



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 (Approval 10/9/07)
Tuesday – September 25, 2007 / 2:30 p.m.

Attendees: Mrs. Jeanne S. Dozier, Board Chairman
Mr. Robert D. Chilmonik, Board Member
Dr. James W. Browder, Secretary & District Superintendent
Mrs. Julie Nieminski, Board Auditor
Dr. Jane E. Kuckel, Board Vice Chair
Dr. Elinor C. Scricca, Board Member
Mr. Keith Martin, Board Attorney
Mrs. Denise Mangus, Recording Secretary

(Dr. Scricca called the meeting to order at 2:41 p.m.)

A. ITEMS WITH GUEST(S)

- 1. Red Ribbon Luncheon/Lee County Coalition for a Drug-Free Southwest Florida** – Deborah Comella noted the 10/30/07 Red Ribbon 11:15 a.m. lunch (national week) at Broadway Palm where attention will be called to the good things students are doing. There will be awards for such things as art, PSA, and student athlete (Olympian there for the latter). What happens in schools was noted; teachers and principals are appreciated.

B. BOARD MEMBERS

- 1. Special Areas of Board Involvement/Reports** – Mr. Chilmonik noted his calculations on the state's payroll increase for school board members; he'll come back to this in the future (at a meeting). Mrs. Dozier thanked Dr. Kuckel for attending the Quality Improvement Advisory Committee meeting. Mrs. Dozier noted the FSBA conference call re the lawsuit decision on building which affects all Florida counties; building plans could be changed. FSBA has obtained an attorney to represent them. An audience has been granted to go before the Supreme Court, and FSBA's allowed to have representative(s) there with the Attorney General; three to four groups will be identified to attend and speak. Mrs. Dozier showed the new legislative platform card; it's been noted as one of the best-looking items to come out of the county, and she thanked Printing Services and Mr. Donzelli. Mrs. Dozier noted to Dr. Kuckel that upper FSBA committees are thankful for Lee keeping VPK on the platform. There was supposed to be a property tax amendment for a January vote but Leon Circuit Court ruled the proposed legislation amendment is unconstitutional and misleading; it may not appear on the ballot (Mrs. Dozier will have a summary in the office to view). There was much letter writing, community conversations, and the media put light on this issue. Dr. Kuckel noted appreciation for the platform card and that it's user-friendly. She mentioned the VPK continuing efforts; Dr. Kuckel's disappointed last year's unused money, due to fewer children in the program, went back into the state's general fund instead of VPK as monies need to be put in for children's early years. She noted yesterday's Rotary South plaque presentation at Rayma C. Page Elementary where she, Mrs. Dozier, Dr. Scricca, and Dr. Browder attended; it was a nice recognition for a deserving namesake. Dr. Kuckel attended the great/upbeat Cape Chamber annual educational lunch event. She noted the Quality Committee's discussion last year on data notebooks for students; she had a kindergartener at Rayma Page use it and show her their math being done (e.g., graphs and charts). Dr. Scricca noted finishing her visits of all District 5 schools, expressing thanks to the principals and for their time conversing; she's making another goal to visit schools in the other four districts of Lee. Re the Calendar Committee meeting, she thanked Donna Mutzenard and Georgianna McDaniel for their facilitating expertise and a great deal was accomplished; Dr. Scricca looks forward to upcoming meetings' outcome. District Advisory Council had its first meeting last week, and this year's session will be good spirited, with many volunteers. She noted the Horizon Council's annual Industry Appreciation event; it was quite an experience.

