



VISION
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THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
School Board Workshop – M I N U T E S
Monday – October 23, 2006 (Approved 11/21/06)

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
Mr. Michael McNerney, Chief Administrative Officer
Dr. Elinor C. Scricca – Vice Chair
Mrs. Jeanne Dozier, Board Member
Mr. Keith Martin, Board Attorney
Mrs. Julie Nieminski, Board Auditor
Mrs. Denise Mangus, Recording Secretary

+ Art Steidl, Jack Eikenberg, Connie Jones, Connie Dennis, Donna Butts, Lee Lugtko, David Hall

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- I. CALL TO ORDER** – The School Board met on October 23, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. for a workshop in the Human Resources Conference Room. Mr. Teuber presided.
- II. DISCUSSION** – Dr. Browder talked about committee size for District Advisory Committee (DAC), having two representatives appointed from each Board Member and term limits. Additional suggestions emerged from meetings with the committee chairs. Mrs. Dozier asked for input from the two Board Members who serve/served on DAC.

Dr. Kuckel noted two issues with DAC; with the number size of the committee, trying to get something accomplished is a challenge as well as the lack of consistency in membership each time (charge doesn't carry over time to time). She suggests not having appointees from the Board on DAC. Donna Butts, DAC Chair, piggy-backed on the issues Dr. Kuckel presented and feels the Committee needs a charge to work on—no matter how small; credibility would be given to the organization and people. She noted re a rep from each school that reports to DAC, perhaps two or three individuals could represent all elementary and so forth.

Dr. Scricca noted, re the numbers, the breakout meetings are good for elementary, middle, and high due to their own interests/focus. She's observed a hunger for info about our system; when there's a central speaker (transportation, technology), they were extremely interested. Maybe have a speaker with questions and answers; then next month's meetings, there would be a breakout. Meetings could take place in particular zones. Mr. Teuber feels all committees wrestle with issues and for DAC, what do we want them to do/the charge. Finance was provided Mr. Legutko and team (educated committee). Tell them how to use (so not to run in circles). Dr. Scricca noted giving a charge about a particular item—e.g., transportation and be mindful of fact they wish to gather to discuss own particular issues they have. Not all issues are the same (even to all schools). Each committee knows what they do; they're unaware of other committees. Maybe chair of other committees could attend DAC and explain what they do, their charge.

Mrs. Butts noted Dr. Scricca's suggestions are good for DAC. DAC Executive Committee meets and gets review forms (complaints in school) where there's direction to the appropriate avenues (to Dr. Browder, departments, etc.). Mr. Chilmonik asked about Dr. Adams' DAC program. Dr. Browder noted being the first principal on committee; now is similar to then (but more members). About 40-50 attended back then if there were big issues. One from each school attended who could bring a friend. The Chair, Vice Chair, principals, and some staff attended; three sessions were broke out into (elementary, middle, and high) and shared with Dr. Adams, via the Chair and principal reps in the

group. Dr. Browder noted policy talks about input, advice and support from these groups. He sees it as look, listen, and report. DAC has asked what others have; info should be obtained, analyzed, input shared with the Board. Changes were made within the budget document as result of the Finance Committee. He believes what Mrs. Butts and Dr. Scricca mention is critical; all committees need a lot of info—transportation, admin software, etc. Staff can be rotated to give info to all (positive comes from snippets). He noted talking about the committees/structure for input 3-1/2 years ago. He sees committees doing, analyze and give best thinking. Is it desired to stay with DAC locally and come back the next month as a large group. Dr. Scricca noted hearing satisfaction when committee ideas adopted.

Dr. Dennis noted not knowing all things the Board adopts; cum laude, per Dr. Jones, is an example. Dr. Kuckel noted a thought of a similar format—all committees meet on same night, begin with presentation and break out into individual groups to talk about presentation. Workers' comp came up at the last Compliance meeting. Mr. Chilmonik asked about teleconferencing technology through the schools (ITV) and show in the zones. Dr. Kuckel noted distance learning technology. Dr. Butts noted the bottom line is sharing as much info as possible and finding way to link/separate help with the numbers. At the next meeting, someone could speak on security (especially with the East lockdown); it would be good if this issue has the info given, what's being done/changed, proposals for next school year. The following month's DAC meeting could be general but individual groups meet—elementary, middle, high. They could go back to their SACs in the meantime and get feedback (latter could be sent to Executive).

Mrs. Dozier noted appreciation to all who serve; all are busy and to find a time convenient for all different committees may be too big of a task. They look at calendars together in small group; she'd be cautious before taking step for all to attend. She's heard what the Board accomplishes when committees makes suggestions. Her role as liaison is to take back to committee any information has come to the board. That's one way to keep members abreast of what's going on. It might be good (in Board Member five-minute report) to bring other district matters—e.g., baccalaureate changes.

