



School Board Briefing Meeting
Tuesday, October 10, 2006
3:00 p.m. – 5:19 p.m.
MINUTES

(Approved 11/6/06)

CALLED TO ORDER: **Robert Chilmonik, Meeting Chair**

PRESENT: Mr. Steven Teuber, J.D., Chairman
 Dr. Elinor Scricca, Ph.D., Vice Chair
 Mrs. Jeanne Dozier, Board Member
 Dr. James W. Browder, Superintendent
 Mr. Keith Martin, Board Attorney
 Mrs. Julie Nieminski, Internal Auditor to the Board

RECORDING SECRETARY: Ms. Sonia M. Roberts

Mr. Chilmonik called the School Board Briefing Meeting of October 10, 2006 to order at 4:00 p.m.

Special Areas of Board Involvement

Steven Teuber

- Mr. Teuber will not present a report at this meeting because this Briefing meeting is beginning late.

Jane Kuckel

- Attended the Compliance Advisory Committee and they are getting organized for the year; review of the call center will be the first item to study and will bring back recommendations.
- Dr. Kuckel is looking forward to discussion on board advisory committees at our retreat. She spoke about two new members from Michigan who are retired and both work in the District as substitute teachers and are encouraging their friends to look into subbing. Dr. Kuckel suggested ways to encourage retirees to sub. Mrs. Dozier thought that a good idea and suggested looking into incentive programs.

Jeanne Dozier

- Visited Fort Myers High School with the British delegation who announced that the FMHS band would be leading the New Year's parade in London.
- Mrs. Dozier represented the District in Tampa for the FSBA Committee Days. The FSBA Platform was voted on and as soon as a hard copy is sent to Mrs. Dozier, she will ask the Superintendent for a recommendation to approve it as a platform that we will support.
- Visited Franklin Park Elementary and handed out dictionaries. She publicly thanked the Rotary for their generosity and asked the Rotary members on the Board to personally thank their Rotary groups.
- Referring back to FSBA Committee Days and the Legislative Platform, Ms. Dozier distributed The *Save the Date* brochure is made a part of these minutes. She met with Mr. Donzelli and Mrs. Boyle on this and it will be a morning continental breakfast [1.5 hours] that will give the Board the opportunity to unveil the Board's 2007 Legislative Platform to our delegation. The Save the Date brochure for November 17th will be sent out inviting the Lee County Legislators and those who are running for election.
- Mrs. Dozier passed out information related to **Take Your Legislator to School** during **American Education Week – November 12 – 18, 2006**. This week provides local school districts with an opportunity to invite the lawmakers into the Florida schools to observe up-close what goes on in our schools. Mrs. Dozier asked the Board members if they would personally invite our legislators to the Breakfast on November 17th and take the name of an individual or two. They will be sent a personal letter and some other material from Mr. Donzelli's office. Mr. Teuber reminded the Board that November 17th is the Horizon Council meeting from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30. A suggestion was made to change the time of the Legislative Breakfast to 10:00 to accommodate traveling for legislators and Mr. Teuber. Mr. Teuber will meet with Mr. Aubuchon and will contact Senator Saunders; Dr. Scricca will contact Ms. Trudi Williams, Mr. Thompson and Ms. Paige Kreegel; Dr. Kuckel will

contact Senator Bennett; Mr. Chilmonik will call Jeff Kottkamp and Mr. Charles Crist; Mrs. Dozier will contact Rep. Michael Grant.

- Mrs. Dozier attended the SACS CASI Council Committee Meeting this week – they are setting up new standards for schools throughout the state. They have changed their name to AdvancEd. Mrs. Dozier asked the Superintendent for information on Lee School District becoming an accredited District.
- Mrs. Dozier mentioned the FSBA's moves towards paperless agendas, and asked Dr. Browder where the District is on this issue.