C. ACADEMIC SERVICES

- 1. No Child Left Behind (NCLB)/School Improvement Update** – Dr. Jones noted this is a progress update on Title 1 schools and sharing of some NCLB requirements they need to review (see PowerPoint copy on file), ensuring compliance with federal and state Title 1. Dr. Sheryl Clarke and Ms. Lana Gatewood meet monthly with principals. Dr. Clarke noted this refresher course on the massive law. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards are improving—math at 62% (from 56% previous fiscal) and reading at 58% (from 51% prior). There are approximately 45 different standards for Title 1 (besides subgroups) but only one way to succeed (meeting 100% of all standards). If AYP unmet, Title 1 schools suffer. Schools in Need of Improvement (SINI) were mentioned. Re three years' failure (to make), there's SES and also an offer of transportation choice. The District chose to extend staff development for teachers. When a Title 1 school goes into improvement status, so does the District in what we're doing. Previously there were 100+ families versus the current 476 families choosing to move kids to a different school; one reason could be that new schools were opened and this may be attractive to parents. Mrs. Dozier asked about a spreadsheet of schools in the fifth year of restructuring and what actions taken by school; Dr. Clarke will get this to the Board (felt to be in a previous handout shared by Dr. Browder). It's projected out (like five years out in worst case scenario). The District started

early on projecting “what if.” Dr. Browder assured the Board we’ll have a solid, continuous plan that will enable improvement; there are many school districts in Florida because of the accountability system that’s rigorous (in the state). Dr. Kuckel noted other states are not in this situation because they set reasonable guidelines around the criteria in meeting AYP; the District does well on FCAT and national assessments (something is wrong with correlation there). In response to Mr. Chilmonik’s inquiry, Dr. Clarke responded that there are 12 schools out of 22, re reading, at the five-year point. In response to Dr. Scricca’s question in talking with principals about AYP, it was reported that positive results are being received, and we’re making progress.

It was noted Florida chose cell size of 30 while some states went over 100, eliminating the count of certain groups (hurt us within the state). On the restructuring handout with federal requirements along side of state guidance, (iv) is not an option for Florida and (v) is a big one but it’s felt we will be able to comply. Dr. Clarke and Ms. Gatewood attended a state DOE meeting this week; a few highlights from that include: recent document draft to propose discussion on re-authorization because of impending election; not a lot of discussion but lends ideas to thinking out there; redesigning a school; talk about tightening (states who chose 100+) may be required to decrease to 30-40 cell sizes; looking at student achievement within the classroom (there are highly effective teachers); hoping English Language Learner student would have 3-4 years before counted in AYP (and another is when an ELL exits program is to keep that student’s score in program 2 or more years to show adequate time). Separately, re Title 1 school update, there’s only one this year—River Hall. Dr. Browder noted targeted schools in ‘06-07; Harns Marsh will be recognized as the highest performing in the state (beside principal recognition). In looking at AYP, it’s recognized there’s a definite disconnect in what we’re doing and what feds saying we’re not doing. The highest performing rate may have the highest mobility rate and it may be, as an example, way out East (possibly making it harder to recruit teachers). We focus on student achievement and not a decision is made without this as the focus. Harns Marsh is being recognized for closing the gap; Spring Creek was recognized at a conference (for parent involvement programs). Dr. Clarke noted that further focus is “on the main thing.” There are monthly meetings with schools and parent groups to discuss Title 1 budgeting and funding. In response to Dr. Scricca’s question on the commonality that evidently surfaces re the need for future restructuring, it’s high mobility rates, subgroups (disabilities, and improvement in all schools but same group showing).

