



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 6/5/07)
Tuesday – April 24, 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 Scricca, Board Member
Mrs. Denise Mangus, Recording Secretary

A. BOARD MEMBERS (*Dr. Scricca called the meeting to order at 2:17 p.m.*)

- 1. Special Areas of Board Involvement/Reports** – Mr. Teuber noted Excellence in Education dinner and this being one of the best times of the year (as Dr. Browder says) as activities highlight/parade teachers and students to the community. Mrs. Dozier noted the award ceremonies, all schools do an outstanding job with, and the graduations to look forward to; she just returned from the NSBA (she's a member/delegate to the assembly) and the main focus was No Child Left Behind—several things were passed to be sent on to D.C. that are hoped to be incorporated into the bill for revision and to make more useable. Mrs. Dozier noted the recent Pride & Patriotism committee meeting where preparations have been underway, and she looks forward to the 11/7/07 evening. She noted the employee recognitions for longevity and the incredible number of people with 25+ years' service; the total number of years added together in the room is very powerful, and Mrs. Dozier noted thanks. Mr. Chilmonik noted: the awards' ceremonies are great and the Cape Chamber event; Lakeland airfield day for Experimental Aircraft Association having 100+ students participating from there (wanting to build own plane) and maybe this could be a fieldtrip; Do the Right Thing/5K run with medals for the children (Allen Park thanked and Estero High congratulated); Take Stock in Children lunch, Lt. Governor Chamber lunch (education, STAR program, etc. noted); Rep. Thompson's Tax Reform Town Hall Meeting; and Curriculum Committee talking about fire safety curriculum programs. Mrs. Dozier noted two other things—there was a spirited discussion by Construction Advisory Committee (CAC) on funding, with referendum mentioned in addition to land banking; she noted CAC long-time member Carlo C. Lane retiring in addition to Tice's win to Disney for an environmental ed project (calendar fundraiser). Dr. Kuckel noted the Quality Advisory Committee's recent meeting; there was good discussion on Sterling Award schools' competition in that pockets of excellence are pervading the entire District. Data notebooks will be discussed next month. Dr. Scricca mentioned the Sons of the American Revolution JROTC winner event where Dr. Browder gave a great speech; she also attended the Uncommon Friends annual meeting and curriculum/character ed relationships are continuing to be reinforced, and the Sweetbay CEO was an excellent speaker. She also noted Take Stock in Children, Excellence in Education, and thanked Dr. Browder for DAC on the survey extension. Mr. Teuber noted Learning for Life's 5/7 event.
- 2. Legislative Update** – Mrs. Dozier noted the focus is on tax reform; House and Senate are not in the same place. Her legislative conference call yesterday centered on tax reform, and she hesitates saying anything on funding re possible impact but there's continual diligence. The message's being sent loud and clear that it's not desired to have decisions made that negatively impact education, as the latter can't be hit. Mrs. Dozier noted there's discussion among agencies and in the community re tax reform; there could be resentment if some organizations/municipalities (which aren't held harmless) are hit and not others. Education is under-funded and remains so; last year was spent trying to get Florida equitably/fairly funded with other states. There's the cry of property taxes, with much discussion. Mrs. Dozier sent letters to councils and anyone in government about common language being advocated for; she encourages legislators to be cautious in moving forward on anything, as the state couldn't afford to be impacted negatively as it affects all. Mrs. Dozier has great faith in legislators re fair/equitableness. Mr. Chilmonik noted the Town Hall Meeting tonight at Edison College in Punta Gorda; he may try to attend depending on the time tonight. Mrs. Dozier noted the DOE Regional Legislative Update on 5/16 starting at 1:00 p.m. (in our Board Room, as hosts).

