



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 2/26/08)
Tuesday – February 12, 2008 / 2:30 p.m.

Attendees: Mrs. Jeanne S. Dozier, Board Chairman
Mr. Steven K. Teuber, J.D., Board Member
Dr. James W. Browder, Secretary & District Superintendent

Mr. Robert D. Chilmonik, Board Member
Dr. Elinor C. Scricca, Board Member
Mr. Robert Dodig, Staff Attorney
Mrs. Denise Mangus, Recording Secretary

(Mrs. Dozier called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m.)

A. BOARD MEMBERS

1. Special Areas of Board Involvement/Reports – Mr. Chilmonik noted District students participated in the Edison Children's Parade; separately, he ran in Tampa's Gasparilla Parade (Estero coach and students there). Mr. Chilmonik commended the Fort Myers High School Rotary Day event as well as High Tech's 40th Anniversary celebration. Dr. Scricca noted last week's DAC Executive Meeting and this week's DAC meeting; she attended Buckingham's volunteer recognition and noted this Thursday's history fair at Lehigh Senior. Mr. Teuber announced the 2/23 Boy Scout event of Eagle Scouts (past and present), noting the growth of this program and Learning for Life (latter in 68 schools); it's a great tribute to Character Education. Mrs. Dozier expressed thanks to Dr. Kuckel and Mr. Chilmonik in representing her at the Horizon Council Annual Meeting. Mrs. Dozier participated in the NSBA Leadership Conference and Federal Relations Network (and NSBA Days on the Hill); she visited offices of Legislators Nelson, Mack, and Martinez and others, putting in an evaluation to NSBA but didn't feel the timing was good as it was Super Tuesday (she saw one legislator but others' aides, though good as help with bills with their legislators). She attended a lunch on behalf of Senator Kennedy whose Senior Advisory Rodriguez is pushing NCLB; a bill to Congress is anticipated this spring (it's being realized that "one shoe doesn't fit all), and Mrs. Dozier noted there are multiple ways to measure student achievement and hopefully the bill will allow use of different ways to help our district. Separately, she was at the recent surprise event for Support Person of the Year and saw the interaction of recipient Ms. Bacchus (bus driver) with the children. Mrs. Dozier noted attending the Quality Meeting under the new chair—Principal Bryan—who's doing a great job; a lot of things are occurring with this committee. She attended the Edison-Ford meeting and Rotary lunch, noting the latter has many chapters who do good things for the District/students. Mrs. Dozier distributed (on the Hill) the NSBA legislative priorities (one-page copy given to Board Members on file), and support is being sought from legislators. She commented that Dr. Browder will talk about the Foundation meeting.

B. ITEMS WITH GUESTS

1. COPs Issues – Dr. Browder noted, as before (May year before and in August), permission was given for him to execute documents to refinance the 1995-A COPs issue with the stipulation that unless 3% was saved on this, we would not move forward; he met with Jerry Ford last week, and the market conditions would allow the District to save more than 3% on debt service if we went out and refinanced the aforementioned issue. Dr. Browder requests to bring forward the same agreement at the 2/26 Board Meeting; Mr. Ford will be at the Briefing that day to answer any additional questions and discuss the variable rate finance he suggests we consider (which the Board already approved). Consensus was given to the Superintendent to bring back and have Mr. Ford do a presentation.

C. ACADEMIC SERVICES

1. Update/High School Academics – Dr. Browder acknowledged presenters Jim Whittamore, Sue Roshon, and Dr. Constance Jones. Ida Baker has seniors this year who'll complete four years in a comprehensive high school. Career academies have been added into the high school program of studies. Dr. Jones shared a Golden Apple Teacher quote; Dr. Jones noted rigorous, challenging courses for students which prepare them for work or a post-secondary education and thanks were given to Mr. Whittamore and Mrs. Roshon who have been by principals' sides—there was research and work to help the programs work. Mr. Whittamore noted it's an honor to sit here re the vision for concept and he'll give a high school career academy system update and historical perspective (Mrs. Roshon will provide more specific info on the career academy system in Lee; see the six-page PowerPoint on file). The District has received national and state recognition; Ford Motor Company has given us a designation—only second in nation to receive. Re the Career Academy Model, there's the small learning community (students and teachers together minimum of two years); career academy (meet dual enrollment, college entrance, etc.); partnerships with employers, community, and higher education; and college prep academic and academy integrated curriculum. The three 'Rs' of career academies are: rigor, relevance, and relationships (positive). Research shows higher: graduation rates (lower dropouts), attendance, GPAs, post-secondary application and completion rates; students see relevant curriculum as well (OPPAGA notes students will

