



VISION:
To be a world-class school system.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY – Briefing Meeting / M I N U T E S
Tuesday – January 27, 2009 / 2:30 p.m. (called to order by Mr. Teuber at 2:46 p.m.)

Attendees: Mr. Steven K. Teuber, J.D., Board Vice Chair
Mr. Robert D. Chilmonik, Board Member
Dr. James W. Browder, Secretary & District Superintendent
Mrs. Jeanne S. Dozier, Board Member
Mr. Keith Martin, Board Attorney
Mrs. Denise Mangus, Recording Secretary

A. ITEMS WITH GUESTS – none

B. BOARD MEMBERS

- 1. Special Areas of Board Involvement / Reports –** Mr. Chilmonik noted Smart Growth meeting and Calusa Nature Center run proceeds going to education; re Black History Month, he shared Colonial students' art work and attended Dr. King local march. Mrs. Dozier mentioned Continuous System Improvement Committee's looking through the Strategic Plan and their recent meeting where Mr. Legutko spoke on the budget process and Navigator project, with the latter being a return on the Strategic Plan; accolades were given for including the Plan in the Annual Report and the format/other data contained. From the Edison-Ford meeting, it was noted the Estates will close at 9:00 p.m. in February to increase revenue. Mrs. Dozier acknowledged Mr. Snipes' funeral and his being a mentor to many; Mr. Teuber also attended and noted Carl was very active in the District, having served on many committees. Mr. Teuber noted the Legislative Delegation's meeting last week; there was much work with the Cerras re the package presented. Mr. Teuber mentioned one issue—relaxing class size amendment/language change (re class-by-class averaging) and if not done though educationally/academically sound, it may be political. Information's going to DAC and further out from there for the need to make the right changes re language. Mr. Teuber noted Dr. Browder did an excellent job at last Friday's Board budget workshop in presenting information of what could happen re cuts though they may be drastic and undesirable to think about. The budget crisis has been talked about with the Board the last two years. Dr. Browder put information on one page but there was some misconstruing by the media; we're looking to the state for coming through on their final numbers. Mr. Teuber noted the 1/19 Unity Breakfast (he and Dr. Kuckel attended) which had an excellent keynote speaker; separately, he expressed appreciation, thanking Ms. Thome (WINK) and NBC-2, for attending January Briefings as most discussions take place at these. He mentioned the Florida High School Athletic Association Board of Directors and districts are doing different things—one county's football teams only playing each other (saving money); Mr. Teuber feels more students may get hurt (1000-student school playing one with 3000 who may have bigger/stronger players).

C. ACADEMIC SERVICES

- 1. Bullying & Harassment Policy Implementation Process –** Dr. Browder noted implementation plan studied/brought back. Dr. Jones thanked Ms. Turner for researching other districts re consistency and for many-component organized system to comply. Today is from student side (principals will share with staff). Ms. Turner noted since Board's bullying and harassment policy passage, other areas and principals contacted; tool kit was developed for administrators and distributed to principals and APs this month. Information re the reporting of bullying and harassment will be/is being shared with students at each school. On-line training's in development for employees (available in fall)—recognition of bullying/harassment; effects; and interventions. There's upcoming information for the District Leadership Team on cyberbullying/stalking and investigative procedures; there's an anti-bullying link on our web with information for parents, volunteers, and the community. Ms. Turner noted the investigation process flowchart (copy on file with minutes); within 48 hours of complaint (two school/working days), we're required to start investigating. In response to Mr. Chilmonik's question on students sending inappropriate photos (feels could be harassment) to phones and/or My Space/Facebook/YouTube, answers are being learned; Florida Statutes was noted and our scope if District equipment's utilized. Off of school property can affect students' attendance but DOE is being worked with as to what's in our jurisdiction or law enforcement's—our job's educating and notifying parents of these things but we're not the cyber police. Dr. Browder noted electronic forwarding is in our Code of Conduct and that it's just not pictures of others but can be of tests; we deal with things on a regular basis and are in contact with agencies/organizations. He noted to Mr. Chilmonik that students are aware (e.g., nudity forwarded of under 18) it's a felony and it's not new but how they do it.
- 2. VPK / Head Start Program Update –** Dr. Jones is excited re lasting effects; pre-k (3- and 4-year-olds) looked at longitudinally over time to see if a difference is made. Mrs. LaFountain has worked closely (with Dr. Tihen) to ensure a mesh with kindergarten programs; she noted different programs—Head Start, VPK-School Year, VPK-Summer, Title One, and Migrant—separate from ESE but for kids under 5. Funding is blended (when talking Head Start, talking VPK) but all same goals/expectations: be ready for kindergarten. Dr. Itzen noted study over a four-year period (03-04 participating) through 3rd grade; challenge was to find equivalent study group, and students in lowest income group