B. ACADEMIC SERVICES

- 1. Spring 2007 FCAT/School Grade Reporting** (PowerPoint copy on file) – First scores anxiously awaited and anticipated tomorrow, per Dr. Jones; there's an incremental rollout as scores are received for different categories. Dr. Itzen noted this is the 10th year of FCAT and the District has long history of improvement (the same is

expected); schools can download/print writing scores tomorrow, with parents having access Friday on state website (second year opened up to parents with specific passwords; paper reports distributed later). Some ESE/ESOL excluded from first scores; there'll be a complete look at scores of those at testing. Assessment does testing/report and Accountability does grading. Science is done on scaled-score averages as well; school grades are based on FCAT scores entirely. Science was not in the reporting last year and it's unsure of the effect. The longer students stay in Lee County, they do better on FCAT; there are more challenges with large numbers of new students. Dr. Browder added in looking at last year's test results, re data, new requirements are within school grading as well as state (18% across state reduction); data received in December, and Dr. Itzen gave principals same data last summer in leadership meeting to be on the front side. Dr. Browder hopes major reductions aren't seen in test scores; there's been practiveness to get students up to par with all in state, and he thanked Dr. Itzen and principals for this. Dr. Scricca inquired as to any indications for new inherited population; there'll be 2,400 Hispanic of the 3,600-3,800 but we continue to be very positive with the Hispanic population. In most communities, it takes six years to integrate but 3-1/2 years for them to be successful on tests and hard work continues for improvement. Dr. Browder, in response to Dr. Scricca's question, noted the numbers of merit scholars and finalists summarized for five years can be sent to the Board; she's looking at FCAT gains/percentages. Dr. Jones also initiated 11th grade to participate in the past (national qualifier).

2. **Summer School Programs (VPK and K-12 Academic)** – Dr. Karas and Ms. LaFountain were commended for their work by Dr. Jones; latter is excited about improvements, and feedback has helped success. Ms. LaFountain noted she's pleased VPK is doing well in Lee; over 900 more children were served this year. Parents are more informed about access services and school-year programs. Parents go now to Southwest Florida Childcare for a certificate; some enrolled last year and found ineligible and then were coming to us to register. We have some recruitment; at a meeting last week, the Coalition was asked to send letters to all parents with certificates not used yet. The process isn't finished and if interested in a summer slot, one needs to go and register. Principals have flyers to send out to the entire student population; there'll be some attending kindergarten orientations. For the 2006 summer, it was a long day—10 hours—and many stayed almost entire day. There were 15% of children identified for speech/language evaluation. Re transportation, parents took the child to school and picked them up. There were 30+ days in the summer program. With an 8-hour day, about 45 minutes is dedicated to rest time in the afternoon. To teach summer program, one didn't have to be certified in pre-k/early childhood but priority given to those. Dr. Kuckel noted concern about day length and hopes the state will reconsider the way VPK/early childhood services are delivered and enhance the budget. Mrs. Dozier noted concern about day length re students working certain number of hours. Quality instruction for these students is advocated for kindergarten preparation. This summer, the days are 8-1/2 hours long but it could be longer next year (no one knows). Dr. Scricca asked about a study of 8.5 hour days versus 6 re progress and substantiate if yielding good results. Dr. Jones and Itzen are talking longitudinal studies (following over elementary years to if information regained and if gains); pre- and post-measures is what Dr. Scricca is inquiring about to see if those children any better off and having something behind us to show statistically what things should be. The group kept immaculate attendance records.

Re summary school k-12, programs are adjusted based on last summer's feedback (grades to target). There are middle school mandates; 6th grade program was added to help 6th graders who fail courses to pass English, math, science and social studies (re need to repeat in 7th grade). Targeted students are to retrieve credits to move onto 7th grade courses in the fall. All access in pre-test/first day; mastery of 80% or better, they can go home. There's a sequence in how we test—high priority math, sequential nature; then English; then science and social studies. Dr. Browder noted NovaNet where kids buy computer to use and up the scores. Dr. Scricca commented on the 80% penetrating theory; it's time on task, teaching strategies, and learning strategies. Dr. Browder noted going back to mastery learning, allowing students who didn't turn in a paper or whatever else and help along; it's kind of along the NovaNet concept and other programs being worked through. It will be interesting to see how many test out. Dr. Kuckel noted support pre/post testing at end of the school year.

