



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

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY – Briefing Meeting / M I N U T E S**  
**Tuesday – February 10, 2009 / 2:30 p.m. (called to order by Mr. Teuber at 2:35 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  
Dr. Jane E. Kuckel, Board Chair  
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 today's exciting visit by the President and hopes education money's received to help job loss; separately, he will forward an e-mail to the Superintendent re incoming students from other countries and possible delay to do sports (while GPA established/transcripts' translated). He noted last weekend's Art Festival where there's pride in teachers'/students' participation. Dr. Kuckel congratulated again Mr. Huger and Ms. Burkhead for Teacher and Support Person of the Year, respectively. She noted Curriculum Committee's wonderful discussions last night; Mrs. Stockman spoke on instructional strategies and Mrs. Roshon on career academies. Dr. Kuckel attended the Quality meeting; we're following through with the Strategic Plan and our management practices (well researched/professional). She encouraged reading at next month's Dr. Seuss Day school events. Mr. Teuber noted different feelings than mentioned prior of the President here, as we're worst in the country for foreclosures (dire epicenter of market); he wished, to offset bad, that the District would've been highlighted/toured re having the country's only high school Microsoft certification program. Mr. Teuber noted this year's state shortfall is much more than originally thought (e.g., \$5 billion) and hopes the economic stimulus package passes as well as the Florida Legislature to fund quality education. He noted Edison's queen/king crowning where District schools represented and acknowledged the Edison Festival of Lights/Thomas Edison. Mr. Teuber expressed good luck wishes to our sports teams advancing to state competitions. He gave accolades to all involved in the recent Mock Trial; Judge Starnes was one of those presiding, and a lot is to be learned from the students' hard work/professionalism. Cape Bar Association's making training/support plans for our West Zone (includes private schools); Lee County Bar's challenged to offer other Lee schools help for excelling. [Today, Mrs. Dozier is ill, and Dr. Scricca was called out of town/unable to attend.]

**C. ACADEMIC SERVICES**

**1. No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Audit Update** – Dr. Browder's proud of audit report summary and acknowledged Drs. Jones, Clark, and Mr. McCullers; the departments/schools are in great shape, demonstrating the high level of implementation put forth in all federal programs. Mr. McCullers proceeded with a PowerPoint on the compliance monitoring results (copy on file); he noted in addition to annual fiscal/desktop monitoring (yearly state reporting and records review), there's an on-site visit every five years (meetings with Superintendent, principals, teachers, parents, department reps) where programs are dug into for what they're doing and compliance (shall, must, and will appear 4000+ times in the 1200-page law passed in 2002. We were visited by nine in December to 31 schools, a homeless shelter, private home, and District offices. There were 121 participating schools and only 6 areas needing minor action of 168, resulting in 96%--an A (5 of 8 ESEA Title programs had 100%; 90-94% in others). Mr. McCullers is unaware of any other district having a higher level of attainment. Mr. Teuber wants the summary page statistics shown tonight for the media. Mr. Chilmonik looked at DOE website and 96% is excellent. Dr. Kuckel reiterated action needed in six was minor (some fixed in a few minutes, per Mr. McCullers; Dr. Clark noted a few due to including all parents).

**D. ADMINISTRATIVE / SUPPORT SERVICES**

**1. Change Orders / January 2009** – There were no questions.

**E. BUSINESS SERVICES**

**1. FY 10 Budget Update** – Dr. Browder hopes the stimulus program reaches Florida. Senate Ways & Means Committee debated this morning; question is how damage's going to be minimized to public education and other service institutions statewide. Mrs. Desamours was on a conference call with the Chancellor's office today (updated information distributed). She noted budget timeline and that Budget Committee meetings have continued since the last Briefing with the focus on increasing efficiency re reduction of service, program, or people; there's not just cutting but ensuring reason behind and to get the most impact out of choices made. Projected District effect was \$42 million but now possibly \$52-82 million, impacting what we currently do. Cuts are being prioritized and a contingency plan being worked of what's to be done if certain things come to fruition. It's desired to act quickly so as to be fair to employees and programs. There's been contact with DOE re FTE estimates since the last meeting, and enrollment's continuing to decline since October

