



VISION
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THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
School Board Workshop – M I N U T E S (Approved 10/24/06)
Tuesday—September 12, 2006 / 2:00 p.m. (Board Room)

Workshop

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

I. CALL TO ORDER – The School Board met on September 12, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. for a workshop; Mr. Teuber presided.

II. DISCUSSION

B. School Board Advisory Committees (done in this order due to Chairpersons present)

Dr. Browder distributed a five-item list for discussion: number of committees, what is the work of the committees, committee membership, membership/appointee tenure, and selection process. He noted the current five committees' he's received input as to the number being okay but Finance and Compliance may be similar—maybe the latter two could be combined into a Human Relations committee. Another thought is reducing the number of Board appointees from three to two per committee. Re membership/tenure, some individuals have served several years; perhaps a time limit could be established for each committee though one could switch to another. On newspaper advertising for committee members, it runs about \$500-600 per display ad with only one response averaging each of the last two; advertising could be done on TV or through SACs.

Mrs. Dozier noted all committee chairs' invitation today to provide input; it helps her personally as a Board Member but she prefers to be in a workshop setting (versus the Board Room) to roll-up the sleeves. Mrs. Dozier suggested soliciting membership, re daily correspondence received, from individuals already interested in the system (e.g., attach a Board Advisory Committee application to replies). Dr. Scricca noted the advertising effectiveness via its history/results. Dr. Kuckel suggested advisory committee membership solicitation through parent newsletters, chambers of commerce, Rotary bulletins. Mr. Teuber noted there's consensus not to advertise and suggested listening to the Chairs present today but schedule another workshop in a conference room.

Jack Eikenberg (Compliance Committee Chair) noted interfacing with the Board, good concepts, the quality of output/input, staff time (both paid and unpaid), how to improve the quality of advice given, desired outcomes, how to be more specific, etc.; perhaps assignments/tasks/research could be given to them and then they'd come back to the Board (e.g., call centers, workers comp, transportation safety, absenteeism, specialty-type nature, etc.) with a precise set of advise, whether adopted or not. Compliance wants feedback (whether off base, what can or can't be done). Mr. Eikenberg noted Susan Strong's good presentation on accident prevention. He's not uncomfortable but committee members may be re the specific direction and objectives for them to achieve. He also noted the people's credentials who become committee members.

Compliance is seriously interested in doing good; field trips would be eventful but maybe could be done without some staff so as to not restrict ability to do (Mrs. Dozier noted the Construction Advisory has had some very good field trips; good to witness first hand). Mr. Eikenberg noted he's not being critical of staff for after-hours. Mr. Eikenberg noted spending a half hour last night/putting down his thoughts (three pages attached). He noted specific challenges/focal areas; should Compliance be the name of the committee; Board' interest of what's needed; continuous improvement (takes people well disciplined as it's complex); etc. Dr. Scricca asked Mr. Eikenberg his thoughts re a tenure cap. He noted it takes a layman 6 months to grasp/understand (time spent settling agendas down with new members). Dr. Scricca noted advisory committees are meant to be representative of the community and constituents; new members may be disadvantaged but we have to get them up to speed.

David Hall (Finance Committee Chair) thanked the committee chairs and commented our system is complex; he noted Dr. Lott having one of the most difficult committee chairs—DAC. Mr. Hall expressed congratulations to the Board Members re-elected. He noted a one-year committee term is too short but five may be too long—somewhere in between but the committee needs to be talked to. Finance averages 10-12 re attendance; if 10 members gone down to, only 6-7 may show which may be too few. Mr. Hall noted the work by previous District staff liaisons—Jim Moore, Mike Olliff—and Lee Legutko's wonderful work in the last couple of months; he and Lee have talked many times on things which could be addressed by Finance. The Committee doesn't want to micromanage but look overall and use of budget on go-forth basis. OPAGGA study's implementation went through a year ago. There's brainstorming to make/save money (e.g., school bus parts) and they want to do more. Mr. Hall noted it's important to meet with staff; Ami Desamours and Kelly Letcher have been wonderful and informative re the budget. Mr. Hall noted politics (65% rule), importance of committee doing work that expands upon statewide (working with lobbyists, politicians).