earn more wages). The timeline of career academies in Lee County was reviewed (starting in 1995), 20 career academies were visited as well as internet research throughout the nation, and the Board gave direction with Dr. Browder initiating career academies (by 2011, there'll be career academies in every high school). Mrs. Roshon gave definitions: career cluster—group of similar industries and occupations (16 nationally and state recognized); career pathway—refined group of occupations within a cluster; technical and career ed programs—sequence of instruction preparing students for careers; and career academies—integration of academies and TCE, student engagement/project-based learning, and smooth transition to post-secondary. A program can be turned into a career academy by doing a few simple things to change focus (latter is integration within academy and academics between academies); multiple academies can be involved in a single project, and South Fort Myers High School was given as an example. Mrs. Roshon gave some schools' highlights: Dunbar High—Academy for Technology Excellence (recognized and Microsoft's first certification high school and for all students; 500+ industry certificates to-date) and Magnet School of Distinction for 2007. East Lee County High ("baby" of comprehensives) has career pathways within career academies; academies include Building Construction, Business/Finance/IT/Marketing, Health Occupations, Public Service and Engineering/Manufacturing (pre-architecture and construction management presently within an academy). There are about 4,500 students in academies District-wide. Estero has one of the older successful academies—medical; they'll have hospitality and tourism (including culinary arts). Fort Myers High has one of the longest running academies—Finance (internships are done in banking institutions). Ida Baker has same programs as the other two comprehensive high schools. Island Coast will have a new academy—Natural Resources; Mariner High will have new in the fall also a Math, Science & Technology Academy. South Fort Myers ("middle child") has established advisory committees with faculty and students (who stay together four years). New data reveals higher GPAs for students in career academies, averaging over 3.0. There's been difference after setting advisory committees, interventions for freshmen (less failing since opening academies), and phenomenal success in handing out contracts; career academies help students become successful (they've higher FCAT scores), and there is thanks for the opportunity to do what's right for District kids.

Re a question on intent to expand on manufacturing training, Mrs. Roshon responded yes and that it's a matter of getting enough students to stand along (in Engineering now); she expects to see two strands. Jacksonville is heavy into the apprentice and journeyman certifications; Mr. Whittamore noted our Tri-County Apprentice program and the work with them and when that program matures more, it will be more convenient (there are plans to do so). A gentleman who's bringing robotics industry (health-centered) to the community was noted by Dr. Browder; the latter hopes to bring more information within the month to the Board but a commercial industry park is being built to house locally. Dr. Scricca noted hounding Mr. Whittamore when she was Board liaison to the Curriculum Committee; she expressed sincere thanks to Mr. Whittamore and Mrs. Roshon. In response to Dr. Scricca's inquiry on the community being aware more of the comprehensive high schools, it was explained that there were 4,000 parents at Ida Baker's open house this time (school's been there longer) and Dr. Browder noted it takes a few years for learning/saturation about the programs; he noted this seated Board had him move these schools forward. Dr. Jones noted the career days (as Dr. Scricca attended at Ida Baker) will be at all three comprehensive high schools this year; there's a wonderful partnership with the Foundation (many business leaders attend/speak). Mr. Chilmonik mentioned New York Daily Times having noted there's 65,000 machinists but more hairstylists than this; in the 1950's, there was manufacturing which is only 15% of market now but we're starting to take back business from other countries. It was confirmed to him that there is a manufacturing lab offered at our career academies, which has machine as part of it; there's some C&C equipment, per Mrs. Roshon, and students are taught how to use. Dr. Browder noted this is part of the curriculum. Mr. Whittamore noted when programs developed, the design is flexible so as to change quickly when needs are seen. Re Mr. Chilmonik's inquiry re machinists, Mr. Teuber noted it's fundamental at this point—metal cutting; the latter also noted the Cape is saturated on awareness re comprehensive high schools, and he's spoken to teachers. Mr. Teuber noted, as Mr. Chilmonik, that some trades are underplayed but there are very good wages and occupations; we're leading in the state/nation and must continue. Mrs. Dozier gave thanks for: those here today, the professional presentation, and the principals for their leadership who are out in industry, businesses, chambers; Mr. Teuber noted the Horizon Council as a successful link. She commended Dr. Browder's leadership in bringing these forward and the Board for promoting them as a Board; to offer this community career academies' success is one of Mrs. Dozier's favorites to talk about.