C. **HUMAN RESOURCES** (no items today)

D. **ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT SERVICES** (no items today)

E. **BUSINESS SERVICES**

1. **Food Service Proposed Budget/3-Year Plan** (see backup on file) – Will get to national average of three years of meals prepared. Net result is operations above water in what we're doing. Productivity charted so as to minimize cost to families (current and anticipated prices over community). If over the course of the last 15 years at

\$.02/year, we'd have nothing. Reduced costs more—we have to take more and more to provide quality lunch experience. We're on cutting edge; there are a variety of things done to minimize costs to students. The \$.30 increase this year is noted as necessary to keep the program out of the red. Dr. Kuckel doesn't recommend \$.02/year at a time. It was noted to Mr. Chilmonik that there'd be no impact to employees as they'll be absorbed into the system which wouldn't negatively impact staying employed with the District; there may be some reduction in hours due to efficiency. Mr. Chilmonik's concerned about impact to parents; \$.30 may be a lot to some and about employees—it was noted some will be moved. It was confirmed to Mr. Chilmonik that we get commodity/subsidized federal program (cheese, some meat); he asked about using raw commodities to make our own bread, spaghetti sauce. Mr. Nagy noted we do get and use every single penny and it's worked into our costs which the cost per meal has to be kept down; some commodities don't come directly to us (e.g., sometimes better to send to Land O'Lakes for processing for the buy-back value added). We also do power buying, with 25 other districts; we purchase quite a bit in bulk and do our best/power-buy. We use every possible way and 7/10 of 1 percent sharpened so to keep operation going. Salary and benefit cost are major impact on the department; there's been increased efficiency in last two years of meal per labor hour (increasing yearly). For the really needy, lunches are still free and reduced prices still the same. It was noted to Mr. Chilmonik that we can purchase bread cheaper than making it. Mr. Teuber noted Board focus on core principles, doing what's best, and Mr. Nagy's office services food. Mr. Teuber thanked the latter and staff, noting Mr. Nagy's enthusiasm at the School Health Advisory Committee re nutritional food plans, inordinate amount of time on what we're doing, trying to educate children/parents on how to make healthier, etc. Mr. Chilmonik has concerns with food processing, the percentage of increase put on families, and increase being abrupt; he'll do more research. Mr. Nagy, per a pizza recipe comment earlier, noted some kids like the pizza ovens better (the higher fat pizzas in previous years not used); students are used for taste testing (as long as it fits nutritional and healthy choice guidelines, students can have it). Some pizza is prepared and others made by schools; pizza ovens can't be bought for all schools at this point. Dr. Scricca noted congratulations to Dr. Browder and Food Service for hearing consumer choices/healthy choices.

2. **Capital Plan and Debt Service Budgets for YF08** (see back-up on file) – Once FY08 information is updated, there'll be another document. Dr. Browder noted the quality of the Capital Outlay Resource Document (having never been done before), minimizing questions. The capital plan is comprised of: District's five-year plan, all construction projects, major capital expenditures, and based upon student projections. Re enrollment, one-year average growth rate is 3,566 students (4.77%), anticipating 20,000 students over 5 years. Dr. Kuckel asked about charter schools and pass through and it's yes—any capital the legislature passes goes straight back out. The capital plan components have: estimated revenue sources; capital appropriations split between three zones; technology plan; and equipment and bus replacement. Capital Committee members received a 3-4 inch binder (historical information: the committee consists of executive officers, Mike Smith, Bill Moore, Don Easterly, Reggie Snell and they look at what needed to be done and what could be done for next fiscal. Mr. Teuber commented on the impact fees dropping; it will be hold flat in 5 years (though we continue to see a little reduction before bounce back) and as we get further in time, it can be revised. Student influx doesn't necessarily correspond (many rent/no impact fees). A little bit was backed off re what was seen on tax rolls—went conservative with 10% growth rate. Re revenue assumptions, there's capital outlay and debt service (revenue from license plate tags; projected to increase 3% annually each year). Appropriations included in the plan: land purchase and new school construction; maintenance and additions to existing buildings; new Administration building; school bus and equipment replacement; and new technology plan.