What can Finance do to help? The sales tax matter hasn't gone away. Re impact fees—time will tell. Mr. Hall said in Leadership Lee, he loves tax cuts but we borrow during years to build facilities; he doesn't think it's right for the School District and he'd rather kick in extra (\$100-140) to pay off District facilities' debt. He and Mr. Legutko have talked about help in enhancing earnings. Mr. Chilmonik asked Mr. Hall re other tools needed that Dr. Browder can supply; Mr. Hall noted that getting the Chief Financial Officer on board was most helpful, and he's comfortable with the communication back and forth. Mr. Hall noted, re accounting and computer conversions, the input and Ms. Shelhorse's presentations—which bring them back up to see where we're at. Dr. Scricca asked Mr. Hall if he shares Mr. Eikenberg's concept on committee members' backgrounds; it's helpful that people have some finance, accounting, bookkeeping backgrounds but there's been good questions in what a lay person sees (and how)—which means others are asking. It's Mr. Hall's personal opinion that (at least his committee) should not be made up of District employees. Membership could be solicited through Leadership Lee, Kiwanis, other leadership programs, TV (education channel—run 5 minutes prior to Board meetings soliciting people to apply).

Dr. Lott (District Advisory Chair) agreed it's helpful to receive feedback—e.g., if DAC is on the right track, noting the number of parents to attend. For the quarterly reports to the Board (at Briefings), she needs a sub in her classroom. DAC Executive Board may need, in writing,

how long to serve on the Board, how elected, etc.; new blood may be good. Their big conversation is how to increase parental involvement. Perhaps if there was daycare provided while attending the DAC meeting; Dr. Lott’s unsure of how realistic this is. Maybe other languages used (like Spanish and English). She noted it’s a big thing to conduct their meetings in a positive way; people also like the format of having speakers, as there’s nothing like a bad rumor based on incorrect info. One issue has been parent pick-up; by listening to others and solving, different ideas come up. When people come in and share across the District, this is good. Though breakout sessions (and speakers) are important, it’s thumbs down (to her) that DAC is productive. Each subcommittee makes a list of agenda topics to discuss the remainder of the year. Subcommittee chairs need appropriate support/skills; even in conducting smaller groups, getting off target occurs some thus causing others to feel disenchanting and time’s wasted.

She suggested a word change community to parent; she spoke of the end-of-school-year’s strategic listening. It’s hard for her to get any parents at her school to serve re something favorable and coming out at dinnertime. Dr. Scricca noted DAC Executive discussing the latter if parental involvement would increase if daycare though she noted liability, insurance, etc. Mr. Teuber noted people have babysitting issues. Mr. Chilmonik asked about allocated babysitting monies though this doesn’t have to happen now. Mr. Teuber noted Dr. Browder can make it happen but maybe not this year. Mrs. Dozier noted collaboratively partnering with organizations (e.g., free computer workshops to them) with child care services. Dr. Lott noted shuttling parents down from zones. She feels brochure needed to advertise DAC of what it’s about so as to clearly communicate. (Separately, the list of District Advisory Committee proposed Board appointees was distributed prior to the workshop, with no objections; Ms. Mangus will continue to work on the vacancies.)

A. District Call Center

Dr. Kuckel noted Compliance has talked about this, with extensive conversations; they want to look into this, with information gathered and report back; the call/information center may not be accomplishing what it was designed for. Compliance will be given the opportunity to review and bring it back in December. (The call center is part of Mr. Donzelli’s budget).

III-IV. GOOD OF THE ORDER/ADJOURNMENT – The workshop adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

/dwm

MINUTES BOOK NO. 41 - FY07

Steven K. Teuber, J.D., Chairman

ATTEST:

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

An audio/visual tape of this meeting has been produced to provide a verbatim record of the proceedings. Members of the public may obtain a copy of the tape of any meeting by making a request for such through the Communications Department and paying the actual cost of

copying the tape. Members of the public may view any Board meeting tape at the Communications Department at no cost. Anyone wishing to view a Board meeting tape should contact the Communications Department at 337-8327 to make such a request.