

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY
School Board Briefing Meeting – Minutes [Approval 12/11/07]
Tuesday, November 6, 2007 – 2:30 P.M.

Attending

Dr. Jane E. Kuckel, Vice Chairman

Mr. Robert Chilmonik, Member

Mr. Steven Teuber, Member

Ms. Tina Marie Hall, Recording Secretary

Dr. James W. Browder, Secretary and District Superintendent

Mr. Keith Martin, Board Attorney

Ms. Julie Nieminski, Board Auditor

Mr. Teuber called the meeting to order at 2:38 PM

A. Board Members

1. Special Areas of Board Involvement / Reports

Dr. Browder introduced Mr. Marshall Bower, President of The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools. Mr. Bower introduced Mr. Calvin Perris, CEO, who gave a brief presentation on the optimistic future of education in Lee County. Mr. Perris is amazed at the contributions of our community in support of education. The goal is to have more businesses address the needs of our school system.

Mr. Bower presented a brief overview of the changes from the past year. The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools offers a myriad of programs. A program, starting in January, worked with Ms. Margaret Miller, CEO and Owner of Miromar Development, introducing ballroom dancing to our young students. The program is primarily benefiting our underprivileged students at Franklin Park, Bonita Springs, Edgewood, J. Colin English, and Tice Elementary. Miromar will hold the ballroom dancing finals at The International Design Center in April.

The Take Stock in Children Fellowship program raised funds for thirty students, at Bonita Springs Middle School alone, to obtain four-year scholarships. This program has, in the past, been predominantly for ninth graders; however, we are now seeing middle school students involved. The goal will be to mentor students. Ninety-eight percent of students in this program graduate from high school.

The Florida Repertory Theatre partnered with Kinko's to bring a group from Harlem, N.Y., to perform Romeo & Juliet for our students. Nearly 3,000 students saw this performance. Feedback has been great and minority students, who never thought a career in the performing arts were attainable, now see their potential.

Mr. Chilmonik: Stated various events he has been involved in (i.e., Estero Walk, Thanksgiving Dinner in Cape Coral, Parades, etc.). All of these events are extremely positive.

Dr. Kuckel: Read a letter on behalf of Mrs. Dozier. Mrs. Dozier attended the FSBA Committee Day and Full Legislative Committee meeting in Tampa, the Parents Building Better Readers at Franklin Park, the Quality Improvement Advisory Committee meeting, the final Pride & Patriotism Planning Committee meeting of the year, and the 2007 Leadership Conference on Sanibel. Dr. Kuckel suggested that the Foundation provide an update at the end of the school year as it relates to its programs and projects.

Mr. Teuber: Suggested that two updates be provided annually from the Foundation, one at the beginning and one at the closing of the school year.

B. Academic Services

1. Understanding SAT Scores

Dr. Jones and Dr. Itzen provided a handout on SAT Score Analysis for Improvement. The main question is how do we, as a district, improve our SAT Scores? The answer lies in improving student performances.

Dr. Jones: Explained that students now register for the SAT online and questions, such as student identifying information, are optional. Staff has the meticulous task of matching the data presented to student data in the District in order to make sense of the information provided.

If we look at the SAT in terms of GPA, we try to track data to increase student participation with the goal of increasing student performance. Increased SAT performance is a Board priority. Dr. Jones commented that SAT Prep Classes help students gain an advantage on SAT test taking. We are now looking at providing SAT Prep Classes to students who score Level 1 and 2 on the SAT as well.

Dr. Browder: Will share this information, specifically regarding SAT reporting accuracy, with superintendents throughout the state. Dr. Browder would like to focus on preparing Level 1 and 2 students for the SAT. Dr. Browder commented, on an aside, that this is the first year that reading is included in the FCAT for students to obtain a high school diploma. We need to review what we are doing in our remedial classes to assist students in their performance.

Dr. Kuckel: Inquired whether other states use the SAT to measure performance. Dr. Browder answered that Florida is the only state using the SAT to help students pass the FCAT. Dr. Browder further commented that grades 8 through high school are disproportionate, in terms of test scores and data collection, to grades seven and below. Kuckel would like to see more dialogue on this topic.

C. Administrative / Support Services

1. Change Orders – October 2007

Change Orders Processed by Construction Services covering October 1, 2007 through October 31, 2007 were presented. Information provided included direct material purchases, the direct contractor, project, amount, and reason for the change order. The Total Number of Non-DMP Change Orders, one, are in the amount of \$13,526.08.

D. Business Services - None

E. Human Resources

1. Proposed 2008/2009 Instructional Calendar

Dr. Adkins presented the 2008/2009 Instructional Calendar. Dr. Adkins recognized staff such as Georgianna McDaniel and Donna Mutzenard for their assistance in preparing the proposed instructional calendar. August 18th and June 10th will be the first and last day of school for students, respectively. There will be three hurricane make-up days in one semester to allow for balance. Dr. Browder will present this calendar for Board approval at the November 20th Board Action Meeting.

2. MAP

Dr. Adkins presented the Merritt Award Program website. The teacher and school-based performance award was submitted to the state for approval. Dr. Itzen and Dr. Tihen created a similar program for SILO. Dr. Adkins recognized staff such as Marie Bitter, Principal Jeff Spiro, Dr. Santini, Georgianna McDaniel, and Linda Jo Sanders for their assistance with developing and fine-tuning the MAP. Principals can use the Final Performance Assessment as an interactive tool when completing their evaluation process. A handout describing the rubrics of the assessment was provided; however, this information is on the website.

Dr. Kuckel: Congratulated Dr. Adkins on this major step – telling the teachers what their expectations are and evaluating teacher/principal objectives/perspectives. The goal is to have one seamless integrated transparent evaluation system. Dr. Kuckel would like to see a similar assessment program for our substitute teachers.

Dr. Browder: Commented that he is very impressed with what Dr. Adkins and his staff have done in terms of performance assessment. Dr. Adkins commented that Donna Mutzenard and staff will go to each Zone to train administrators on the use of the new interactive performance assessment. Dr. Browder thanked Mark Moore and Renee Schmitt for their assistance.

F. Executive Services

1. Michigan K-8 Transition

The new Michigan K-8 School is being developed. The new building, opening in 2009/2010, will be a K-8 school. Here, grades 6-8 will also be an IB Program. This will be the first new elementary school built in the Dunbar area in over thirty years.

2. Policy 5.09, Substitute Teachers [revised 11/20]

Revisions to Policy 5.09, Substitute Teachers, will be presented to the Board at the November 20th Board Action meeting. Revisions are being recommended to outline the present minimum qualifications for a substitute teacher.

Dr. Kuckel: Requested future discussion as it relates to assessing substitutes as well as training opportunities for substitutes.

G. Public Comments

Ms. Susan (Sue) Jacobse is impressed with the work that the School District of Lee County is doing. She thanked Dr. Browder for bringing information forward (i.e., SAT Scores) so that the data can be corrected and accurately reported to the public.

H. Board Attorney / Board Internal Auditor / Superintendent's

Mr. Martin: Board Members, in the past, have voted for their compensation. Changes in the Florida legislature will affect this. Now, for the first time in five years, Board Members will not be able to vote for their compensation.

Ms. Nieminski: No comments.

Dr. Browder: Plans are being made to bring forth the new Capital Plan, discussing revisions at the state level, at the November 20th Board Action Meeting. Mike Smith and Bill Moore will assist in this presentation.

The November 6, 2007 Briefing Meeting adjourned at 4:06 P.M.

MINUTES BOOK NO. 44 - FY08

tmh

Steven K. Teuber, J.D., Meeting 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.