Re classrooms for students and class size reduction capital, we're still awaiting word from the Legislature (could go one of two ways; FY07 had increase). Dr. Browder noted he, the Cerras (legislative side), and Mrs. Dozier are all taking about it. With estimating 3,800 students next year, we'll be around 82,100 students. Lee had the highest influx in state. There'll be revenue aside to deal with a shortfall. Mrs. Dozier noted in re-doing athletic fields, maintenance dollars are used. Dr. Browder noted the plan can be re-done next year. New school estimates are: elementary--\$26 million; middle--\$38 million; and high--\$67 million (5% per year inflationary increase). Land purchases were estimated with a 12% annual inflationary factor. Technology and FFE costs were allocated to each project on a per student station cost (\$550—student station technology and \$850-\$900 furniture/fixtures/etc.). Every 12 years, buses are replaced within the fleet; there's a 7-year computer replacement. A reserve of \$54 million helps with contingency. Mrs. Desamours responded to Dr. Scricca's question of other districts' reserve/contingency, it's standard in terms of DOE for 7-10% (market standards looked at). Dr. Browder noted the figures today are best estimate; the cost in 5 years will be different than \$67 million based on market conditions. Mr. Chilmonik mentioned HHH's costs (based on Ida Baker's square footage costs though not comprehensive) and is two-story structure (though number of stories doesn't matter); these are indicators at this

point. The tentative facilities work plan is built from approved capital budget. Revenue will be increased once we hear from the state and what they'll do for children; some tweaking will take place but the main meat will stay as is. Rounded, the capital plan's estimated 5-year revenues total \$1.6 billion; 5-year estimate expenses are \$1.5 billion; 5-year estimated reserves are \$54 million; and the plan coincides with the District's mission to be a world-class school system. Dr. Scricca noted Mr. Legutko's premium presentation and the amount of staff time to make sure best judgments on revenues, appropriations, and projects; she doubts any additional burdens wouldn't be welcome.

F. EXECUTIVE SERVICES (no items today)

G. PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Bob Rushlow (SPALC) noted Food Services budget; he and Dr. Browder have discussed and there's parts he doesn't agree with today. Mr. Rushlow supports raising cost of food as it's not been done in many years; his questions allocated hours to prepare food and looking at the process of serving meals—there's more to it than that: prep, clean-up and outlying pieces. In allocating 18 meals per hour, that's quite extensive but understands other districts. There's cooking conventionally, scratch, etc.; what goes into the formula is important. He noted the loss of 308 daily hours and 52 employees will be taken care of with attrition but what about other things—eliminating 22 dish machines in going to paper pots. Is it the custodian, para, or kitchen that processes. Mr. Rushlow is not against the budget or increase but unanswered questions within; he respects Dr. Browder. He suggests splitting into two areas and looking at what goes into budget.

H. BOARD ATTORNEY / BOARD AUDITOR / SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS – Mr. Martin reviewed, for a School Law Minute, sunshine law requirements, noting basics for public records—any document received, created, sent in duties of public employee; access is to maintained within reasonable time. There's public record statute versus public information statute; it's not required to create a document for questions raised. In response to Mrs. Dozier, there's a process document for disposal of documents, per statute. Mrs. Nieminski noted May's preliminary audit planning and contemplating the approach; she'd like to meet with each Board Member individually and discuss ideas/concerns (not talked about in past year) for the audit plan coming up which is anticipated to be presented in the July/August timeframe. Ideas will be collected and brought back to the Board after looking at specific trending; she'll meet with Dr. Browder and attend a Cabinet meeting for input. Suggestions will be outlined (not by who said it) and the Board can prioritize; Mr. Teuber thinks a summary would be good, and the Board can see any general trends. Dr. Browder noted the Tice Elementary Disney win; it was one of the most meaningful education career days for him—the looks on the children's faces (one not even knowing what Disney is and what they had won for their environmental ed project). He also noted goals developed and asked if any additional input (he summarized them again—see back-up on file). Dr. Kuckel noted using the strategies to meet aggressive goals and the success of what works and doesn't. Mrs. Dozier noted her conversations with him on stretching goals and model stretching; she has confidence we can do and exceed. Dr. Kuckel has faith also but feels it's a two-step process (to find what we do right and don't). Dr. Scricca's talked with Dr. Browder and is pleased with the measurable goals but noted finding out from him what strategies work and don't and looking at percentages (if remaining constant). It was noted 2012 is the NCLB goal. Dr. Scricca noted the goals being used in the coming year's evaluations of Dr. Browder; the latter will break out in sections appropriately and bring it back. Meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

/dwm

MINUTES BOOK NO. 41 - FY07

Elinor C. Scricca, Ph.D., Meeting Chair

ATTEST:

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

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