



**VISION:**  
*To be a world-class school system*

**The School Board of Lee County  
School Board Retreat - Minutes  
Monday, November 12, 2007 [Approval 1/22/08]  
Edison College – Taeni Hall, Room 117  
8099 College Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33919**

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**Attendees:**

Jeanne S. Dozier, Chairman	James W. Browder, Ed.D., Superintendent
Jane E. Kuckel, Ph.D., Vice Chairman	Keith Martin, Board Attorney
Robert D. Chilmonik, Member	Julie Nieminski, Board Auditor
Steven K. Teuber, J.D., Member	Martha Crotty, Coordinator, District Operations
Elinor C. Scricca, Ph.D., Member	Donna Lesansky, Office Manager, Board Office

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**Welcome / Opening Comments**

The School Board of Lee County met on Monday, November 12, 2007, for a School Board Retreat. Mrs. Dozier called the Retreat to order at 1:35 P.M. She distributed copies of the Board's 2008 Legislative Priorities and 2006/07 Annual Report and reminded those present that the Legislative Presentation would take place on Wednesday, November 14, 2007, at the Lee County Public Education Center. Each Board Member (with the exception of Mrs. Dozier) and the Superintendent chose a section of the Platform to present to the Delegation members:

Dr. Kuckel: Improve the State Pre-Kindergarten Program

Dr. Scricca: Re-establish Proper Governance of Charter Schools by Constitutionally Established and Elected School Boards

Mr. Chilmonik: Provide for Funding for Public School Operations Commensurate with a State Goal to Improve Instructional Outcomes

Mr. Teuber: Amend Statutes to Improve Instruction and Accountability

Dr. Browder: Assist with Classroom Space Needs for Class Size Reduction, Growth in Students and Replacement of Aging Facilities / District Capital Plan

Mrs. Dozier also noted that the Lee County Legislative Delegation Meeting and Public Hearing would take place on Thursday, November 29, 2007, at Edison College.

**Board Office**

- Board Member Needs for Upcoming Year
  - Quarterly updates of the Strategic Plan will be provided as follows:
    - July: review of previous full-year results (including a fourth quarter review) and consideration of final revisions to the Strategic Plan based on the full-year review)
    - October: status report of first quarter results
    - January: status report of second quarter results and establishment of Board Goals for the upcoming year
    - April: status report of third quarter results and approval of the Strategic Plan for one additional year
- Curriculum Projects and Best Practices
  - The District's ITV Department will prepare five to seven minute segments ("Pocket of Excellence") highlighting curriculum projects / best practices that are being implemented at various schools to enhance student learning. These segments will be shared once a month at an

- Action Meeting prior to Public Comment and will be televised on the District's educational channel.
- Superintendent's Annual Message
    - The Superintendent's opening school comments will be shared with all employees via ITV. This will ensure that each employee hears the same message and is aware of the District's direction for the ensuing school year.
  - Board Office Budget
    - It was confirmed that funding was available for each Board Member to attend the NSBA Annual Conference in Orlando in March/April 2008
  - Board Member Assignments
    - Mr. Teuber requested that Learning for Life be added to the list of committees
    - Board Members will change committee assignments every two years
    - The Chairman will continue to chair the Board Action Meetings; the Vice Chairman will chair all Briefing Meetings; chairing student hearings will rotate among Board Members (with the exception of the Chairman and Vice chairman); delivering the invocation and introducing the presentation of Colors/leading the Pledge of Allegiance will continue to be rotated among the Board Members (with the exception of the Chairman).
    - Effective September 2008, liaisons to Board Advisory Committees will change as follows: District Advisory Committee – Mr. Teuber; Finance Advisory Committee – Mr. Chiltonik; Curriculum Advisory Committee – Dr. Kuckel; Compliance Advisory Committee – Mrs. Dozier; Construction Advisory Committee – Dr. Scricca.
    - Mr. Teuber will assume the role of Board Legislative Liaison effective the end of the 2008 Legislative Session (*May 2008*). Until that time, he will continue to serve as the alternate to Mrs. Dozier.
    - Board Member liaisons to community organizations will continue to be rotated; Mrs. Dozier, as Chairman, will delegate some of her assignments.
  - "Lee in the Loop" Schedule
    - Included for Board Member reference under Tab 2
  - Replacement of School Board Auditor
    - The Superintendent will gather information from other school districts (approximately 25) to see how they handle the auditing process and will share the information with the Board Members prior to the end of December. The information disseminated will also contain a cost analysis of hiring an internal auditor versus contracting with external auditor(s).
    - A workshop will be scheduled in January 2008 for the purpose of discussing whether or not to hire another internal auditor.
    - *Note:* Ms. Nieminski will provide a report on the "health" of the District prior to her leaving at the end of November.

