



VISION
To be a world-class school system.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY
School Board Briefing Meeting – M I N U T E S (Approved 6/19/07)
Tuesday – May 8, 2007 / 2:00 p.m.

Attendees: Mrs. Jeanne S. Dozier, Board Chairman
Mr. Robert D. Chilmonik, Board Member
Dr. James W. Browder, Secretary & District Superintendent
Mr. Keith Martin, Board Attorney
Mrs. Julie Nieminski, Board Auditor
Dr. Jane E. Kuckel, Board Vice Chair
Mr. Steven K. Teuber, Board Member
Dr. Elinor C. Scricca, Board Member
Mrs. Denise Mangus, Recording Secretary

A. BOARD MEMBERS *(Dr. Kuckel called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m.)*

- 1. Special Areas of Board Involvement/Reports** – Mr. Teuber complimented last night's Learning for Life great event and thanked teachers, parents, administrators, teachers for attending; he noted the Dunbar math and science awards which were at the same time. He also noted the Thursday middle school awards for Arts Society. Dr. Scricca noted recent graduations' collegiality/enthusiasm. She mentioned Random Acts of Reading's impressive photography, commending Mrs. Agle. Executive DAC Meeting was noted where DAC meeting dates established and discussion about committee restructuring; breakout sessions are understood and liked. Dr. Scricca's talked with Dr. Browder re SAC Chairs comprising DAC (putting parental makeup), with alternates. She noted the recent Hispanic Chamber event with student awards for educational achievement and the interested parents who encourage their children. Dr. Scricca also attended the JROTC awards night and the Bar Association Education Awards. She judged the Optimists student speech contest where all have different challenges. Dr. Kuckel and she attended the Orangewood Recognition Outback event, and a demonstration would be welcomed. Mr. Chilmonik noted attending the JROTC event where 800+ attended. He mentioned the Bar Association lunch also and the local heroes and police officer actions. Mr. Chilmonik complimented the talented students at Learning for Life. He noted the 5/21 Attorney General upcoming visit and thanked Dr. Browder for coordination/help; Mr. McCollum's an advocate for protecting children against internet online problems; the Superintendent has a copy of the presentation and efforts at the state level.

Mrs. Dozier noted attending Edison-Ford Estates' Board of Directors meeting. She noted the Foundation meeting and, separately, the Tice Elementary/Disney honor. She attended Horizon Council where affordable housing talked. The Construction Advisory Committee had a lively discussion and staff showed a model of the school and how it goes in the ground, from beginning to end. Mrs. Dozier showed some pictures from the Teacher Recruiting Fair; 120 had initial offers that day, with 195 anticipated (of the 390 attending). She noted a FSBA December conference of theme technology; some schools/students can showcase their talents, spotlighting us over the state (three students wrote interactive programs for fellow students). Dr. Blanton will probably contact Dr. Browder for breakout sessions in several schools; Gulf Elementary could set up their tech fair. She noted her recent lunch at Gulf Middle with a student, Dr. Browder, and Mr. Teuber; the lunches were great that day and the honesty of the students is incredible. Mr. Teuber noted Gulf Middle's recent receipt of a technology grant; they wanted to show the District and taxpayers (really good job). He invited those to see the tech ideas shared. Mr. Teuber noted the Law Lunch; he also commented on Ida Baker as a fast-growing academy. He noted the work of Judge Carlin and Chief Justice Lewis re law-mentoring program; there's state-approved curriculum teaching civics and judicial system. The Bar Association is a sponsor, and he's secretary on the Cape Coral side. Mr. Teuber would like the Board to give support to this function, and he can take the lead. Judge Carlin noted we were about 40 attorneys short to make Circuit. Dr. Browder noted the schools are ready and poised; he'll meet with Paul Liles and work on what the Chief Justice wants to accomplish. Mr. Teuber noted he's speaking at BUPAC next Tuesday and, separately, Lt. Governor Kottkamp will be here Thursday with new DOE administrator. Graduations noted also.