Mr. Steidl noted security is a District concern; if all same time (for realistic discussions), the problem is so diverse (can't relate to all). Mr. Hall noted getting the Chief Business Officer on board was a top priority; Mr. Legutko's the main contact with their committee and drives their committee. There's more involvement in the thought process and budget (being pulled together). The day-to-day operations ("nuts and bolts") are not the responsibility of the Committee. The budget is first, reviewing financial projections, impact fees provide another funds to build schools, sales tax, etc. Mr. Eikenberg noted it's time for the Board to be more selfish and determine is wanted out of committees. Re DAC with 80+ people, he sees an informal opportunity to present info (than through schools, principals)—use it in that manner, outside (these are principal people), and feed relative info. Dr. Dennis noted on SAC that they're separated from others at Alva (the DAC rep didn't feel like talking due to different concerns) but happy to come back with info from District to share for SAC and feel important (talk about it, e-mail it so not to wait another month). Dr. Butts noted needing a way to send definite information as soon as information from SACs is available for the next meeting.

Dr. Browder noted what he's heard is to truly listen, report, analyze. He thinks one thing helpful in DAC is breakout sessions (allows groups to talk their issues). Like what Mr. Steidl, every group talk about security. Mr. Teuber noted, re security, safety is not free—fingerprinting, cameras in schools, etc. become budget-related but we don't get funded; do we take action to seek those funds. Dr. Scricca suggested having the chairs identify eight particular subjects, calendar these topics discussed, and then all committees do the same thing; breakout sessions are valuable (if all levels talk about security in November). Mrs. Butts agreed; she noted each breakout group sets an agenda for the year but breakout would be another time (re topic discussed) though they'll want to talk about little issues. Mr. Eikenberg noted having 4 or 5 joint topic meetings per year, pushing back to the Board and Superintendent the

assignments and topics; it will take some kind of work to invest in what subjects (have to learn first before making any type of judgment). Dr. Kuckel suggested three topics since some committees have 9 meetings per year; presenter could videotape presentation; show on tape (vs. presenter doing 5 times to 5 committees). Mr. Teuber noted groups like Finance Construction (where there's a different focus) could still do subject matter focus on off times. Presentations could be done by different rotating staff in a department (to avoid same one).

Mr. Hall noted, depending on topic, the logical of progressing discussion from one committee to another. Feels Finance could be near the end on some topics; subject matter may be premature for one committee and not another. Dr. Scricca thought all would get general presentation on security in a particular month. Mr. Hall noted the difficulty in honing in. Mr. Teuber sees one presentation; Finance could talk about the dollars re Jessica Lunsford Act and did we get funding, with the cost broken down. DAC could talk about meeting the needs of kids, traffic impacts; items could come up after DAC comes back in its third month meeting. Another question is what we can do and afford. Mrs. Butts noted a tie-in with the quarterly report to the Board/Superintendent (someone could take reports and dovetail to Dr. Browder). Mr. Teuber noted, re the Strategic Plan, that for Finance—what's the cost impact of all action items for the Strategic Plan. Compliance can question if we're doing it the right way—strategic plan benchmarking, private and public reporting results. Curriculum could see how it plays into the curriculum; to DAC, school improvement plans are based on the Strategic Plan (could be difficult making school improvement plans if the strategic plan isn't understood).

Mr. Eikenberg noted the started development of a rational process so the Board can get something out of committees. It may be not what we have today; committees could truly investigate things on a broader functional basis. Dr. Scricca noted trying to see how far we get; find out the challenges, and then re-examine in a year as per Mr. Eikenberg. Mr. Steidl noted that if the committees are given a mission, Construction could put some effort together on suggestions. Mr. Hall noted that one thing over next year—periodic financial/monthly reports (his members are used to having an income statement), with some comparison of where we are to budget on a regular basis; hopefully some reports to come off new computer/software systems. Reports by school (whatever trying to measure), push back to each school, or zone. Produce fairly quick and easy reports to monitor activities. Mrs. Butts inquired if we're saying DAC would be general meeting one month, with months two and three for breakout sessions. Mr. Teuber noted all committees could meet separately; a portion of the DAC could be for individual complaints/issues.

Dr. Browder noting hearing that Board Members, after this year's rotation, would not add appointees to DAC. Dr. Kuckel suggestion of this reflects that DAC is representatives of schools, and she concurs to phase in after this year. Mr. Chilmonik noted that if parents are participating in DAC, there will be balance. Dr. Browder noted that each Board liaison could ask for topics that their group would like general info on that could be presented and a list of topics could be garnered; he has written down Strategic Plan and safety. Mr. Teuber noted the Board will work through a list to be brought back. Dr. Browder noted that Finance Committee wouldn't want to add something, as an example; this is a normal occurrence. Construction would still visit construction sites, do plan review; this would not be eliminated. There are important things that all committees could have knowledge of. Dr. Kuckel noted an issue for all—land shortage and what's being thought could be shared. Mr. Teuber noted the Cape Coral Golf Course property; that topic could have been put out to look at impact from Finance as well as getting views from Curriculum and Construction (community input instead of what happened). Dr. Kuckel noted other topics we're wrestling with—affordable housing. Dr. Scricca noted the Call Center.

