



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 24, 2009 / 2:30 p.m. (called to order by Mr. Teuber at 3:13 p.m.)**

**Attendees:** Dr. Jane E. Kuckel, Board Chair (arrived 3:59 p.m.)  
Mr. Robert D. Chilmonik, Board Member  
Dr. Elinor C. Scricca, Board Member  
Dr. James W. Browder, Secretary & District Superintendent  
Mr. Steven K. Teuber, J.D., Vice Chair  
Mrs. Jeanne S. Dozier, Board Member  
Mr. Keith B. 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 thanked teachers/students/coaches participating in the Edison Festival and those at the Education Rally. He heard concerns at an Art Teachers' meeting and also attended Smart Growth (Finance Advisory cancelled). Mrs. Dozier attended Edison-Ford Executive Committee meeting; festival events keeping all busy. She brought a Board of Directors' request for a permanent slow-down driving zone on McGregor near the Estates, as many children cross there for field trips and performances since severe wrecks there in past two months (consensus given for letter drafts to City of Fort Myers and DOT). She acknowledged the 1,500+ rally attendees, including children who have an impact (also by appearing in person in Tallahassee) re educational funding being taken away; she noted community's core is education and plots set aside years ago for such. Anticipation is FSBA Executive Committee attending Saturday's Orlando rally. She read at one school today for Read Across America and looks forward to next week's. Consensus given to her request (since complaints) for the Superintendent look into a Charter School's on-the-premises smoking (don't have to abide by our Code of Conduct). Dr. Scricca noted upcoming April recognitions for student guardhouse design competition. She judged Lehigh Acres Middle's history fair and is pleased with the technological sophistication/info though not all fully communicate; she read at South Fort Myers High for Black History Month. She congratulated the rally's fervor; Golden Apple reception had many expressing support to the Board for (non-politically oriented) support of teachers and what's trying to be done. She attended Buckingham volunteer lunch, noting appreciation for what all do; it was touching. She's grateful for the time at the Lehigh Community Council (35 members) and is working on an idea for improving Lehigh's image via thousands of students there. Mr. Teuber acknowledged the Edison festival events—students' participation (floats, bands, arts, tennis); re DAC, he commented many issues focused on finances, with information to be moved from DAC to SACs to teachers/schools/parents. He attended the Do the Right Thing ceremonies in the Board Room last week where students recognized for making right decisions; he appreciates the Sheriff's STAR program (since DARE decreased). Mr. Teuber thanked the bargaining units for coordinating the rally, noting tons of pennies sent to Tallahassee can be symbolic of our children. He congratulated District sport teams advancing to semi and state finals (hopes to attend meet in Orlando).

**C. ACADEMIC SERVICES**

**1. Update/Partnership with Edison State College –** Dr. Jones provided an update on the Edison State College partnership. Dr. Tihen, Mrs. Stockman, and Mr. Shilling are taking the lead for on-line learning along with help from Mr. McCullers, Drs. Itzen and Jones. There was work (all-day long meeting last week) on expanding student and staff on-line learning and possible grant opportunities (with staff collaborations). Highlights: importance of students and dual enrollment expansion opportunities (more courses on-line); different formats; independent (working on own time/pace, during master schedule by going into computer lab to work); hybrid courses (campus facilitators present), allowing dialogue in high schools; and ability to communicate with Edison professors; remedial college-prep math courses (test 11<sup>th</sup> grade volunteers, targeting students who didn't make SAT or ACT but to enable college admission); offer face-to-face courses (not all function well in on-line platforms). Courses being discussed are two pilot math, two English composition, and American Government. There'll be work to create consistent formats (recognizable format—teachers having taken courses) and utilize what's in place. In addition to on-line training opportunities (academic plans/courses), there'll be spring work to align (e.g., Edison profs working hand-in-hand with us on math); there's a plan for a new integrated senior math course (relating to career/tech areas, keeping math momentum going for students entering college and better preparedness). Edison's eager to partner and resources to be realized, in budget times, from both institutions; articulation and alignment anticipated. Dr. Browder noted, from Dr. Bob Jones, the ratio of high schoolers and adults in college (flipped vs. 1999). Dr. Scricca acknowledged, re Dr. Jones, a K-14 continuum and expressed thanks.

