The District Advisory Committee met at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, at Deltona High School, media center.

Ms. Rebecca Taylor, chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Introductions included Mrs. Melody Johnson, school board member; Mr. Tom Russell, superintendent, and Mr. Gary Marks, area superintendent.

April minutes were approved.

Discussion of nominations for chairman and vice chairman began with Ms. Leslie LaRue and Ms. Angela Kopnicky giving a brief introduction of themselves. With there being no opposition for the District Advisory Committee chairman or vice chairman position, Ms. Leslie LaRue was elected as 2015-2016 chairman and Ms. Angela Kopnicky was elected as 2015-16 vice chairman by a vote from the committee.

Ms. Taylor reminded members that we need your input: the Student Progression Plan Committee is in the process of revising the document for 2015-2016. Please review the 2014-2015 policy and send any comments/suggestions to the appropriate contact person listed below by May 15, 2015. Your input is appreciated and valued.

Section 1 – Lyndi Goepfert – llgoepfe@volusia.k12.fl.us
Section II – Kati Dyer- kbdyer@volusia.k12.fl.us
Section III – Kati Dyer- kbdyer@volusia.k12.fl.us
Section IV – Franklin Coker-fjcoker@volusia.k12.fl.us
Section V – Alicia Parker- akparker@volusia.k12.fl.us

Superintendent Tom Russell spoke next on a few topics.

- **VTO and the district have settled with both sides compromising.** Monday, May 11, the VTO will vote and if passed it will go to the school board for approval on May 12.
- **Testing-** Commissioner Pam Stewart announced the Department of Education is hiring an outside consultant to test the validity of the FSA due to complications experienced across the state.
- **Teachers have been given flexibility in the administration of district EOCs.** Students are still required to participate in the state assessment program. State EOCs include Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Biology, Civics, Geometry, and U.S. History.

By state law the school district has to have a budget by July 1; however, the state has not adopted a budget yet. The district has been operating on the fund balance through the last several years. With raises and other expenses, an additional $9 million will be needed from the fund balance. The district will need to make cuts in order to reduce that amount significantly. The central office is being reorganized to help with the deficit. Also, the AVID program will no longer be offered in middle school but will be available at all high schools. This will create a cost savings of $670,000.

Ms. Cynthia Ramirez, executive director of FUTURES Foundation, was the next presenter. FUTURES is the education foundation for all Volusia County public schools
and was formed 30 years ago in 1985. Cynthia shared a PowerPoint highlighting the organization and programs offered. FUTURES provides recognition programs and activities that are unable to be funded with tax dollars. FUTURES was able to give funds to schools through the mini-grants programs, which is applied for online at http://finditfunditflorida.com and through a matching grants program. Below are listed programs that students can get involved in:

- Tomorrow’s Leaders - designed to familiarize students with different aspects and services of Volusia County while developing their leadership skills
- Take Stock in Children- helps low income, financially eligible children succeed by providing college tuition scholarships, volunteer mentors, a student advocate, and early intervention during high school
- Turn-Around Program - recognizes approximately 80 middle and high school students each year who have demonstrated a marked improvement in school involvement and citizenship

FUTURES also sponsors the following staff programs:
- Volusia County Schools Teacher of the Year
- Principal of the Year (secondary and elementary)
- Superintendent’s Outstanding Achievement Award
- First Year Teacher Awards
- New Teacher Breakfast
- Educator Internship program

FUTURES is funded by community sponsorships, club membership fees, Caribbean party, license for learning and payroll deductions. If you are interested in becoming involved with FUTURES contact Cynthia Ramirez at 386.255.6475, ext. 50730

During a question answer period it was recommend from a DAC member that a university prep class be offered to high school students to help educate them on student loans. Mr. Russell shared that each high school currently offers a financial/college night to help educate parents and students on the college application process and student loans. Ms. Ramirez from FUTURES commented that they have $25,000 for teacher mini-grants from SunTrust Bank available but the grant must have financial literacy component.

Another District Advisory Committee member recommended viewing a show she watched on HBO called, “Last Week Tonight” with John Oliver. The show was on standardized testing. You can view it at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6IyURyVz7k

A member suggested it is time for the by-laws to be reviewed. This item will be put on the September agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.