### **Board Meeting Issues**

- Annual Organization of the Board
  - For continuity purposes, Mrs. Dozier will remain as Chairman and Dr. Kuckel will remain as Vice Chairman (*action to be taken at the Annual Organization of the Board on November 20, 2008*)
- Proposed Calendar for Action and Briefing Meetings
  - Add a second Action Meeting in September on the 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - Change first Action Meeting in November to Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, so that there is no meeting on Election Day (Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>)
  - If another Action Meeting is needed during the months when only one is scheduled, the Superintendent will schedule a Special Board Meeting

- Maintain the 2:30 P.M. start time for Briefing Meetings (*which will still be preceded by Student Hearings and Special Board Meetings*)
- Voting Requirements at School Board Meetings
  - Pursuant to the most recent opinion by the Attorney General, if a Board Member is temporarily absent from the table during the vote on an item, the vote is to be postponed until the Board Member returns. However, if a Board Member has left the meeting and will not return, then the Board Member is not present for the purposes of the vote.
- School Board Meeting Recognitions
  - To recognize community service clubs, a resolution will be adopted annually proclaiming a day/week as "Service Club Day/Week." It will be a general resolution with nothing specific to any one group.
  - In conjunction with the above, annual thank you notes will be sent to all service groups that contribute to the success of Lee County School District students and an editorial thanking/recognizing the service groups for their support will be sent from the School District to local newspapers for publication.
- Public Comment and Comments by Others at Action Meetings
  - Section III of Action Meeting agendas will be revised to reflect that only comments from the public will be accepted at that point in the meeting. The Chairman will have the responsibility to summarize requests made by speakers at that time.
  - Comments by the Board Members, Superintendent, Board Attorney and Board Auditor will be moved to Section IX (Other Business) on the agenda, prior to the announcement of future meetings of the Board.

### **Process/Board Policy**

- Chapter 1: School Board Governance
  - Add section to Policy 104, Strategic Plan, reflecting quarterly reports as agreed upon earlier during discussion on Board Member Needs for Upcoming Year.
- Policy 7.04, Driving and Replacing District Vehicles
  - Policy will be amended to reflect that driver's education vehicles are not to be taken home by instructors. However, if there are times when security is a concern, vehicles shall be housed at transportation compounds convenient to the instructors or school principals may give permission for instructors to take the vehicles home.
- Policy Ensuring Student Safety During Fundraising Activities
  - Mr. Teuber expressed concern regarding students conducting fundraising activities alongside the road and/or walking between cars. In response, Mr. Martin stated that the fundraising policy (*Policy 2.10*) is currently under review.

### **Superintendent**

- Capital Plan
  - Dr. Browder stated that a revised Capital Plan will be brought to the Board at the December Briefing Meeting. It is anticipated that the revised Plan will reflect a decrease from 18 capital buildings to 10/11 over the next seven years and that the District does not plan on building another high school within the next five years. Instead, space will be added at Cape Coral and Mariner High Schools and Dunbar High School will be moved to the East Zone since that is the area of growth.
- ESE Litigation
  - Dr. Browder stated that the greatest increase is being realized in the area of autism. Direction was given to the Superintendent to establish a task force dealing with early intervention strategies for children with autism. Mr. Teuber volunteered to work with the Superintendent and then bring back information on the early intervention piece.

**School Board Attorney**

- Legal Services Expenses Annual Report
  - Mr. Martin reviewed the report of legal expenses paid by the District, comparing the 2005, 2006 and 2007 fiscal years and highlighting the areas of increased and decreased spending.

**Community Relations**

- Formation of an Exceptional Student Education Advisory Committee
  - Dr. Browder will work with Dr. Brunick (*Director of Exceptional Student Education*) to develop a plan to form an ESE Advisory Committee that will focus on training, education and intervention. Once formed, it will be a Superintendent's Advisory Committee, not a Board's.
- Resolution by School Health Advisory Committee
  - Mr. Teuber will work with Lisa Brown (*Wellness Coordinator*) to develop a resolution proposed by the SHAC in support of increased physical activity for students.

**Good of the Order**

- Declaratory Action
  - It was agreed that the Board will not file an appeal of the State Board of Education Order denying exclusive authority to approve charter school applications. However, the Board will, through a declaratory action filed by the Florida School Boards Association, continue to challenge the constitutionality of the statute authorizing the Florida Schools of Excellence Commission to approve charter school applications.
  - Mrs. Dozier requested that each Board Member share with his/her assistant the names of individuals to whom they would like to have invitations sent for the District's Holiday Greeting Card Ceremony / Open House scheduled for December 10, 2007.

The Retreat concluded at 4:55 P.M.

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*MINUTES BOOK NO. 44 - FY08*

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**Jeanne S. Dozier**, Chairman

ATTEST:

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