Dr. Kuckel's attended many of the same events; she had her own tour yesterday at Gulf; and knowing interactive learning makes a difference in kids' achievement, this personifies it. She mentioned kids and parents do their business and classroom teacher challenges re competing with outside. A teacher can download a clip into her I-pod and put into a smart board; programs are phenomenal re learning process. Dr. Kuckel attended two Quality Committee Meetings; proposals will be brought for moving pieces forward. There were DAB notebook demonstrations, along with improvement in those schools' test scores. There's the need to move forward fast if to build up Best Practices. She noted the Optimists' judging and the \$1,500 scholarships and their competition for

hearing impaired as well. Re the Compliance Committee's work on the call center hotline, Dr. Browder will be briefing the Board for the direction to be taken; the Committee's working on other areas. Separately, she noted Orangewood's male student class and their turnaround; parents commend the program. She attended the Scholars Club awards at FGCU, and this is another group doing good with the direction given.

2. **Legislative Update** – Mrs. Dozier noted there's a big pot of money for emergency to be applied for text messaging for emergency services; weekly legislative conference calls are done. Before turning it over to Dr. Browder and staff to showcase, Mrs. Dozier noted DOE's 5/16 review here and Mr. Cerra here on 5/21. Dr. Constance Jones then briefly hit the curriculum-passed legislation highlights. Physical education requirement now is 150 minutes/week for elementary; any certified teacher can provide. There's a goal of 225 minutes for middle but discussion of this goal's phase-in will start. Some of the high school PE levels were reinstated (flexible options)—JROTC marching, athletics/sports, etc. Also expanded was the credit for fine arts to now include performing arts (speech and debate added in). With the ESOL bill, hours reduced to 60 from 300 for certified reading teachers to perform—a positive/huge move. Re middle school taking high school credits and repeating for D or F, they're now allowed. Mr. Legutko noted he'll speak later. On the statewide impact for k-12, across state \$1.2 billion more received which isn't best on surface but when offset within state budget, they reduced \$1.7 billion in other expenditures. The legislature is committed to education in general. Re FEFP, there was a change to teacher lead allocation; some additional dollars added, specifically for ESE pre-k teachers plus charter (both prior ineligible). Other items were thrown around; it was not the year for the retirement bill (one positive and one not so re DROP). Re the education confirming bill and half gifted, much information's floating around. Our gifted program is around 3,000 students and we've a lot at stake as to what happens. Gifted capped at this year's level and there'll be study to address in years going forward. Re two-year mill flexibility, the requirements to participate are somewhat almost unattainable as all have to conform to meet class size reduction from here on out. Mrs. Dozier noted appreciation for Mr. Legutko and Dr. Jones being at the conference as they've the background to know the effects. There was a lot passed; increasing allotment for retired teachers didn't pass in last of the session but might be taken up at a special session. With DOE and Mr. Cerra visiting, it'll be interesting to hear two perspectives.
3. **Discussion/Special Board Meeting in May/Recognitions** – Re starting time for Briefings, Mr. Teuber noted 2:00 is difficult for him but he'd go along with the consensus. Mr. Chilmonik wouldn't be opposed to 2:30 p.m.; agreement was reached for the latter. Dr. Browder noted there could be a return to 3:00 p.m. if need be though there may be two meetings of data sometimes. Dr. Kuckel noted, from her perspective, to eliminate some workshops and combine with Briefing. Separately, Mrs. Dozier brought up the new Board Room blueprint; she and Mr. Chilmonik did earlier tours and there's concern about how low the Superintendent and Attorney sit (like an orchestra pit) and there's recognitions. It may be more difficult for them to look at audience or Mr. Martin speak on policy/parliamentary. Dr. Scricca suggested they sit at Board table since room. Mr. Teuber noted toggle switches to be on/off for when to speak. Dr. Kuckel noted her tour this morning and unless a greater degree of turn, eye contact may be limited for Dr. Browder and Mr. Martin but she'll go along with whatever's suggested; she likes direct contact when talking with Dr. Browder. Mr. Chilmonik noted staggering the actual Board table out; the City of Cape Coral sits at same table but can't see all of each other. It was noted the Board table's pretty much in place. Dr. Browder thinks something could be done on one side or the other. Mr. Teuber suggested trying nine chairs at the table. It will be determined how many rows of seats could be affected. Dr. Browder will work with Gulfpoint to minimize the expense.