(this is FTE week); after conversations, agreement was received from DOE to reduce our numbers by 100 students. Central Leadership will meet in the next couple of weeks re budget process status and Budget Committee discussions; budget process should be short—increases aren't being accepted from departments. Governor's budget may come out within month; Mr. Cerra communicated to Dr. Browder today it may be later than sooner (Ways & Means to have opportunity for reviewing how bad/getting most accurate data). Cuts are going to be horrendous, and we need to be thoughtful. In response to Mr. Chilmonik's question re funding and not having impact until September, Ms. Desamours hopes we'll see relief in FY10; Dr. Browder's hopeful (FY10 and 11 affected) that stimulus package available in FY10 as Florida cuts would be horrid without tax modification and money generation needed. Mr. Chilmonik noted he'd bring a motion to the table tonight for a referendum under Board Member comments. Mrs. Desamours continued with the one-page back-up (copy on file) in talking about the stimulus package re education (which is nationwide/not just state); there were some changes (decreased fund amounts) in the package with specific provisions on the usage of federal monies (material still being debated as of receiving this material last Friday). Dr. Browder noted some maintenance issues—whatever we were, we can't go below what we were spending to use those dollars; there'll be a look at the language in the package for flexibility to protect Florida's children. Dr. Kuckel noted concern since not a recurring package and not money to be spent on recurring expenses (not intended to fund); she doesn't see the stimulus (just "icing") doing much for us and noted going back to the Legislature to fund education per the constitution. She congratulated Dr. Browder and Mrs. Desamours for the efficiency focus and noted again getting a hold of legislators—staffers do tag certain focus input received. It's not okay, year after year, to just accept being cut (down to bare bones now) for programs that made us better. She noted the 2/21/09 rally here at the LCPEC (10:00 a.m. speakers begin). Dr. Kuckel feels ill when arts cut and even staff development programs as they make the classroom more effective. It's important to keep teachers in the system and shame on those who don't make some kind of legislative contact (to make a difference). Mr. Chilmonik noted: agreement with comments; possible cost savings mentioned to him (intentional blank page in open enrollment materials); and love education at the table though they may disagree on methods; and he feels a referendum's important.

Mrs. Desamours continued with another one-page (revised this morning) handout titled "Budget Update FY10/FEFP Review and FY10 Projections" (copy on file). Per the conference call today (\$6 billion FY10 shortfall), funding levels may be similar to those seen in FY05 (\$69 million). Funding required for class size noted. A reduction of up to \$81 million (in addition to \$11.6 million reduction taken mid-year—e.g., from contingency—and additional funding cut to come out in FY09). With cuts ranging \$67-79 million, we've suffered several reductions the last 2-3 years. Dr. Browder added the support staff survey going out soon; he noted, bottom line, that teachers understand the trouble we're in as well as others. People are e-mailing suggestions, and the Board's encouraged to list additional things for discussions. Post-FGCU meeting discussion, he sent a letter after working with Mr. Cerra and Mrs. Desamours; Dr. Browder asked for us to be the first pilot in state for 100% flexibility in funds that come (Senator Bennett encouraged). He's hoping for this and not wanting capital money taken to balance the budget, as a referendum could cripple. We're waiting to see what the legislative session brings and then see what we need to do. Re flexibility to shuffle money, Teacher Lead and MAP are some areas requested. A thoughtful plan will be brought with eye towards efficiency. Mr. Chilmonik noted if waiting for legislators, then we're putting a lot of hope versus their track record. Mr. Teuber confirmed that Mr. Chilmonik's asking \$400,000+ desired to be spent for a referendum, and the latter noted a possible previous free opportunity passed. Mrs. Desamours commented we've the best and brightest minds here (staff here and at schools and Budget Committee); there's work and communication to handle budget cuts the best and most thoughtful way though they'll still hurt. Mr. Teuber noted thanks for the very concise and illuminating presentation.

**F. HUMAN RESOURCES** – none

**G. EXECUTIVE SERVICES**

1. **Strategic Plan Goals** – In response to Dr. Kuckel's question on differences from prior, Dr. Browder noted it's very similar and kept close (not desired to create new templates); metrics are getting better and better to give good indication where we're making differences (changes/adjustments can be done).
2. **Community Forums in Zones** – Dr. Browder planned to start in March with 6 community meetings but should it be April due to circumstances (legislative session over in May). Compromise reached to have 3 in each of the next 2 months.
3. **Policies**
  - a. **1.061, Evaluation of the Superintendent and School Board Attorney [draft/new]** – Dr. Browder thought this important to get in writing after the Board Planning meeting; Mr. Chilmonik noted disagreement in dropping the high

and low scores. Dr. Kuckel and Mr. Teuber agree with the proposed policy; samples sizes/losing results were noted. Dr. Kuckel noted all evaluations are public information.

**b. 4.32 Head Start Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection, and Enrollment [new 2/24/09]** – Dr. Browder explained that this was brought as information for end-of-month approval; it’s about eligibility and children gaining admittance.

**H. PUBLIC COMMENT** – Ms. Jacobse noted, re referendum, maybe workshop would lessen table in-fighting (hesitant for students attending). She feels Board Members represent all (not just District/elected by all); referendum may lock District; Collier still facing big problems. She likes pilot flexibility; reiterated contacting legislators re cutting of monies. Mr. Teuber commented Collier is different (land values/rich) and maybe more impact there.

**I. BOARD ATTORNEY / SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS** – Mr. Martin provided a school law minute on Sunshine Law/public records component—e.g., provide access/copies in reasonable time, public records vs. public info (no requirement re answering written questions or creating non-existent documents). Dr. Browder congratulated Terry Huge and all others going through rigorous Teacher of the Year process; he thanked the Selection Committee, noting Dr. Jones and Mr. Castellanos. Mr. Huge is a wonderful winner and a number of others are deserving also. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

/dwm

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ATTEST:

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

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**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.*