



**School Board Briefing Meeting
Tuesday, September 26, 2006
3:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

(Approved 10/24/06)

CALLED TO ORDER: Dr. Jane Kuckel, Meeting Chair

PRESENT: Mr. Steven Teuber, J.D., Chairman
Dr. Elinor Scricca, Ph.D., Vice Chair
Mr. Robert Chilmonik, Board Member
Mrs. Jeanne Dozier, Board Member
Dr. James W. Browder, Superintendent
Mr. Keith Martin, Board Attorney

RECORDING SECRETARY: Ms. Sonia M. Roberts

Dr. Jane Kuckel called the School Board Briefing Meeting of September 26, 2006 to order at 3:15 p.m. Dr. Kuckel read the agenda to the Board. Mrs. Julie Nieminski, Internal Auditor to the Board is attending a conference and is, therefore, not present.

Special Areas of Board Involvement

Steven Teuber

- Mr. Teuber followed up his discussion at the last Board meeting regarding a policy of how we operate as a Board that exemplifies Florida Statute. He asked for Board consensus to give direction to Mr. Martin, Board Attorney, to prepare a draft of a policy and bring it to the next Briefing meeting for Board discussion. He further stated that Mr. Martin will review the policies of the other districts throughout the State of Florida.

Mr. Chilmonik stated that he has at least two hours of discussion on this issue and would like to have this discussion at a meeting where there is public comment. Dr. Kuckel suggested that we get this draft from Mr. Martin well in advance of the Board Briefing meeting. Board consensus was given directing Mr. Martin to put together a policy for the Board to discuss. Dr. Kuckel further suggested to Chairman Teuber to put a time frame of 45 minutes for that discussion.

- Mr. Teuber spoke of the Horizon Council's yearly appointments and typically the Board Chair is assigned to that Council although that is not necessary. He suggests Board discussion for someone else to serve on the Council for the year. Dr. Scricca indicated that she prefers that it be the Board Chair and that at this time we leave it as is until the next Chair is appointed.

Elinor Scricca

- Dr. Scricca spoke of the District Advisory Committee being a very active committee. At the last DAC meeting there were approximately 40 new members. DAC officers will be appointed at the next meeting. Dr. Scricca advised the Board that the advisory committees want direction from the Board. Dr. Kuckel reminded the Board that a workshop has been planned in the near future where discussion of the advisory committees will take place.

Robert Chilmonik

- He spoke of the Calendar Committee being a very challenging committee with a dedicated staff. He was impressed by the amount of prepared information the staff bring to the meetings. In response to Mrs.

Dozier's question about whether the Calendar Committee is working on two calendars – one that fits the legislation as it currently stands and the other that the District can actually set the dates, Mr. Chilmonik advised that the Committee is indeed working on two calendars.

Jeanne Dozier

- Mrs. Dozier spoke of J. Colin English Elementary School's creation of a micro-society government.
- She attended the Celebration of our Schools.
- Attended Industry Awards Luncheon. She introduced herself to Representative Gary Aubuchon who is taking Representative Kottkamp's place. She spoke to him about the District's legislative issues and offered assistance on any educational issues he may need advice on.
- The Florida School Board Association's 2007 Legislative Platform will be adopted during committee days of October 4 – 5. She encouraged anyone who can go to Tampa, to please do so.
- Mrs. Dozier attended Keep America Beautiful – one of our students was on the cover of the calendar – which she will bring to the Board members at a future meeting.
- Hurricane makeup day – Mrs. Dozier advised that she would like to have a discussion about the hurricane make-up day and the selection of the day we want to use. A suggestion to Mr. Chilmonik: because of the transient conditions of the Southwest Florida population, consider making Wednesday an automatic day for the holiday in conjunction with the Thursday and Friday and Tuesday would be the make up day – this is just a suggestion. Mr. Chilmonik mentioned that this suggestion was brought up by one of the members [Calendar committee]. Mr. Teuber advised the Board members that he is reluctant to affect this year's calendar but will support any change brought forward for next year's calendar.

Jane Kuckel

- Attended the Celebration for the Success of our Schools and regarding those successes Dr. Kuckel mentioned how important it is for the district to recognize the successes that are achieved by various departments. She further stated that \$4.5 million dollars was brought back to the District because of the achievements of teachers and principals. She suggested that perhaps Dr. Browder would like to have this type of conversation with his leadership team.
- Attended the Insurance Task Force meeting and mentioned that a presentation will be given at this Briefing meeting.
- Visited Riverdale School which is partially occupied.
- Visited a year-round school in Charlotte County which is a trimester school – 3 months on and 3 weeks off. Dr. Kuckel spoke of the advantages of this type of school, including students not losing what they learned during their long time away from the classroom and suggested that this is something to think about.
- On a question to Mrs. Dozier related to inviting legislators to an event to show the appreciation of the Board and district, Mrs. Dozier is working with Mrs. Boyle on a Legislative Breakfast after the November elections. This will give staff an opportunity to discuss with the legislators where we are; what our needs are and to present our legislative platform. Mrs. Dozier also mentioned doing a Legislative Day for the community. This is a costly event but it also brings much of the community out to know what we are doing. Dr. Scricca spoke about Celebrating the Successes of the School District – there are many other things in addition to FCAT to celebrate and perhaps develop a roundtable discussion implementing success stories with the business community. Dr. Browder suggested this issue can be discussed at our retreat.