B. ACADEMIC SERVICES

1. **Assessment Update** – Dr. Browder referenced the 4/30 memo (copy in back-up) re District-wide progress monitoring system; the comprehensive program is tonight, and the B portion is training to get teachers up to speed. It will be similar to Pinnacle instituted years ago for tracking and ties directly to the STAR update. He noted taking it seriously; it's here to stay unless we give \$4 million back to the state. The program's now designed for ease and made less cumbersome, adding value for students. The component, per Mr. Teuber, is to have everyone interested. Dr. Browder noted we're working at ground zero and are going to have pre- and post-testing, and it's going to count. It will be worked through, getting all to understand—where the child starts and ends at the school-year end. It's noted that a teacher will know they'll be judged with data; this is the beginning. Dr. Kuckel noted this will help with best practices, and we'll have data to show as to what works best for students; this is dynamic of continuous improvement. Drs. Kuckel and Scricca are thrilled. Dr. Browder noted this is the first step for IEP and being prescriptive. When monitoring children, we'll assess strategies used (prescribe, diagnose, monitor; this hoped within 5 years). Dr. Kuckel noted planning differently for a student testing 80%

versus one at 20%, as latter needs support built in. Teachers have done great at this in the past; Dr. Browder noted the resources given to them though tough for all—District, bargaining unit, parents (because cultural shift from past). This is not a short-term project and will take 3-5 years to see measurable/dynamic results. It gives teachers tools; it's part of the administrative software project. This will help integration of all and working together, in one spot. Dr. Itzen noted saying what he has to say and is very excited, thanking Ms. Keena Eyster. A committee of 20-25 (District and school-based staff) looked at functional requirements of evaluating the system.

Mrs. Dozier noted her and Dr. Browder's discussion re concerned teachers' e-mails on the post-test used (Hillsborough's), questioning professionalism; some comments about FCAT are fought about at the state level. She questioned the grammatical/spelling errors, asked about someone looking at these, and noted speaking to that county's Chair. The test may have been geared to specific classrooms/teachers there and Lee may not have been prepared since no samples provided. Mrs. Dozier noted the Board has to let voices be heard to the Governor and legislators; they came up with the best possible plan to do something right but Mrs. Dozier's aware of the pain of teachers feeling unfair treatment. Mr. Chilmonik noted hearing some concerns; though late this year, maybe some specific points could be put together—what we're looking for, test that works, timing, categories of teachers taking different qualifiers and maybe a position/white paper could be done. Mrs. Dozier noted, though not as familiar with STAR, to have someone tell you how it impacts them; for example, some classes were forced to give post test and another teacher perceived to opt out and wait on FCAT results but Dr. Browder noted this is misinformation. He loves the Board's passion and knew it would be hard; the Hillsborough test was developed from standards the state developed within areas. Dr. Browder noted the hard work re fairness but it isn't fair to send \$4 million back without teachers having opportunity to even qualify.

Dr. Tihen noted the foundation laid for bringing information today; the next piece is different than what happened with the Hillsborough test. All teachers can pull up learned academic standardizes; the second piece is curriculum standardized. Assessment piece now won't be Hillsborough; it will be our academic plans, our assessment, etc. We had to rely on someone else's product prior. About 75% of the work done now is based on what's desired for all teachers to have. This has to count—develop assessment and know it works. Re reliability and validity in first year, we're checking students; second year of kids penalizing but not first. There are 100+ areas on FCAT not field-tested on students. We're identifying what vocabulary to support re tests. Dr. Itzen noted errors in test will be addressed and a thorough review. Re comments of why some classes and why some depend on FCAT—the spirit of the law is to calculate gains within a specific area unrelated to FCAT. You couldn't do that in all areas, as there wasn't access to assessments in those areas. Some teachers' gains thus based on FCAT versus subject area they teach. Dr. Itzen noted Dr. Adkins will talk about silos. Mr. Chilmonik asked how many tests children are taking re education impact or to justify state plan. Dr. Itzen noted the first priority is on courses taken by 11th and 12th graders generally passing FCAT (some may be taking subject area and FCAT but was primarily aiming where FCAT wouldn't be taken this year. Re monitoring, they'll have benchmark assessing to measure progress (pre/post test and progress monitoring tests).