Elinor Scricca

- Attended Lee County English Teachers event at Fort Myers High and acknowledged the outstanding job this group does.
- Attended the Board Advisory Committee Orientation and applauds all the people who attended.
- Annual Foundation meeting at Pelican Preserve. Extended congratulations on the part of the Board to the new Foundation Leader, Mr. Marshall Bowers.
- Attended Gulf Elementary Dictionary Day to distribute dictionaries (also in Spanish); and as a Rotarian, Dr. Scricca will convey Mrs. Dozier's appreciation to the Rotary for the dictionaries.
- Pride & Patriotism is on November 9th and tickets can be purchased from Denise Mangus.
- Attended Troop #18 at Gateway Trinity to discuss Mr. Teuber being named a Constitutional Officer.

Robert Chilmonik

- Attended the Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting last night and is eager to get started.
- He will be making a contribution to the Fort Myers High School Band Trip out of his closed campaign funds. At some point he will take a check over to them.

Business Services

1. Change Orders Processed 8/29 – 10/1/06 - FYI

This report was made a part of the Agenda packet of each Board Member, which is self-explanatory.

Academic Services

1. SES Presentation –

Dr. Browder advised the Board of the following: The SES presentation will be sent by memo to the Board; and that AR – 2.12 and AR – 3.82 are both self-explanatory.

2. Services for Federal Governmental Consulting – Dr. Browder

Dr. Browder advised the Board that this is the Contract from the Cerra Consulting Company that has been forwarded and he is recommending that he be allowed to bring this contract forward for the October 24, 2006 Action meeting and that issue has been discussed at prior briefings. He, therefore, suggested that at this time Mrs. Julie Nieminski present her report first. At Mr. Chilmonik's request for further information on the Consulting Contract, Dr. Browder reported the need to have someone at the federal level with NCLB, and all the other things we deal with we felt that it would be an appropriate expenditure and that way we have a representative at the federal level in D.C. to help us and the same group helping us at the state level. Mr. Chilmonik will send a memo on this. Mrs. Dozier asked Dr. Browder if this issue can be briefed at the October 24th Briefing meeting and then if it needs to be pulled, then it can be done. She further stated that she would like to hear at that time what Mr. Chilmonik's concerns are related to this matter.

3. AR-3.82, Wellness (revised – 10/24) – Mr. Nagy.

Dr. Browder advised the Board that this is about Wellness and that we meet the Florida Department of Education Food & Nutrition Wellness requirements.

4. AR-2.12, Conditions of Employment (revised – 10/24 – Dr. Browder /

Dr. Browder advised the Board these Revisions align the current employment application process, hiring practices and probationary period with collective bargaining agreement, current practice and changes in law.

Board Internal Auditor Comment – Mrs. Nieminski**1. Audit Plan Discussion**

A document entitled *The School District of Lee County 2006-2007 Audit Plan* is made a part of these minutes. Mrs. Nieminski indicated that her presentation will be a brief overview of the audit plan for 2006-2007 year. She discussed what her office does and the mission of her office. Mrs. Nieminski reviewed the aforementioned attachment via a Power Point presentation. Remarks made by Board members were as follows:

- Mr. Teuber asked when the Board will receive a follow-up presentation on the \$25,000 under from Mr. Chilmonik's report and from Ms. Nieminski's report; as well as Ms. Nieminski's report on Mr. Chilmonik's report. Mrs. Nieminski advised that the \$25,000 less had sic recommendations and action plan items and she will present this report when the recommendations and action plan items in that report are put in place which is generally in six months, scheduled for February/March.
- Mrs. Dozier commented on progress reports to the Board by memo. Mrs. Nieminski commented that after she releases a report (usually after a Board meeting) she can do presentations of the reports at the next meeting; and can provide monthly/weekly update reports.
- Mr. Chilmonik spoke of the significant statute violation found in Mrs. Nieminski's report that put the district and the taxpayers at risk. He further stated that he is going on record that it was significant and it was audit funds from last year that were not found by staff at that time. Mr. Chilmonik further stated that Mrs. Nieminski needs Board member support to do her job. Mr. Chilmonik stated that the Board was not made aware of this violation until he discovered it.
- Mr. Teuber mentioned that although he agrees with the statutory violation, at no time was the District at risk. Mrs. Nieminski said the District had the funds to cover any potential risk exposure and there was a violation to the statute.
- Dr. Kuckel mentioned to Mr. Chilmonik that Superintendent Browder revealed the statutory violation to the Board members. Mr. Chilmonik then discussed the Superintendent's contractual obligations regarding informing all Board members.
- Mrs. Nieminski clarified that direction to her comes from the school Board and she will comply with that.

