-3 class size mandates.

Dr. Cartner responded that the Senate has taken no action at this time and “word on the street” is they will take no action until they return from spring break or even later. He discussed the history of funding for teaching positions. He also discussed the fact that data regarding school systems is compiled in three different databases (HRMS, AS400 and PowerSchool) that do not “talk” to each other, so legislators have questions/concerns about funding and teacher allotments.

A question was asked about the school calendar law.

Dr. Cartner responded that the House of Representatives approved two bills (a pilot of 20 districts and a bill to allow all school system to start as early as August 15th). The bills still have to go to the Senate, which is not as education-friendly, but we have made it further than in past years.

He indicated if the state law changes and schools can start earlier, he plans to revise the current calendar for resubmission to the Board. The goal in revising the calendar would be to administer semester exams prior to Christmas Break.

There was discussion about the impact of the K-3 class size mandate and adjustments that would have to be made in districts. The example given was the TAC member had heard a district had notified music/art teachers they would not be coming back for 2017-18. This was followed by questions about schedules for classroom teachers if there were fewer elective teachers.

Dr. Cartner responded that schedules at individual schools are a principal decision, but the reality is if there are fewer elective teachers then the schedule for classroom teachers will change. It is our hope that none of this will come to pass.

Dr. Cartner shared that the Board of Education will present the local budget request to the Board of Commissioners on Monday, April 24th, 9:00 a.m.

A question was asked about recruitment feedback.

Mr. Lassiter responded that recruitments trips have had wonderful results with over 300 candidates being identified. Many of those have completed applications. He shared that conditional employment contracts (contingent upon background check and position availability) have been offered. Principals will be provided with a list of individuals that have been offered conditional contracts.

Dr. Cartner indicated that Mr. Lassiter has done a great job with recruitment. He explained that the purpose of recruitment is to have replacements when there are resignations/retirements. The goal is to fill vacancies in core classroom positions as soon as possible.

Dr. Cartner wished everybody a blessed Easter and encouraged them to spend time renewing and relaxing.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.