1. Discussion / Charter Schools & District's Exclusive Authority to Grant – Dr. Constance Jones; Ms. Cynthia Nunez.

A document distributed to the Board entitled *HB 135 & Exclusive Authority to Authorize Charter Schools* is attached and made a part of these minutes. Dr. Jones spoke about HB 135 and what this represents to the District. Her presentation at this meeting is to update the Board on the direction being pursued by the District with this item (which has a deadline of October 14, 2006). Mr. Martin is working on a recommendation to the Board for the October 10th meeting. In response to Mr. Teuber's question of the appeal process, the answer is yes. Dr. Browder spoke of the FSBA's taking on this issue and that the district has joined the law suit. Mrs. Dozier mentioned that many school boards will be going in the direction of exclusive authority; other districts want nothing to do with Charter schools and abdicating their authorities. However, for Lee County, Mrs. Dozier stated, this is the best way

to go. She asked for Board consensus that we go forward with this recommendation that Mr. Martin is working on to bring back to the Board for the October 10th meeting. Mr. Martin said this issue is about the authority to grant authority to charter schools only.

High School Majors for 2007-08 – Dr. Constance Jones

A document entitled *Proposed High School Major Areas of Student for 2007-2008* is attached and made a part of these minutes. Dr. Jones thanked the following staff members involved in this project:

- All high school assistant principals for curriculum
- Jim Whittamore and Sue Roshon from the Dept. of Career and Technical Education
- Dr. Tihen and the Coordinators in the Curriculum and Staff Development Center
- Cypress Lake HS Center for the Arts staff
- Dr. Brunick and Jackie Turner from the Dept. of Exceptional Student Education

Dr. Jones presented her report on the new legislation for the 2007-08 school year and the requirements for each entering 9th grader. In response to Mr. Chilmonik's question about where the District is in relation to teaching Spanish children English, Dr. Browder spoke of the ESOL classes. He further stated that we are doing an above average job in this endeavor.

Human Resources

1. Health Insurance RFP – Dr. Greg Adkins / Ms. Susan Strong

Miss Susan Strong introduced Ms. Susan Rudd, Executive Director of SPALC and Ms. Donna Mutzanard, President of TALC and began her Power Point presentation on a document entitled *Overview – Health Insurance Request for Proposals* which is attached and made a part of these minutes. The purpose of this presentation is to give the Board an overview of this six-month process, including the major differences of full insurance and self insurance, the risks and rewards of each and a comprehensive review of the benefits for our employees. One of the Insurance Task Force recommendations was to return to self insurance by April 1, 2007 and the Committee had reached consensus to remain with Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Dr. Kuckel thanked Miss Strong as did Dr. Scricca. Mr. Chilmonik requested a copy of the cost analysis from Ms. Strong. Dr. Kuckel spoke highly and complimented the Insurance Task Force, and Mrs. Dozier thanked Dr. Kuckel for serving on this committee and thanked the committee for their hard work on this challenging issue and said she can support this if the committee is behind this. Dr. Scricca asked a question about the reserve account; Mr. Chilmonik said we have \$9 million dollars in that reserve and it was agreed that Mrs. Greta Campbell will get this report in a day or two and it will be brought to the Board. The ITF committee thanked Dr. Kuckel for her support to the committee.

Executive Services

2. Discussion / Job Descriptions – Dr. Jim Browder

On this presentation Dr. Browder will discuss job descriptions and passed to the Board a process document which is made a part of these minutes. He directed the Board's attention to item #7-3 *All approved new job descriptions, revised job descriptions and reclassifications will be scheduled for Board Briefing in June in alignment with the Preliminary Budget presentation*. He stated that this will be the process to be used in the future. After the budget is approved, those job descriptions will be included.

Public Comment

Mr. Martin read the policy on public comment. No one approached the podium.

Board Attorney Comment

School Law Minute – Mr. Martin presented this Minute on new legislation on a portion of Senate Bill 772 requiring defibrillators in each of the public high schools that are members of the Florida High School Athletic Association. There was much discussion on this issue including what are the proper procedures for the maintenance of this equipment and if there will be a written procedure on such maintenance; will there be proper training; how does the

District insure that only those trained employees/volunteers will use the defibrillators and the Board asked for clarification on these concerns. Mr. Wiseman spoke of the Samaritan Act Law and Mr. Martin clarified that law. It was decided that Mr. Wiseman will put the process document in place and have meaningful ways to insure that only those who are trained will have access to those defibrillators. A maintenance portion will be included in that process document.

Board Internal Auditor Comment – Mrs. Nieminski is attending a conference and not present at this meeting.

Superintendents Comment

- Regarding Orange River Middle School, in looking at the number of facilities to be built in the future in that property (120 acres): 2 elementary schools, 1 middle and 1 high school, and because of the trees surrounding that area, staff have requested re-naming Orange River Middle School to Oak Hammock. He is requesting permission from the Board to proceed with the process of advertising in order to begin the name change process.
- Dr. Browder will be bringing to the Board a 5-year capital plan that reflects what the plan would be with the last survey. He stated that we are almost finished with the last 5-year survey. This is a normal process the district follows. He spoke of a meeting he had with the college presidents and five regional Superintendents and went on to discuss the growth patterns of several districts and comparing that pattern with Lee County. He will continue to study this growth and bring recommendation to the board.
- Dr. Browder distributed a memo to the Board entitled *Operation Enduring Friendship: Marine Training & International Education Program* - attached and made a part of these minutes. Naples Yacht and Nortech Performance Yachts have teamed up and were awarded a contract to build eight 43-foot interceptor vessels as well as train the crews who will operate and maintain these boats. The Lee County School District has been approached with a proposal to host the training aspect of the program at the Marine Training Center at High Center Central. Mr. Martin will review the contract. A press release will be given to the media tomorrow on this.

Dr. Kuckel adjourned the Briefing Meeting of September 26, 2006 at 5:00 P.M.

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

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.