2. **Summer School 2008** – Dr. Jones went over the draft proposal handout (copy on file). For elementary, students to be served included all level 1 (substantially below) who were in grades 1,2 or 3 during 2007-08 school year and all retained 3rd graders; first session date would be 6/16-7/1 (students—4 hours day), with transportation provided for 3 sites per zone. For middle school, students (6/16-7/3 and 5 hours daily for them except 3 hours on 7/3) include 6th & 7th graders who failed one or more core subjects (math, language arts, science, social studies) and 8th graders retained during '07-08 school year; transportation to be provided to 2 sites per zone. For high school, students (who'll attend same hours/dates as middle in Session A) to be served (expanded) includes 9th-12th graders re-taking a course and 11-

12th graders behind in earning credits/original credits to graduate with their class; transportation's provided to all high schools excluding Island Coast. Re middle school (summer school), A+ legislation gives requirements for course passage and those eligible. Re Session B which is for all high schools, there'll be Novanet lab (that's successful); teachers will be hired to provide instruction for students in the labs. Session A will be completed in 14 days and prior to 7/4. Dr. Jones has talked with high school principals about offering Novanet lab in July (60 hours) to help with original credit or re-takes, and all wanted; open Novanet labs provide opportunities to work in summer on credit retrieval. It was confirmed to Dr. Scricca that no one would be denied the summer school experience (re space or transportation), as strategic schools were chosen per Dr. Jones. Mrs. Dozier expressed concern about original credit earned in summer school; Dr. Jones noted it would be a half credit earned in the summer (not a whole as in a semester) and is a mastery learning program through Novanet. The students will be able to focus skills not developed but the post-test is rigorous. Some take so they can select academic classes in the fall. Dr. Browder provided examples students would take original credit in summer—Algebra I so pre-Calculus could be taken in a later high school grade; opportunity to accelerate in English; want to go to college earlier or graduate earlier (could be problems in the home). Many principals had discussions on original credit. It gives students the ability to take electives because of today's reading requirements; Dr. Browder asked Mrs. Dozier to look beyond this; we're offering driver's education now on Saturdays. Original credit courses in summer school will allow students an opportunity to get ahead. Mr. Teuber noted it's no different than A and B components in the summer.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT SERVICES

1. **Change Orders/January 2008** – Listed on agenda as FYI (there were no questions).
2. **Concurrency Interlocal Agreements** – Dr. Browder noted Heather Hawkins will share positive info on concurrency interlocal agreements (last couple of times was an update); she's happy to talk about adoption of documents, as there's been many months of negotiations. Ms. Hawkins did a PowerPoint (copy on file). In 2005, the Legislature updated the Growth Management Act to include schools as part of concurrency requirements for development; as such, Ms. Hawkins briefed the required elements. Separate interlocals with each government were prepared (each have different processes they go through for approving development; the major components are the same but gives flexibility with each local government). Those coming 2/26 are the County's, Fort Myers, Bonita, and Sanibel; Cape Coral's will be on 3/11 and Fort Myers Beach on 3/25. In response to Mrs. Dozier's question on different approval dates, Ms. Hawkins noted completed drafts were received at different times. Ms. Hawkins is confident the remaining issues with Fort Myers Beach will be worked out. Ms. Hawkins noted, under key issues, that—re level of service—it's 100% of FISH capacity (with allowance for portable classrooms, allowing additional student stations on temporary basis); and Concurrency Services Areas (CSAs) will be the Student Assignment Zones initially, with a move to sub-zones in three years. In response to Mrs. Dozier's question, Ms. Hawkins noted talking with Mike Smith and we'll manage re zones as it won't be an issue to look at a zone for capacity when it comes in. Dr. Browder noted an example if a large development would come to Bonita; we want to consider zones for now. Sub-zones are for transportation for us and ease of programs; a developer will build based on where people are coming in (Bonita's a good example as it wouldn't be sub-zone 1, possibly 2 but very possible in sub-zone 3). When we narrow it down later, it could be to our advantage but it gives us three years to study. It doesn't affect us at this point since no growth. Dr. Browder, Keith Martin, Ms. Hawkins, and Mr. Smith spent a lot of time working through this to make sure of the issues inside this; Ms. Hawkins has been working on this for a year and everyone is in agreement which gives credit to government entities and the District. Re Proportionate Share Mitigation Options, it's a donation of land to the District; donation of funds to District for land acquisition or construction of capacity; or construction of a charter school in compliance with SREF that would be transferred to the District if the charter ceases to operate (per F.S.). A developer will negotiate with the District to determine a mitigation option acceptable to the District; if proportionate share mitigation is accepted, the developer will receive impact fee credits equal to the value of mitigation. Mitigation received must be used to create additional capacity within three years. It was confirmed to Dr. Scricca, re mitigation, it's negotiated (what's to be offered up to the District; nothings mandatory—there are three options in the agreement to come to us with an acceptable proposal). Dr. Browder added it's our operating procedure in District that we negotiate and bring it to the Board for approval.

E. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. **Governor's Budget Recommendations** – Dr. Browder shared with the Board a copy of the budget book (used in this morning's training meeting for departments); Mrs. Desamours noted the two-page agenda back-up has a breakdown compared to this year. Unweighted FTE is 81,096 (equaling about 1,363 students) which is 700 smaller than what the District submitted to the state; this is not the finalized FTE projection but what the Governor's budget has used (DOE will probably use it when our FTE budget comes to us). School Taxable Value (tax roll) is \$95.2 billion—a 1.5% decrease from the '07/08 tax roll and it's a phenomenon seen in the real estate market, which hasn't happened in recent

history. Required local effort of millage (we're required to levy per statute) is 8.64%; residents will see tax rolls decrease 1% but millage will increase over 8%. Base student allocation (in Governor's budget) didn't increase at all (stayed the same). There are two areas—career ed and physical education at middle school; there'll be rules in how dollars are to be spent (in essence, categoricals). Class size saw an \$18.6 million increase in order to accommodate teachers; we'll have plenty of teachers in district to meet mandate but that's about all budget allows. Bottom line of the Governor's budget is \$643.2 million, an increase of \$41 million over prior year but most wrapped in categoricals. Next page (on handout) had price level and growth broken down. Budget may show increase 5% due to categoricals but we've actually decreased due to inflation/growth of the District. We're at 90% limitation as we've been last two years (after taking out categoricals); Mrs. Desamours noted the revenue numbers here will be used to build estimates and begin the budget process for '09 year. There will be a look at cuts to be made in order for compliance with this budget, and we'll see what the final budget brings us (after House and Senate). It was confirmed to Mr. Chilmonik that the required local effort millage of 8.64% is required (state FEFP rules) so we can get in other state FEFP funding. [Recess taken 4:01-4:05 p.m.; tornado watch is in the area and middle school students are already being taken home, with evening activities cancelled.] In response to Dr. Scricca's question on a billion dollars in the (Governor's) budget, Mrs. Desamours noted today and at the last Briefing that she's sure it's in there but as broken down, it goes to class size; we've been cut almost 4% from where we were in the prior year. Further to Dr. Scricca's inquiry on trends toward categoricals and rationale of no control, Mrs. Desamours noted that this year it's semantics; transportation and instructional monies were moved out of categorical into base funding but must be tracked/shown how spent in those areas (still basically categorical/proof of spending); it puts all funding in categoricals in areas which are restricted, and Dr. Browder noted it limiting seriously what we can do. Re Mrs. Dozier's question on not seeing anything for teachers re MAP, Mrs. Desamours noted that last time talked, the government presentation had the information earmarked but didn't appear in the funding sheet which lays out our FEFP; in reviewing the FEFP outline, it's zero. Mrs. Dozier feels the Board needs to, as well as FSBA (she's President), get out a letter to the Governor that MAP is in the proviso but not the final and ask whether it was an oversight and if so, please put back in; she'll draft the letters. Dr. Browder noted the money taken out but the feeling that it would be replaced before the end of the year for next year; his concern is that only a handful of districts have approved plans, and Lee is one (MAP is different from STAR in that it).