utilized (96% free lunch; 49% LEP; 10% ESE; 80% minority). Performance looked at for two aspects of students—standardized tests and retention rate. This is an indication (Head Start vs. cohort) re positive impact on skills. He went over the chart of the percentage meeting or exceeding expectations (Head Start vs. Matched Cohort vs. All Other) as well as the retention rates. Two follow-ups will be done—following this group (now 4th graders) through upcoming years to see if positive impact continues (some have suspicion Head Start may diminish; a pattern will be looked for). Re Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screening (FLKRS), three assessments given to kindergarteners within first 30 days (ECHOS, DIBELS Letter Naming and Initial Sound Fluency), and the highest one can obtain is 300 (100 each part); recent gains (05-06 vs. 07-08 ready), respectively, were +16%, +49%, and +17%. In the preliminary average comparisons, there's positive gains for migrant and ECLS; in state and district numbers, all kindergartener enterees are represented—affluent, private, pre-school (Head Start has below poverty level) but migrant children can leave school early. Re preliminary FLKRS, there were 11 low-performing providers in 06-07 (range 164-266) but two in 07-08 (range 191-300); numbers are being reviewed to see if any reporting errors. The District did it via: Academic Plan/Florida Reading Model adapted for Pre-K; Social Emotional Program Implementation; Daily Schedule (ensuring all minutes wisely/purposely planned for children—even lining children for restroom can utilize practice skills when asking children to determine if their name sounds like a particular sound); Professional Development (much goal-setting); and Classroom Support. Mr. Chilmonik congratulated on impressive numbers and asked if enrollment was increasing of which the answer was a slight bit over last couple of years; when VPK came into being, Head Start was being cut/funds blended. We're serving about 100 more children now (though looking for ways to increase; in four years of program, 725 children in the program). Dr. Browder noted the VPK numbers increased due to LAMP (90 this year; anticipate 100 next); we're trying to draw youngsters out of the community and he noted we support the Pre-K concept, as this Board said to do early on (fruits/labor of program real clear). Mr. Teuber regrets Dr. Kuckel unable to be here today (she and Dr. Scricca ill this afternoon) since this was/is one of her main projects. The gap's being closed by about half; other facts can affect retention rates.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE / SUPPORT SERVICES – none

E. BUSINESS SERVICES

1. **FY 10 Budget Update** – Budget timeline (on file) was distributed. Superintendent, Chief Executive Officers, Budget Department staff, and principal reps are on the Budget Committee and look at school and department allocations. Topics discussed will be brought to the Board. The final Legislature budget is in May, and it's anticipated to finalize the District's then also (the timeline will be kept updated). Per Mr. Teuber's request for the timeline on our web, this can be done since now shared with the Board; previous Budget information is on there. Dr. Browder noted the budget calendar's developed each year and the Board's aware so they can share thoughts. Mrs. Dozier noted e-mails and calls from concerned individuals after last Friday's Board Budget workshop and some things talked about have been misreported—e.g., a possible 3% pay reduction was talked for all staff, Board and Superintendent included; she asked a snapshot be provided of that meeting's understandings and discussions for placement to employees on the web. Some information has been put in newsletters to parents. Dr. Browder noted on our website there'll be a place to have all documents noted; there'll be a communication plan later today. Mrs. Desamours noted the FY10 FTE projection analysis and the sheet showing '03-'08 (08/09 revised again as of yesterday); there'll still be changes re students (to adjust before survey week). The indications for the third survey in February, as briefed before, is the expectation of another \$3-4 million (FTE shortfall \$12-13 million) though not unexpected it would happen. It's desired to update the FTE decrease as we went through year. DOE has forecast models for 09/10 we must use though the District will utilize most conservative. There was no growth in October but a little now; to close projection, we ensuring enough FTE shortfall set aside. Dr. Browder stated this has been done last several years and noted models based one year before (consequently on moving target). We've been successful in answers to shortfall. He noted monies set aside for 1,000 enrollment (state expects us to grow but we don't); since we've dropped possibly another 1,000 (February), we'll set aside to mitigate. Dr. Browder noted being close on numbers; he acknowledged Mike Smith, Leila Muvdi, Lee Legutko, and Mrs. Desamours. Re Mr. Chilmonik's question, it's mobility rate (trend of kids leaving the District within the last 2 months, 6 months, or past year) not unemployment correlation; people leave if jobs not found here, affecting students exiting the District.

F. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. **Fingerprinting Update** – Dr. Adkins noted (unfunded mandate; projected District cost for 09/10 is \$109,488) re-fingerprinting/background check for employees requiring direct contact with students, per statute is coming to a close; Christine Copeland did a PowerPoint (copy on file with one-page agenda back-up). There have been approximately 95 fingerprinting sessions throughout the District. Of the 6,334 employees, only a small number of substitutes had to be done. Dr. Adkins noted Professional Standards review all to ensure compliance. Charter schools are going through the process (not included in above cost). We're sensitive to FCAT testing and estimated completed date is 6/1 (ahead of 6/30/09 deadline). There's an annual monitoring fee of \$6/year for every employee (with a re-submittal every five years

at \$24/person). If someone is arrested out of state, it will be tagged; within the state is almost instant notification. Also needing to continue is prescreening of all applicants, vendors, new employees re state hiring guidelines (1,500 new vendors screened). On a high point, there were 250 hits to investigate but now about 30/week for those applying (concern may be an arrest). Dr. Adkins thinks overall it's good for the District and state to have screening but takes a lot of manpower and unfunded; Mr. Teuber confirmed about a half-million dollars to implement (ranging to a million in a few years required). Separately, Dr. Adkins noted SPALC and TALC negotiations will be starting; there'll be 4-7:00 p.m. meetings (reduces costs/less subs). He thanked colleagues for support on saving dollars. Interest-based training was recently completed (Mrs. McDaniel came up with an innovative way and Mr. McCullers found grant money to fund); 24 outstanding individuals now ready to help in our facilitation. The bargaining timeline's aggressive—completed by school-year end and ratification participation before end of summer. These are every difficult times.

G. EXECUTIVE SERVICES – Dr. Browder's memo on proposed FY10 bell times were distributed; he noted the only two changes were James Stephens International Academy (two schools combined) and G. Weaver Hipps Elementary (new). Also handed out was a draft FY10 Budget Crisis Communication Plan (these three pages and copy of website page on file with these minutes also); Dr. Browder noted we're keeping active and continually updating, and he'll do regular webcasts for matters of interest to District employees with the bargaining units consulted with (to ensure message).

H. PUBLIC COMMENT – Sue Jacobse noted the budget projected numbers and the conservative taking of DOE models and is glad we protect ourselves; she noted it's not about something being done wrong but to extend voices to legislators (re their responsibility/fund education). Mrs. Jacobse noted falling house values but doesn't want borrowing against our capital done.

I. BOARD ATTORNEY / SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS – Mr. Martin provided a school law minute on Sunshine Law/copying charges—i.e., public records. Dr. Browder sent condolences to Carl Snipes' family; his spirit will be missed. Dr. Browder's been asked to be on the Florida Labor Relations Board (consensus); it provides resources to districts, bargaining units, assists with difficulties and is to be proactive. He mentioned the student artwork presented under Board Member comments, noting our possibly having the largest display here (600 pieces) in the U.S. and the Superintendent's pleased with what we do in art, music, PE, and art education. Dr. Browder wants to reassure staff re potential budget reductions though we have to start somewhere; his hope is we don't have reductions and that the Legislature steps up but we'll be prepared to do what's right in protecting public education's integrity for children. Meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

/dwm

ATTEST:

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

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.