Dr. Browder noted 32,000 tests after FCAT (there's post tests inside of Lee County); he thinks we test more than northwest regency testing. Mr. Chilmonik asked if we needed to talk about this. Dr. Itzen noted re counting or replacing teacher-made tests, he doesn't see additional testing; teacher doesn't have to make up a final test as an example. Dr. Kuckel noted determining how kids learn if we don't assess (new arena to learn). We don't pre-test now but will be now; all will have same information starting the year out. Bugs can be worked out; some will feel we're invading territory. Ms. Eyster did a PowerPoint (Data Management Assessment Proposal); copy is on file. Dr. Scricca noted talking student by student, class by class, and focusing on strategies; one can have all the monitoring desired. This is in conjunction with what kids need prior to FCAT scores coming out. Mr. Teuber likes the dashboard shown in the PowerPoint, noting it's hard to measure teachers but if they can see their own results and show parents where the child started (and where they're at), it's valuable data to parents. Dr. Kuckel noted listening is important and working through issues. Dr. Tihen noted teachers are asked to create tests many times during the semester, and they are to be commended. It's time to tie down though many are good testmakers. We can validate this process (versus 10,000 yearly tests).

C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. **STAR Testing Update** – Dr. Browder feels there's been much talk today, and he can tell there'll be healthy bargaining unit discussions. This is first step in something never done before; in 20 years, someone will look back at this group to get our kids achieving at world-class level. Dr. Kuckel noted it's important/critical bringing staff along the way (logistical pieces, anxieties, feelings important). Mrs. Dozier noted re gathering of teachers and

voicing concerns that they see things which may have been unanticipated. It's good to let off steam and be open to improvement; coordinators could call teacher meetings to share concerns. Dr. Adkins noted work with Ms. Mutzenard/inviting teachers in to work; there's frustration with STAR (state throws changes; tests arrive late, with little time to react). Appreciation was noted to staff, Ms. Mutzenard, and Ms. Elkin. Frustration has been around performance pay but professionals get the job done at the end of the day. District will be on the cutting edge re student assessment and performance evaluation of staff; when putting in new evaluation system, math, etc., student achievement improves in the District. Mr. Teuber noted appreciation to Dr. Adkins, and Mrs. Mutzenard; he noted parents wanting to know more about how kids are doing. Along the right steps, there are community involvement opportunities and with testing, a key component to help bring together. This Board thinks the administration has done a great job though there may be frustration with the system; appreciation is noted as it's a rough road. Dr. Scricca sees great achievement; when talking about Superintendent measurable goals, the Board, etc.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT SERVICES

1. **Change Orders / April 2007** (no discussion; back-up on file)

E. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. **Final Legislative Budget, Comparison of Prior and Current Years' Budget** – Ami Desamours noted accepting the FTE projection and 4000 students. In reality, we project 3800 (shortfall within budget). With a \$99.9 billion school tax roll (this past year 39%), there's significant decrease seeing our tax roll. There's a decrease in millage though property owner may see increase in taxes if property significantly increased. We're waiting Department of Juvenile Justice supplemental allocation. Steps are being taken re teachers and class size. We're at the 90% allocation/cap limit but still providing; 73% of our funding is local. Per Mrs. Dozier's question, the increase per student was about \$400. Some dollars being received may be more flexible due to legislation-added language (2 mill flexibility is on capital side, not operations). Two charters didn't meet class size (and we haven't been A District two years in a row).
2. **Wellness Report** – Mr. Nagy gave an annual report on wellness (copy of PowerPoint on file). He talked about obesity trends; there are good wellness reports put out by the CDC. Per the PowerPoint, 1 in 3 people in the U.S. are obese; it's important to go out and talk to people about this epidemic. There have been taste sessions for the schools on vegetables and fruits. Dr. Browder noted we've changed the face of what's inside cafeterias. Guidelines are long for Food Service, bringing the policy more in-depth as we go along. Mr. Teuber noted the School Health Advisory Committee and doctors; an idea from a recent committee meeting will be brought to the Superintendent but it doesn't have to be acted upon now. Dr. Scricca noted admiration for Mr. Nagy's passion. Dr. Kuckel noted our wellness program and the vending machine turn around; she appreciates what Mr. Nagy has done. Mr. Teuber noted thanks also to Mr. Nagy, staff, and the catalyst to change; it's making a proud difference.