Mr. Hall requested that the committee chairs be included in communications of other committees' meetings (though it was noted they're advertised). Dr. Scricca mentioned the possibility of chairs attending other advisory committee meetings and tell a little about what each do (with hopes and

aspirations) but it's not desired to burden the chairs with too many meetings. Mr. Martin's quarterly meetings are helpful and productive. Mr. Eikenberg noted it's wise to open up for good discussion; it's hard to get positive feedback. One problem to deal with is the number of school district employees on committees but he recognizes the absence of skills sometimes—Compliance re-educates yearly members on what continuous improvement is. The Compliance Committee started as the audit committee years ago. It's hard to oversee when some don't know the rules/regulations; Mr. Eikenberg structures into the Strategic Plan, measurable objectives, continuous improvement, and the service they can do. The third grade reading had value. Think of what can be done/expanded; in process, there are 11,000 employees (part or full time). Tremendous informational technology can help; bounce off questions, have Board feedback plus the existing praise for work done and don't go into a black hole. He noted all being clearly heard but putting things into concept. Re DAC, internal and external communication policy—find internal ways to soften and not manipulate users but communicate.

Mr. Teuber noted some things may not be as prevalent to one committee versus another. Maybe a press/media committee would be helpful even though there are press releases; is there a perception and are we getting out there. There are people out there in schools to give feedback and they don't know what's available or how to do. Maybe a committee would assist Mr. Donzelli and his group; there are huge media outlets in schools; do we want to use. Mr. Eikenberg noted Mr. Donzelli presenting a couple of times; the media prints other things. To general external positive relations, there's a hard battle being fought. Dr. Kuckel noted that a nice thing about a topic like this is that all can share experiences and give ideas. Dr. Dennis noted Curriculum divides into major focus areas and does research; some include literacy, meeting advanced learner needs, comprehensive/career education. She likes other areas of concerns. Re communication ideas, the Board hears from public; it was clarified by Mr. Martin that same committee members shouldn't be e-mailing due to sunshine (okay with member of different committee). Mrs. Butts noted DAC's review request form (available online from public); the Executive Committee reviews submitted forms.

Mr. McNerney noted referrals to the Superintendent (and departments) is a big part of how they operate with DAC); Executive Committee looks at it, moves it forward as agenda item, or it's referred to staff. With monthly topics, the schools are used to information flowing. Mr. Teuber sees DAC further on form and method re getting exposure to other groups to be participatory with executive staff; it's another resource the Superintendent can utilize. Dr. Browder noted he'd get with staff members of other groups and have info for Board liaisons at next meeting to collect data. Mr. Eikenberg inquired about assigning someone to be single coordinator for this instead of five pieces spread out; Dr. Browder noted he'll be keeping master file of issues (the five secretaries work with Ms. Crotty). If safety comes up, it'll come up on top.

Dr. Scricca sees Dr. Browder using Mr. Donzelli involved to communicate/coordinate. Mr. Hall noted perhaps an ad hoc committee for Communications; Mr. Teuber noted so many good things happen in District that are put out there but the media doesn't report them. Dr. Browder noted we send to every outlet daily press releases, weekly "what's happening," Lee in the Loop (10,000 distribution). Dr. Browder noted he won't say anything negative about the local media; some educational things are described. There'll be a continuation of looking at other strategies for dissemination of data. Dr. Browder noted that instead of Pride & Patriotism being covered, his memos may be in the media. Mr. Eikenberg noted the serious strategic problems mentioned. A much larger group, like DAC, could help in internal communications but still wants committees as presented. The outcomes of what's being asked could be measured. He further noted that unless it's known what is wanted and what works in the Board best interests, the Board's not being served or the committees.

Dr. Scricca noted wanting to stay as liaisons to the current committees for the current year (for consistency). Mrs. Dozier noted it's cumbersome in finding individuals to serve; when things are going

smooth, we don't hear as much from people. She'd be cautious about setting time limits/tenure. Dr. Dennis noted she wouldn't be comfortable on another committee; this is her area, she's Chair, and has background/history to share. Mr. Chilmonik is not for term limits, stating let free market makes its decisions. Mrs. Butts noted wanting to serve as long as possible on DAC to help; she suggested going back to the District talk show—an excellent way of getting information (she still has people mentioning it), and varied topics could be presented (without media swaying it). Mrs. Dozier concurred, noting it was an outstanding venue of informing parents. Mr. Eikenberg suggested the committee chairs appear on it. Mr. Teuber noted it will be a progressive step when Dr. Browder can bring it forward (latter noting it can be done if the Board desires). Mr. Martin noted that the Board can bring up later a communications committee.

III. GOOD OF THE ORDER – Mr. Eikenberg feels we're on the right track and to finish it up and follow through. Dr. Jones noted, re thinking about topics/themes, to align with the Strategic Plan; committees could align with one of the goals. Dr. Dennis noted enjoying this today, as well as Mrs. Butts. Mrs. Dozier and Dr. Scricca both said this was a good meeting. Mr. Teuber suggested seeking ideas via strategic listening; Dr. Browder noted the quarterly strategic listening is ongoing, with 600 citizens offering input on a series of questions.

II. ADJOURNMENT - Mr. Teuber adjourned the workshop at 3:28 p.m.

/dwm

MINUTES BOOK NO.41 FY07

Steven K. Teuber, J.D., Chairman

ATTEST:

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

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