Mrs. Nieminski asked the Board if they wanted to consider other options for the audit plan. Mr. Teuber would like to see the process of how purchase orders go through the system to make sure all controls are in place. Mrs. Nieminski can do a flow chart on this.

Regarding Attachment IV Construction Auditing Services, Mrs. Nieminski responded to Mr. Chilmonik that this has been covered with an outside consulting auditing firm and that contract is handled through the Construction Department. Mr. Chilmonik asked the Board if this shouldn't be under the Board Auditor's responsibility. Mr. Teuber explained Mr. Moore's responsibility in this matter; and in response to Mr. Chilmonik's question about who does that outside firm report to here in the district ~ Dr. Browder responded that they report to the Superintendent. Dr. Scricca asked what other Districts this firm serves. Dr. Browder will get this information to the Board. He will present a list.

Mrs. Dozier gave a statement that the District has one of the best Construction Departments that reports directly to the Superintendent and a Superintendent who is the District's CEO and who has the responsibility as the CEO to execute and administer the administration and day to day operations of the district. She stated that she is comfortable with him to give direction and to oversee the business of the District; and that she believes it is wrong to question him publicly.

On the process of adoption of the 2006-207 Audit Plan, Mr. Martin advised that it requires the Board to adopt the audit plan and Mrs. Nieminski will need to present that to the Board through an agenda item. This will be done at the October 24th meeting. Mrs. Nieminski advised the Board that she will implement more communication via bi-weekly or monthly memos with attachments that show progress and plan to do presentations of final reports.

Public comment

Mr. Martin read the rules of public comment. No one approached the podium.

Attorney comments

Mr. Martin did not have anything to report.

Services for Federal Governmental Consulting – Dr. Browder

Dr. Browder further presented discussion on the Consulting Agreement and stated this agreement will help the District to have representation in Washington. The Cerra Consulting Group has a variety of contacts in Washington. He encouraged the Board members to read the Supplemental Educational Services Contract (SES) and the No Child Left Behind NCLB Requirements. He would like to bring this forward at the next action meeting. Mrs. Dozier spoke about how there are other districts that have full time people just working on legislative issues. The expertise of Mr. Tom Cerra will help our district as well. The amount is minimal for something that could affect millions of dollars to the district. As NCLB continues, the knowledge and expertise of the Cerra Consulting will benefit the district and, therefore, she will support this. Dr. Kuckel spoke of the wonderful job Cerra Consulting has done for the District, but questions their knowledge of federal lobbying and if the district wants someone better connected with the federal level. Mrs. Dozier spoke of Mr. Tom Cerra's lobbying efforts in Washington. There was discussion on the reimbursement amounts included in the contract and having a cap on their expenses. Mr. Teuber spoke of the federal issues as being conversations that have been discussed at the state level with Cerra Consulting; and to have them knowing the Board's feelings, he believes, is a good idea. In addition, he mentioned the cost of hiring a federal representative would be a huge dollar outlay. Mr. Chilmonik asked what the District will receive for this investment and what do other consultants do and what do they charge? He would like more information on this at this point.

Superintendents Comment

- David Lucas, Chairman of Bonita Bay Group will announce the teacher housing assistance program at 1:15 [on Wednesday, October 11]. This is a plan that was shared with the Board.
- Dr. Browder spoke of the Innovative Fair and Succeed Florida Career and that the District has been successful in obtaining additional C4 Grants for South Fort Myers and Ida Baker and that this is very positive the dollars that are coming in from state grants for those comprehensive high schools. He encouraged the Board to visit the job site at East Lee County.

Mr. Chilmonik adjourned the Briefing Meeting of October 10, 2006 at 5:19 p.m.

Robert D. Chilmonik, 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.