**D. ADMINISTRATIVE / SUPPORT SERVICES**

**1. Design/Professional Services for FY10 –** Mr. Moore provided background and a PowerPoint (on file) on the continuing contracts process (criteria, matrix/scoring, etc. for design professionals and others). Re Mr. Chilmonik's question on

minority firms, there’s work/encouragement with construction managers to hire aforementioned firms (way we continue to make it happen). Dr. Scricca gave congratulations on the presentation and spreading business.

**E. BUSINESS SERVICES**

1. **FY 10 Budget Update** – Dr. Browder noted banter thru state re budget of Governor (latter on Sunday Meet the Press); he’s praying for acceptance of this real budget (not be jump start for figuring out later by Legislature). Mrs. Desamours noted the two handouts—District Funding Summary and one without federal assistance. She noted third FEFP calculation just received and \$11.6 million mid-year cut taken into consideration. The Governor’s budget doesn’t use our FTE projection (House and Senate will use). There are decreased tax rolls and Dr. Browder noted re—minimizing of capital dollars to be received—a transfer, if opted, down the road could be affected. Re \$26 million stimulus (Title 1, 2, IDEA, and school lunch program equipment), deficit could be offset depending on restrictions but anticipate it will help; Dr. Browder hopes other federal monies coming. Governor’s Budget has reduced FTE within it, and there could be only \$602,200 difference of last year’s Lee budget (7% swing last year—what government was giving us vs. loss that actually happened in the Legislature); we’ll have contingency plan in place if we don’t get additional money expected at this point. The District funding (second handout) was noted re federal stimulus dollars; Mrs. Desamours explained on scenarios for 5-14% of decrease in funding (\$30 million to upwards \$69 million). The Budget Committee continues to work and plan for shouldering what happens; there’s continuing work on contingency. Any strings attached to federal dollars will be revealed. Dr. Browder encouraged Central Leadership to work with the Governor’s budget; a penny sales tax could be done without going to homeowners, so to do what’s right for protection of children. Bargaining units are noting a three-year cent sales tax. If there’s a \$69 million deficit, then things difficult but if \$10 million, we’ll be okay since non-personnel items identified but reductions will still be looked at, as we’re preparing for subsequent years. Federal stimulus money can go away (non-recurring) if reductions not took. The high watermark is the Governor’s budget; Dr. Browder still predicts we’ll take substantial reductions. Dr. Kuckel reiterated the importance of communicating with legislators on the Governor’s budget (not hearing from anyone doesn’t mean we’re doing okay).

**F. HUMAN RESOURCES**

1. **Staffing Timelines / FY10** – There’s work with bargaining units in solidified staffing guidelines to occur; principals receiving Dr. Adkins letter tomorrow outlining the process. Intent forms to be utilized this year for helping principals in planning; in response to Mrs. Dozier’s question, it was explained that the communication of the intent-for-next-year document is for planning and the principals will possess (they won’t be held to, as economy may change and someone anticipating retirement, for example, may not be able to do so now). Dr. Adkins reviewed the FY10 one-page timeline (copy on file), and web information is posted as well as bulletin boards; there’s exiting employee information on our website. Dr. Adkins noted, from health department meeting, many services provided to all in this department of counties.

**G. EXECUTIVE SERVICES**

1. **Hancock Creek Elementary** – Dr. Browder thanked principal and staff for the difficult situation handled well; being proactive was shown as well as bravery. Appreciation was noted also to Messrs. Hayhurst, McNerney, and Donzelli.

**H. PUBLIC COMMENT** – none

I. **BOARD ATTORNEY / SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS** – Mr. Martin provided a school law minute on Sunshine Law/public records in that maps, tapes, photographs, sound recordings can be included (not just documents); he also addressed e-mails on personal and/or government computers (otherwise non-applicable items may become part of disciplinary investigation if improper use of computer, thus becoming public record). Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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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.*