F. HUMAN RESOURCES (no items today)

G. EXECUTIVE SERVICES

1. **Discussion/Mid-Year Strategic Plan Report** – Dr. Browder noted the annual goals and strategic plan measures and the difficulty in working through the plan as approved. (See the one-page handout distributed; copy on file of a draft District Scorecard.) The handout has the Board's seven goals. If the Board approves this document as is, it will be about two pages; the Superintendent wanted to share this today. Dr. Jones brought the one-page format from the Sterling Conference and their strategic plan; it's similar in what we're trying to do, and ours is organized by divisions with each having several goals in the strategic plan document. In each division, every department has goals; it will run all inside the District to goals the Board sets yearly. Dr. Browder noted using this document which will dovetail with the original strategic plan document; it's a scorecard. Broward has a scorecard on their web almost like this document. The Board could go to any department and look at goals and schools; this is a quick overview, and Dr. Browder's looking for a nod to move forward. Everything will be measurable. Dr. Scricca noted concurring with the scorecard idea but asked about her conversation with the Superintendent about scrutinizing every strategy and if some not producing, they could be filtered through and put out; Dr. Browder noted the departments are doing this now in that as department improvement plans come forward, what's not appropriate will be singled out but those with direct correlation will be attached to. Per Dr. Itzen, there are 33 departments tracking 70 measures currently; many are being tracked. Department directors and division leaders are looking at that data to judge the merit of those goals. Dr. Browder noted how it lays out was brought a couple of sessions ago, with Dr. Itzen having things color coordinated and how it all ties together; Dr. Browder noted the four-year struggle of the strategic plan, unwieldy, and getting arms around it/focus. He feels it's in direct correlation now with sterling quality and how we lay it out so anyone out there can see how we're doing. Mrs. Dozier noted as we continue and progress re quality initiative to look at continuous improvement and practices; this is noted at a Quality meeting, but we've surpassed. She feels this is a good snapshot (to steal shamelessly) and all the nods from the Board today are appreciated; Mrs. Dozier requested Dr. Browder review this with Dr. Kuckel (since she was unable to be here this afternoon).

- H. PUBLIC COMMENT** – Bob Rushlow (SPALC) noted Dr. Jones is quite proficient but asked on the summer school draft about Session B transportation rationale re data/survey/kind of change, as he knows we talk about student achievement and this seems confusing. Dr. Browder/staff will get with Mr. Rushlow to discuss with an update brought back.

I. BOARD ATTORNEY / SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS – Mrs. Dozier welcomed Mr. Dodig (in for Mr. Martin who's out of town). Re SBA news, Dr. Browder noted a conference call (Mr. Martin, Mrs. Campbell, Nabors/Giblin, Hernando District, City of Cape Coral, etc.—15 to 16 agencies), and more liquidity is coming into the pool; another \$300 million was picked up Monday (occurred out of Fund B), and we continue to see growth and organization (all are in a wait-and-see mode; Nabors/Giblin encourages continuance). Dr. Browder spoke with Hillsborough school superintendent and conferred with SAB; Dr. Browder will keep the Board posted but he feels there's more work to come re fund of choice. Congratulations were given to Dr. Adkins and staff re the acceptance of our MAP plan submitted to state; Dr. Browder received notification about ours and we're ready to move forward. Lee is one of only a handful that met the call and if funded, our teachers will be given an opportunity for what we've prepared re a bonus. Dr. Browder noted that he wants to bring an agenda item to the next Board Meeting on placing Dr. Brunick in an temporary executive director position, as he's been given responsibility over ESE and Student Services with a move of additional people to help; there is work and other moves to be shared for assuring proper coverage in Student Services. Re the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools meeting, Dr. Browder attended a session of the dancing instruction at Tice Elementary (brings one to tears) and it's unbelievably positive; the teachers/children are excited. The grand finale in the next several weeks (the Superintendent will provide dates). Lastly, Dr. Browder distributed a parent input summary re the ESE survey (on file); 16,000 ESE parents received and 1,268 (7.9%) responded. He thinks the Board will be fairly pleased in how public sees categories; the "don't know" were taken out and responses were figured based on four areas responded to (though the "strongly disagree" and "strongly agree" in those areas drives the percentage up). Drs. Jones and Tihen, as well as ESE coordinators and variety of others, looked at the data. The Autism Task Force will meet 2/19 and the ESE Advisory Committee on 2/20. In response to Dr. Scricca's question, there are about 16-18 on the Task Force and 20+ on the advisory (latter has about 80% parental representation). Mrs. Dozier asked about the "insufficient response" (#12) on the survey (no results at all); it was explained that no one wrote about the delivery service model their child is involved in and Dr. Itzen added that in the model, the delivery service model codes were used and parents recognition of such may have affected responses (though some remember their child's). Dr. Browder asked for Board permission to re-do the survey annually and solicit information from parents and noted he's pleased frankly where we're at though more work is to be done. Today's Briefing Meeting then concluded at 4:32 p.m.

/dwm

 MINUTES BOOK NO. 44 - FY08

Jeanne S. Dozier, Meeting Chair

ATTEST:

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

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