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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 4/3/07)  
**Tuesday – February 27, 2007 / 3:30 p.m.**

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

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**A. BOARD MEMBERS** (*Dr. Jane Kuckel called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.*)

- 1. Special Areas of Board Involvement/Reports** – Dr. Scricca noted attending Special Olympics' tennis matches last week; she congratulated Lynn Pottorf (who was at the event), as it's extremely satisfying to see dedicated students in team shirts demonstrating their skills. Dr. Scricca noted the DAC meeting's postponement twice (Valentines Day and Ash Wednesday). The National Board Certified Teachers Dinner (NBCT) this past Friday was a very enlightening and profound recognition; Lee is one of the top five districts statewide. She complimented Mr. Chilmonik for a job well done at his Town Hall Meeting last night.

Mr. Chilmonik noted congratulations to Nancy Foley, teacher of the year. He acknowledged the NBCT event as well, noting the whole stage was full. He gave a brief overview of the forum last night and thanked all who were present as well as staff; re attendance, areas to look include print media and TV coverage but appreciation was noted to WINK for their four segments advertising the Town Hall Meeting and FOX-4 was there. He thinks getting parents to attend will catch on; there will be continuing work on getting the right mix of questions and a comfortable feeling, as the opinions are valued. Mr. Chilmonik mentioned a parent driving from Lehigh for last night's meeting at Ida Baker High; he also noted the ESE parents.

Mrs. Dozier noted being in Tallahassee for new Board Member orientation; the Legislature has one, and FSBA has one every two years (this was the latter's and well attended). She met with legislative consultants and proceedings are starting for the upcoming year; Mrs. Dozier will present dates that hopefully many can attend. Appointments to different committees are being sought; Board Members are to let her know if interested. Mrs. Dozier also noted the NBCT dinner and Mr. Carmen Dellutri, sponsor of last five events; he believes in public education and credits teachers for where he's at today. She wants a certificate presented to him (he's modest). Mrs. Dozier expressed thanks for the Town Hall Meeting, noting District 5's representation; Dr. Browder responded to Dr. Scricca that the cost of these is \$1,500+. Mrs. Dozier noted the 4/3 Board Action Meeting will be at Dunbar High. She noted attending a meeting of Shoes that Fit (a recent public comment speaker). There were 1,000 women at the event who are dedicated to providing clothing and shoes for students in need. She asked Dr. Browder (since all in attendance will probably buy an outfit and/or shoes) for a place to store these items. Separately, Mrs. Dozier thanked Dr. Kuckel for attending the Lt. Gov. Kottkamp meeting for her and Mr. Teuber for the same at Horizon Council Meeting.

Mr. Teuber noted Smart Growth's meeting last week, and a main concern talked there is additional I-75 lanes being paid or not paid (toll roads); the recommendation is to bring in toll roads, maintaining the current roads as they are and the new ones would be toll—thus four more lanes. To make clearer, if not done this way, we'll only get two lanes (to be started in '07, completed in '10, and gridlocked in '15 with no funding until '30). There won't be a traffic slowdown with the additional lanes due to transponders/pre-paid cards. Re Horizon Council, an issue is education as it's an indicator for incoming businesses; two concerns are SAT and ACT scores, and ours is not as good as state and national levels. He asked for Board consensus to have an analysis as to who takes the tests—re apples-to-apples comparison across country. Mr. Teuber knows our students are better than the state; there may be a disservice (wants quantifiers available). Mrs. Dozier noted her conversation with Dr. Browder on this and it's all in reporting; the state won't report we have higher numbers taking the test (philosophy was to have as many test as possible. Mr. Teuber asked that, with comprehensive high schools, is a proper focus; if not going to college, we would do better marketing ourselves to market comprehensive high schools. There's Dunbar with the computer programs and math.

Dr. Kuckel noted doing talent identifiers in middle school and district-wide to help. Dr. Browder noted the TIP program for 7<sup>th</sup> grade; 10<sup>th</sup> graders take pre-set. He noted this as a philosophical discussion; when a principal, he wanted as many as could participate. A lot more of our students take the tests (by percentage of raw numbers) than others in the state. It's not wanted to discourage, select, and/or sort. Those critical of ACT and SAT don't understand regression of the mean; it might be a smarter exercise to identify the top 5-10% of our students and their test scores based on what's going on in the state and nation. We want to encourage kids to try things, as they may say I scored here and need to work harder to get to there. SAT prep course will start next year in all zones (annually). Mr. Teuber noted he wants quantifying data and to not discourage students. Dr. Scricca is okay in collecting data though how used is another matter. Mr. Chilmonik noted national firms look at test scores and it may be hard to overcome this. More kids who take (regression) on a national test goes toward the mean (right in the middle). Mr. Teuber noted statistics/bell-shaped curve and normal distribution.