Dr. Clarke noted the other handouts. The District will extend help to coach/staff mentoring board; one step may be taken as a part of restructuring. We will continue with SES; there may be changes with reauthorization (\$1.5 million spent last year, and it continues to rise). Families are interested in free and strong tutoring programs at schools to compliment SES. Other districts are asking for flexibility to provide tutoring; most districts requesting couldn’t be SES provider. Through the human resources process, we’re extending out to all teachers; re a mentoring program, a teacher can get together with others to talk about meeting kids’ needs or when having a tough day. Priority is put on Title 1 schools/restructuring strategies. Dr. Browder is having Dr. Clarke complete a comprehensive plan (by 5/15; all will be shared); he noted there is a tremendous amount of work on what we’re doing, and he’s very proud of Dr. Clarke and her group and the group of Title 1 principals bonding together. Charlotte Rafferty has taken on the mentor coaching and working with those schools; it’s been positively received. Mrs. Dozier noted the positive things heard about the summer institute but the mixed review about timing (there are those required to be there); she’s talked with Dr. Browder. The quality of the institute is incredible and information worthwhile; she suggested surveying teachers to get feedback. Dr. Browder noted he looked at the calendar but many teach summer school; then there’s the cadre training. Abilities are minimized re the calendar. The other end of summer was looked at but it’s unsure if this is the best time to go; many are engaged with youngsters during the summer. We want to minimize only giving them one option of earning extra pay. Dr. Clarke noted they’ve received comments also; in the monthly meetings, there’s talk about extending professional development based on staff needs. There’s not enough time in the year to do (they requested extended year; they requested 4 days implemented); there’s been work with TALC and a 201-day calendar currently being implemented (calendar 3 preschool days and 2 days at conclusion of year so cycle of professional development).

D. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. **District’s MAP Plan (instructional and administrative)** – Dr. Browder thanked Dr. Adkins, the bargaining unit, and subcommittee who worked through the MAP; he feels it’s one of the best in the state. In talking with superintendents last week, 8-10 districts plan to move forward with MAP (40+ not moving forward and without any kind of MAP plan). We’re going to take dollars given to us whether we philosophically agree; this was sent to the Board in draft, and Dr. Adkins will come forward today if there is a question. Dr. Scricca noted the comprehensiveness of the draft. Dr. Kuckel commented it’s very well laid out, considering the timeframe and different decisions (coming together with support staff, teachers, etc.); she’ll be interested in follow-up gathered from plan participants on what works or not to tweak for moving forward continuous improvement in our quality initiative. Dr. Scricca thanked all; Mrs. Dozier noted thanks/appreciation to Dr. Adkins and the bargaining unit, as it speaks highly of all to come together/mesh out. Drs.

Tihen and Itzen were acknowledged; 500 tests were developed this summer (pre and post). To implement the plan, there had to be a way to measure. It was an unbelievable task to get it out there this fall, and it was a team initiative. Dr. Adkins noted being humbled by all the people—teachers, Information Technology and Support, those who came out this summer; it was a massive effort by hundreds, and he's proud to be a part of Lee County. Academic proficiency has to be part of the way we assess teachers, like it or not; it was a way to access \$4.5 million to put in the pockets of teachers. Dr. Scricca noted teamwork is an attribute of the District.

2. **Café/Snack Bar Job Description** – Dr. Browder noted this is help for Mary; per Mrs. Dozier's question, the description is for individuals working there only (and is not Mary's). Dr. Kuckel suggested adding to #6 the word 'patrons' (students and patrons), and all agreed; she's pleased and noted the described duties are good/measurable.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE / SUPPORT SERVICES (none)

