



VISION:
To be a world-class school system.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY – Briefing Meeting / M I N U T E S
Tuesday – March 10, 2009 / 2:30 p.m. (called to order by Mr. Teuber at 2:30 p.m.)

Attendees: Dr. Jane E. Kuckel, Board Chair
Mr. Robert D. Chilmonik, Board Member
Dr. James W. Browder, Secretary & District Superintendent
Mr. Steven K. Teuber, J.D., Vice Chair
Dr. Elinor C. Scricca, 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, Drs. Kuckel and Scricca noted reading at three different schools each for Read Across America. Mr. Chilmonik met with David Plazas re school issues, audits, student assignment. Mr. Chilmonik congratulated Golden Apple finalists at breakfast; and noted well-polished, good job on the community forum and challenges faced; good feedback received. He's doing a research on other districts in the state and will bring back policy suggestions, noting one passed for code of ethics (19 pages/Palm Beach and school closures). Dr. Kuckel went to recent Foundation Golden Apple evening reception, complimenting attendance and teachers are special. She attended the Value Adjustment Board meeting; separately, she noted reading's important as students are tuned in to advanced reading and with how kids read/analyze information, it's changing/exciting. Dr. Scricca noted Construction Advisory Committee's welcoming an April guest meeting speaker; student guard house design recognitions (4/21 Board Meeting); and a May visit to Lehigh Elementary's renovations. She acknowledged Messrs. Moore and Snell for recovering the vast majority of construction bond monies (postponed/cancelled projects). She mentioned Pride & Patriotism meetings and the 11/10/09 (community-sponsored) event. She also attended Lehigh Singers' Board Meetings. Mr. Teuber thanked the community and citizens for sponsor breakfast, noting appreciation for teachers' great work; he attended Diplomat Elementary's A++ celebration in addition to Learning for Life's meeting to plan their annual recognition program. He noted, re Value Adjustment Board attorney's notice, changes we can't afford; Dr. Kuckel concurs and fully supports his pursuing the matter. He noted children recognizing authors and styles of writing; he and Drs. Browder and Jones welcomed Hilary Duff at Tice Elementary for their student backpack food program.**
- 2. Legislative Update – Mr. Teuber and Dr. Browder phone conferenced with Bob Cerra last Friday; a report has been sent to the Board re affected school issues. It's preferred that the Board send legislative matters to Mr. Teuber who will sit with the Superintendent and Mr. Cerra. Mr. Teuber will be attending FSBA's Days in the Legislature next week as well as joining Dr. Browder in Tallahassee the week following; there's talk about the Governor's first budget not getting from "there to here." The House and Senate will work with a revised budget.**

C. ACADEMIC SERVICES (Dr. Jones) – none

D. ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT SERVICES (Mr. McNerney)

- 1. Change Orders/February 2009 – There were no questions/discussions.**

E. BUSINESS SERVICES (Mrs. Desamours/Mrs. Campbell)

- 1. FY10 Budget Update and School Funding Formula – Mrs. Desamours noted, re the Governor's budget, general revenues at 0% and not 2%; instead of \$600,000 loss, now there's \$14 million (believed to be high watermark), and the estimates are between \$14-70 million. There are changes proposed for school allocations (70% goes to school budgets)—biggest piece of pie. She noted Budget Choice Personnel Committee (who meets every year and has administrators on it) is looking at the previous year allocation and changes suggested for following year. Current staffing at schools being considered and looking at ways to save money; good recommendations made have been passed to the Budget Committee who has discussed along with other ideas. They've gone through two processes, and changes came forth on the sheet (copy on file). Physical education's mandated, with a certain amount of minutes to be maintained; preparations are being made for worst-case scenario. There's square foot responsibility in buildings though square footage increased, number of people can decrease. Dr. Kuckel requested seeing dollar amounts assigned (line by line) for the total \$22.8 million shown; Dr. Browder noted this is a bird's-eye view/overall look and even more detail will be shown when brought back to the Board. As time goes by, there are changes made (being costed out). Dr. Kuckel clarified for all that this is on top of our \$67 million budget reductions the last two years. Flexible allocation reduced of one position, on average, per school saved. Supply allocation will be reduced (propose school keep carryover, but have half-allocation). Dr. Browder noted at the workshop \$4 million in unspent monies at schools. Mrs. Desamours noted, re middle and high, the 4x4 block schedule negotiations; adjustments can be made in teacher allocation to accommodate**

students requiring double blocks (reading and/or math), thus maybe getting more teachers. ESE support positions will be allocated by a fixed method-no flexibility. Custodial allocation proposed to decrease by 15%. Supply allocation is to be reduced. Days per year for positions standardized by elementary, middle, and high. Also, we won't have some schools getting extra money and others not. Above-formula (above FTE/earned) allocations will be reduced for comprehensive high, arts, IB, and technology schools as well as above-formula for middle school strings eliminated (in response to Dr. Scricca re the latter, Dr. Browder noted .5 unit put in a couple of years and only six schools utilizing). Inside arts magnets, kids will experience programs but we can't afford in every school. We must have teachers teaching full loads. Mr. Chilmonik noted thanks for putting this data on a sheet; Dr. Browder confirmed the FTE shortfalls are included/put aside as planned for (this is the first year we've lost; projections around 2,000 students though we're still up 18,000 students but down 1,050 at a point versus last year). Dr. Browder noted the importance of using the October FTE numbers, as this is the amount we get paid for; the cycle reports have enrollment (FTE is usually lower).