Mr. Teuber noted re, a second issue, very positive responses on comprehensive high schools—e.g., South Fort Myers High and Ida Baker (East opening permanent facility in June); for long-range plan, talk is needed with Legislature to get more funding for these types of schools. Dr. Scricca affirmatively noted that if we're championing comprehensiveness, we need to go further. One parent questioned at Town Hall Meeting last night if East would be enough to challenge the student population. Dr. Scricca would like to see the data on what we've done with two of these high schools so to answer East Lee County concerns—are we servicing the entire student population? What she thinks heard is the parent felt her child might not benefit once getting through a comprehensive high to attend college (e.g., academic program). Dr. Browder argued that Ida Baker is the most picked high schools because of programs offered; people in the state know about it and if others don't know, they haven't been paying attention (he noted this isn't criticism). Every 9<sup>th</sup> grade parent gets option of choosing comprehensive high school (mailing received). Re the magnet grant tonight, there's public relations/marketing inside of it; one thing Student Assignment does is to make sure all know what's going on.

In three years, it's planned to evaluate academies, looking at those picked and if successful with numbers. Every school will have minimum of three academies; there's be continual analyzing to see what's being done to meet needs. Dr. Browder noted that inside of programs, 1<sup>st</sup> year is broad scope; in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, they hit the ground running—like IB. If going in as a junior, one will come out with a skill. Dr. Browder listened to what the mother said; he has spoken with her before, and we continue to work on East Lee County. Mr. Chilmonik noted the Governor's announcement last week re the math and science initiative (\$2 million). Dr. Tihen has noted we're 1 of 16 finalists, with notification within a month. Dr. Kuckel suggested considering for a look at next year's legislative platform; skilled programs can be expensive to operate. Mr. Teuber noted Enterprise Florida's big push on math and science. He noted the original scheduled date of Mrs. Dozier's 4/23 Town Hall Meeting was the same night as the Cape Chamber's Excellence in Education Awards; her meeting is now 4/2. It was noted to consider moving the 4/2 Town Hall Meeting later (two currently within 2-1/2 weeks; 4/3 Action Meeting at Dunbar High; etc.); spreading out may be good. Dr. Browder will contact the school.

Dr. Kuckel noted NBCT recognition is a very wonderful/proud event. She was at the Golden Apple breakfast with Mr. Chilmonik; it's an excellent recognition, and there are McDonald's placements throughout with finalists pictured. Dr. Kuckel met with Lt. Gov. Kottkamp and Dr. Browder, she's very encouraged and feels openness with new administration, and there were great conversations. Dr. Browder shared issues (class size and others). Lt. Gov. Kottkamp talked about their agendas—teachers' salaries, electives, p.e. and he was open, wanting to work on problems; he wants all to keep in contact with him and with Tallahassee legislators. Dr. Kuckel mentioned her and Mr. Chilmonik's attending the visit by U.S. Senator Mel Martinez at Caloosa; the latter talked with students and did a wonderful job—he came from a poor family/tough background, and he gave hope. Dr. Kuckel also acknowledged Ms. Foley, teacher of the year. Dr. Kuckel also inquired about Town Hall Meetings and maybe having one per zone in the future (not making focused on the individual Board Member but they could be moderators/chairs) for input; she feels the whole Board should respond to questions. Separately, she noted freshman mentoring is worthwhile.

## **B. ACADEMIC SERVICES**

- 1. Middle Years International Baccalaureate (IB) Program Update** (back-up info on file) – Vivian Smith, Lee Middle Principal, noted it's exciting to become full-fledged IB school; it's been worked on for two years. Being looked at was what they could do for a lift; it's a stem school with magnet funds gone. Big

improvement's being seen; there are 100 students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade for IB. It's hopeful for a personal project developed for 8<sup>th</sup> grade who work on that level. There's unification at the school. Tyler Bumsted's doing an outstanding job as IB coordinator, meeting with teachers, there are PowerPoints, classroom posters. They thought the Board would like insight into how the middle school program differs from diploma program (Michigan Academy has primary and Riverdale has diploma). Mr. Bumsted noted the whole school's commitment to the IB program; it was decided to offer from Life Skills to Gifted (all benefit, at different levels). It's a philosophical program and not just academically. The international perspective is there; doing country of the month now. Community service is for fostering commitment to help others at all levels. Even in math examples, foreign countries are used.