F. BUSINESS SERVICES (none)

G. EXECUTIVE SERVICES

1. **Concurrency** – Dr. Browder mentioned last week's discussions with superintendents statewide. Ms. Hawkins noted this is an update—what we've done and future plans (see PowerPoint); she presented to local governments on how the District works. Though some communities have been through concurrency, we have DOE requirements to meet; Ms. Hawkins gave them an idea of our process and prepared a draft interlocal. In response to Dr. Scricca, reciprocity was good; they understand to have sufficient schools to serve their students. They were eager to learn how we work and assist (all in all, good). There was a joint brainstorming meeting; Ms. Hawkins provided data to governments and revised interlocal. There are 5 cities/towns (in county), per Dr. Kuckel's inquiry. FISH capacity is used by most pilot communities who've been through concurrency process (easily verified with DOE and consistent throughout state). Ms. Hawkins noted separate interlocals maybe due to different permitting processes (presumably more rapid result would happen). Smaller concurrency areas preferred but advantageous for governments to do zones, and the latter corresponds to the 3 District zones. She's prepared draft public facilities element to include in comprehensive plans (local governments reviewing); another joint meeting will be scheduled for draft document discussion. Dr. Kuckel inquired about two or more municipalities within a zone and how it works with three different concurrency plans in a zone; different plans shouldn't affect. Each local government goes through their own permitting process; we'll have to manage how we do concurrency in that area so as to not exceed capacity. There would normally be annexation, re the rest of land, per Ms. Hawkins. Dr. Browder noted, re congruent land, this would probably only be between Bonita and Fort Myers Beach and there's a state park (not sure it would become an issue). Per Mrs. Dozier's question, meetings have been going well; a few issues have been worked out—one or multiple agreements, sub-zones or zones, etc. Most questions have been able to be answered and explained as to why it makes sense to do in a particular way; when we get to interlocals being adopted, it may be different but staff is being worked with. Ms. Hawkins has documents now to preview but two governments are requesting separate interlocals. Dr. Browder noted that, in the next 30 days, drafts will start to be shared with the Board. Re timing, Fort Myers Beach may begin talking in October (scheduled). Dr. Scricca commended the assertiveness of what Ms. Hawkins is doing—she's interacting with staffs and a major/essential, wise attribute is interacting and anticipating certain glitches which Ms. Hawkins is trying to do as issues arise. Dr. Kuckel noted Sanibel and Fort Myers Beach may not have any land to develop (different agreements maybe). Dr. Browder's appreciative of Ms. Hawkins and staff working diligently for positive resolution.

- H. PUBLIC COMMENT** – Ms. Mutzenard noted a few sleepless nights the past few years. NCLB is up for reauthorization this year. American Federation of Teachers, schools, and FSBA are addressing same issues and working together. She encourages contacting legislators re what's best for students. On performance pay, she noted much has changed over the years; we've been doing it since 1999. It's still not perfect and some are unhappy but Ms. Mutzenard appreciates all, noting thanks. Michelle Cort-Mora was acknowledged, as she's a point person who receives comments. Ms. Mutzenard is glad Dr. Kuckel mentioned doing an end-of-year survey (for possible improvement/change).

- I. BOARD ATTORNEY / BOARD INTERNAL AUDITOR / SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS** – Mr. Martin did a School Law Minute on employees' domestic violence leave (employer discretion to pay or not for three month or more employees); it would be used to seek medical care, mental help, injunctions, victims' service organizations, make home more secure (from attacker), legal assistance, etc. Employee is required to give advance notice (bill grants exemption from public records requests for leave of this type). Mrs. Nieminski noted, re the ESE audit, she's put in 114 hours towards it; it entails a thorough planning process (much research). Mrs. Nieminski has a tentative audit program written; script she used is pulling a sample and walk through (latter she'll do soon). She looks at tweaking to make better. Dr. Scricca addressed a

concern at this point in that headlines, re ESE audit, may have been misinterpreted by some to trace a program of an actual child to make sure the student is getting everything re the IEP. Mrs. Nieminski noted this is not the case; there will be students pulled of a sampling technique (as many exceptionalities as possible). Mr. Chilmonik noted Mrs. Nieminski not being qualified to look at an IEP and that this is more mechanical. Mrs. Nieminski noted there are certain requirements for data collection and to track sharing/reporting data; it isn't mainly compliance and tracking dollars properly. Mr. Chilmonik noted the OPPAGA report recommendation. Mrs. Nieminski does a lot of background reading; she's read OPPAGA, Attorney General, and benchmarking with other organizations doing ESE audits within the state and the nation. Dr. Browder explained Mrs. Nieminski will be looking at IEPs to determine if services written are there. She won't be looking at the whole masque of 11,000; Mrs. Nieminski will do samples and in the way auditors do. It will provide another dipstick of IEPs being followed and programs doing what they say they'll do. Dr. Browder, responding to a concern of Dr. Scricca, noted speaking with a parent who asked to have their child audited; they now understand (no further requests). Today's meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

/dwm

MINUTES BOOK NO. 44 - FY08

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

ATTEST:

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

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