F. EXECUTIVE SERVICES

1. **Discussion/Sale of District-Owned Buildings** – The Adams Building can be advertised as vacant around September 1; Dr. Browder seeks direction re desire. There was previous direction to move forward on the aforementioned building and Hipps. Re the Gwynne, there'll be more discussion. There's been only one call from another citizen about maintaining Gwynne as a District building. The latter building may be like the movie "The Money Pit" with multiple dollars put into it. The Board could put restrictions. Dr. Browder's unsure if another wants the Gwynne as Adams' interest noted presently. Mr. Chilmonik inquired as to government agency offerings and RFPs for bid opportunities. If a bid's unaccepted, then we can advertise/sell on open requirement. Mr. Martin explained the advertising requirement of once weekly for three weeks of general circulation within the district. We can advertise to government agencies; no advertising requirement if sale made to government agency. Mr. Chilmonik feels we could maximize dollars. Dr. Scricca confirmed Dr. Browder has had a government agency interested in the Adams Building; there hasn't been government interest to-date in Hipps. Mrs. Dozier inquired as to selling Hipps in pieces and the Board option to do such splitting. Dr. Browder noted an appraisal could be put out on separate buildings. Re the Gwynne, Attorney Hawkins inquired as to the governmental historical society and some preservation restrictions could be put in. Again, Dr. Browder noted only one citizen call of interest. It's multi-millions to renovate Gwynne from liability standpoint. There are no restrictions on the Gwynne re selling or used as educational facility. Mrs. Dozier inquired about a 99-year lease for a non-profit status; Dr. Browder noted mentioning something to the Foundation which the latter would have to look at the legal side and ask if they want to do but it still would be the District's building to bring up to a certain level. In response to Mr. Chilmonik, Dr. Browder noted the building's safe for employees but wouldn't recommend children in there in an everyday-run

school. Mr. Chilmonik asked about the possibility of an enterprise zone to make money on it. There is not mold at this point if the windows are continued to be maintained. Dr. Browder noted that to go on the open market, there would be a process for someone to buy. Mrs. Dozier noted about leasing and the need to bring to certain standards. Mr. Martin could talk about hold harmless re the Foundation and they'd provide insurance/liability support but would have to raise funds to renovate and Dr. Browder can't speak to that legal standpoint. Dr. Scricca asked how that will help kids if we have to pour money into the Gwynne, even in a 99-year lease (the money would come from us and not help students). Dr. Browder would envision the tenant raising capital but he can't speak for the Foundation. New appraisal on the Gwynne puts it at about \$2 million; 67 classrooms could be built. Mr. Chilmonik wants to see some sort of analysis to see if beneficial to the District. The Board could lease without going through a competitive bidding process; there are no inquiries to lease. Of the six who have talked with Dr. Browder about Gwynne, half have mentioned keeping it. Direction was given to Mr. Martin to advertise Adams and Hipps for possible sale as declared not needed for educational purposes and timeframe.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

H. BOARD ATTORNEY / BOARD INTERNAL AUDITOR (none) / SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS – Mr. Martin's school law minute was on public record, what constitutes, and what's covered. It's not just documents; it includes maps, tapes, photos, sound recordings made or received in transaction of official business. E-mail is to extent sent/received in performing Board duties or District employee (office or home computer). Personal e-mail is not public record though sent on District-owned equipment. Dr. Browder noted bringing to conclusion the Gulf Middle student lunch; he noted his faith in students is alive and well, commenting on the latter trading lunches but it was a good day for him. He thanked the principal and cafeteria staff. He's excited about Lt. Governor Kottkamp's Thursday visit. The Briefing was adjourned at approximately 4:48 p.m.

/dwm

MINUTES BOOK NO. 41 - FY07

Jane E. Kuckel, Ph.D., Meeting Chair

ATTEST:

James W. Browder, Ed.D., Secretary and District Superintendent

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