Re approach to learning, whether auditory or visual learner, it can be used for students' success in life and reflect back on themselves. Dr. Kuckel asked about how it's covered curriculum-wise. Mr. Bumsted noted there are units in any particular class—handouts, audio, talking (all teachers work on this through the individual curriculum and it's all tied in), etc. Dr. Scricca inquired as to how much time's devoted to this curriculum; the areas/units are infused into the regular curriculum; they get the same curriculum and Sunshine State Standards but it's a different way to approach. Ms. Smith noted, re FCAT, that they do well on writing for FCAT performance but there's a way to go in the other areas; she feels it helps scores in little increments. Dr. Browder noted it will absolutely help; it's steadily rising per Ms. Smith. Students keep notebooks, graphs are done, the media center's utilized, and the internet used to help students get better organized which is important for middle school students. Dr. Scricca noted assessing it so to use for other middle schools; Dr. Browder confirmed all will be assessed and we'll go slow in each zone to provide learning opportunities for youngsters. It's an integrated approach to put together. Dr. Scricca is very supportive. Re helping meet FCAT and Sunshine State Standards, Ms. Smith noted kids will now know how to use notebook, organize, graphing in all areas. It's not just curriculum but they use this approach with district curriculum.

Mr. Bumsted noted Lee Middle going from a C to B school; it had an effect. An example of community service was beach clean-up (it's harder for middle schoolers to volunteer at soup kitchens). There are opportunities within the school and outside. Re health hazards, they tie into DARE and other programs in health decisions they're making. (They have a successful band program.) There are oral presentations, tests, essays, reflection on projects (what done and to do better for themselves), etc. Ms. Smith responded to Mr. Teuber that character education is infused right in there with it; discipline and positive behavior are in all classes. They also do Learning for Life as well as learner's profile (latter in all classrooms—10 qualities of perfect learner, caring, knowledgeable, inquisitive, etc.). Mrs. Dozier noted, re character education, a parent commenting that IB strengthens character ed—life skills, transition from elementary to middle, etc. Rosie Browning, District IB Coordinator, oversees all programs as well as Fort Myers High; she's worked with Ms. Smith and Mr. Bumsted. The District is on the front side and will have k-12 opportunities for the IB program (not many in the world). Dr. Browder noted being on the front side is important, as we get Sunshine State Standards and how-to-interact approaches for learning. Ms. Smith recognized Dr. Jones and her work; Ms. Browning and Dr. Jones went with Ms. Smith to her first IB training. Dr. Kuckel noted it puts us on the cutting edge and determines what's working or not.

## C. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. **Fingerprinting Project** (back-up info on file) – Dr. Adkins introduced Professional Standards: Ranice Monroe, Craig Baker (Professional Practices Tallahassee recruit), and Christine Copeland (from private industry). Ms. Monroe noted fingerprinting requirements; District has 7,200 employees for (re-) fingerprinting at a cost of \$439,000-\$529,000 to get in compliance by the deadlines. Ms. Copeland noting outsourcing to PrideRock; mobile fingerprinting centers will be set up and results will be reviewed to ensure guidelines are met. Those in DROP won't be done; it's anticipated to roll out the pilot to principals in early June/July and will be out in its entirety in August to manage (and meet 6/30/09 deadline). Dr. Adkins noted that re 7,200 individuals' results, some may have a record or cleared it in the past and may have reported it or not. It will be labor-intensive touching all 7,200 results. Instead of employing additional staff to do fingerprinting, when PrideRock does, it will be done without having additional staff left over after completion. This project requires going back over the process as if the employees are new hires; if there's a hit on the record, much decision-making is done also. It's an unfunded mandate. When there's 500-1,000 people hired yearly, this is being done also. Original estimate was \$1 million over five years; after analyzing, there are private vendors in the state for utilizing to get it done. Mr. Teuber inquired as to outsourcing enough—if still an overload on our people; he noted setting criteria of flow (chart) if there's hit. He feels we try to be everything to everybody but

applauds the outsourcing of fingerprinting, and he doesn't want them to be afraid to come to the Board to say we can outsource more to let our personnel be human resources to our people and educational functions. Dr. Kuckel noted those comments going to Dr. Browder and he can bring back with other agenda items; she noted thanks for info, and a conversation can occur at another time re the other part of Mr. Teuber's conversation.

**D. ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT SERVICES**

**1. Process for Selection: Design Professional/Construction Managers** (back-up info on file) – Dr. Browder noted Mr. Moore; the summary of the selection process can be operated under, with some cleaning-up noted (eliminating names and make sure it flows and is manageable for staff). It can be brought back for explanation.

**E. BUSINESS SERVICES**

**1. Reclassification: Teacher on Assignment (TOA) to Senior Applications Support Specialist** (back-up info on file; this item was not able to be discussed due to time restraints of the approaching 5:00 p.m. Support Person of the Year Recognition, separate from this meeting).

**F. EXECUTIVE SERVICES -- none**

**G. PUBLIC COMMENT – none**

**H. BOARD ATTORNEY / BOARD INTERNAL AUDITOR / SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS** – Neither Mr. Martin or Ms. Nieminski had any comments. Dr. Browder will share his tonight. Meeting adjourned at 4:59.

/dwm

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MINUTES BOOK NO. 41 - FY07

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

ATTEST:

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

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