2. **SBA** – The District has \$460 million in Bank of America (earning .16% interest) and \$100 million in SBA (.75% interest). There's statutory language now addressing SBA governance and liquidity requirements. There's \$13 million in Fund B awaiting maturity. There are rules now for SBA money issuance in 48 hours and trustees meeting within 15 days to issue dollars; all's transparent. The Board's thoughts on moving money back into SBA (earn more) is being sought—e.g., \$200 million (interest earned would be \$100,000 vs. \$20,000 where currently kept). Dr. Browder suggests keeping \$260 million in Bank of America (amount to get through 6/30); money is being put back into SBA by others, and he feels it's safe as anywhere. The state has some responsibility and they've put safe conditions back in. Mr. Ford has been consulted and thinks it okay. Dr. Kuckel suggested postponing discussion since not all Board Members present. It was confirmed to Mr. Chilmonik (who noted hesitation) the District amount in Fund B and \$100 million in Fund A; Dr. Browder noted the diversification by the District, per Board discussion, as the market started to tumble (FDIC had come in and previously froze SBA accounts, taking some time to get money out of reserves). SBA is a state organization with clear rules and regulations for investing and transparent. Hillsborough County never pulled SBA monies out but continued putting in (their Superintendent is on the Board of state superintendents' representation). Our bonds are in underwriting, and it's felt the rating will be unaffected. Consensus reached to wait until entire Board present.

F. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. **Job Descriptions** – Dr. Browder explained matching job responsibilities to what custodians are doing. Dr. Adkins noted the cycling process and our falling back to look where significant changes in duties, reasons, and review turnovers and grievances. Equipment in new construction (last 10 years) is sophisticated, causing change in requirements and higher degree of expectation; Mr. Rushlow (of SPALC) always asks for more training. The last thing desired is emergencies to go back and review descriptions. Dr. Adkins reviewed the changes (back-up on file). Dr. Scricca noted desired wording consistency; consensus given. Investment in buildings needs to be maintained; Dr. Adkins noted the example of moving from the former Dunbar Middle to the new school (while principal) and the HVAC changes. Re custodians, and worked through Mr. Rushlow, trade certification not required. This is the normal time of year for review and a few more things will come out of negotiations (job descriptions at 4/21 meeting).

G. EXECUTIVE SERVICES

1. **Policy 1.061, Evaluation of the Superintendent and School Board Attorney (new 3/24/09)** – Mr. Martin noted the previous informal discussion; it's now advertised and coming to public hearing on 3/24. Mr. Chilmonik again disagreed not using the high and low scores in averaging. Dr. Kuckel feels it's good (this issue discussed prior; someone may have an off day when completing the form, thus resulting in a lower or higher score) and the evaluations are public record if someone wants to see all five. Mr. Teuber noted the media had all on their website prior. Dr. Scricca concurs with Mr. Teuber and Dr. Kuckel. Mr. Martin explained there wasn't a rule in place prior (just a process change).

- H. PUBLIC COMMENT** – Sue Jacobse noted tough decisions ahead; re strings, talk to parents now so they think about having their child in gifted or at an arts/music school. She noted seeking grant monies' continuance and private fundraising. Noted also: property values/enrollment/money decreased, unfunded mandates, and President wants elongated school day. Mr. Rushlow commended Dr. Adkins' excellent job and sensitivity; schools are being bettered and with more technology. Mr. Rushlow feels his training concerns can be dealt with (define minor maintenance), understanding budget and square footage allocations can change. There's much ethnic SPALC diversification, noting reading/writing/implementing English sensitivity.

- I. BOARD ATTORNEY / SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS** – Mr. Martin provided a school law minute on public records and response time allowed (e.g., reasonable to retrieve—depending on nature/volumes to review—and deleting exempt material; several weeks may not be unreasonable, per a circuit court decision). Dr. Browder noted the positive/energetic ESE committees (on autism) information just now distributed and their work; there is a card and poster and

the big thing is informing people what this means and who to call. Every parent, teacher, and principal needs to understand for IEPs. The Board's encouraged to read the partnership links. Dr. Browder noted he should've reiterated earlier that the principals are looking at opportunities for support personnel to do a variety of other things in the school (lessening cuts) such as maybe reading, strings' support. He noted great accolades on Ms. Duff's Tice visit and the school's program. Dr. Browder's also very proud of Orange River and CCMI (local community organization), as 750 backpacks go home every Friday with food (95% bring packs back); there are families in trouble and hurting, and he urges all to help children when given the chance. The funding issue's hitting everywhere; the graduation caps/gowns provided free yearly will not be able to continue and the Board will discuss when all present re next steps (Board Members paying for their own; not wearing the robes, etc.). Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:42 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.