



VISION
To be a world-class school system.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY – Briefing Meeting / M I N U T E S
Tuesday—August 12, 2008 / 2:30 p.m. (called to order by Dr. Kuckel at 4:13 p.m.)

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

Dr. Kuckel requested a change in the order of the agenda so as to allow the speaker to go first; consensus was given.

A. BOARD MEMBERS

2. **Discussion / 2009 Legislative Platform** (back-up on file) – John Cerra of Cerra Consulting Group gave a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file which has details about each of the items for the legislative platform). The 2009 Draft Legislative Platform includes: Provide for Funding for Public School Operations Commensurate with a State Goal to Improve Instructional Outcomes; Re-establish Proper Governance of Charter Schools by Constitutionally Established and Elected School Boards; Amend Statutes to Improve Instruction and Accountability; Assist with Classroom Space Needs for Class Size Reduction, Growth in Students and Replacement of Aging Facilities; and Improve the State Pre-Kindergarten Program. Dr. Scricca commended Mr. Cerra; it was asked, re pre-k, definition of high quality program. Dr. Scricca questioned transporting children to pre-k locations (always underfunded); Mr. Cerra noted he could put this back in. Dr. Kuckel noted the statement could be changed to reflect the components of a high-quality program (could be bulleted). Dr. Kuckel separately noted, re the platform components, of stating no unfunded mandates; Legislature has passed much legislation though some not implemented until the following year. We have to be vigilant on unfunded mandates since it's unknown how to add additional expenses. Mr. Cerra will work with Mr. Teuber on the changes.
1. **Special Areas of Board Involvement** – Mr. Chilmonik complimented the presentation; he noted it's election season and he's been attending many public activities to advocate for funding. Dr. Scricca asked, re the Platform, about rejecting any new unfunded legislative mandates. Dr. Browder noted class size is funded but not fully; he agrees with full funding (the whole thing being paid). Dr. Kuckel wants any new unfunded legislative mandates rejected until Florida meets the national average for per student funding. Separately, Dr. Scricca thanked the community for their support of Pride & Patriotism; she noted the recent EDAC meeting. Mr. Chilmonik noted the good comments on retired Cape teacher Ed Krupo who unexpectedly passed; separately, Mr. Chilmonik attended the East Zone Transportation route bidding for drivers (150) and stopped at Mirror Lakes Elementary.

Mr. Chilmonik attended the County Tourism Board meeting (he distributed material to the Board from such). Mr. Chilmonik noted receiving calls from teachers and most are positive; he doesn't question training but where we're sending staff. He requested the Board look at what he'll suggest (in September). Dr. Browder noted discussions in June and July re initiatives to draw training to the County. The Superintendent reminded the Board that we had talked about doing something like this to minimize travel and be as frugal as we can in these budget times (NSBA and Superintendents' associations will be notified re considering Lee County). Mrs. Dozier noted bringing the Consortium and FSBA conferences here as well as the Board of Directors (we do continue the efforts to build tourism). She noted national conferences (like Vegas training) may bring 5,000 and convention facilities for such could be a problem (smaller ones may be successful). She noted a lot of Board Members ask questions and there were learning gains from the training mentioned. She noted the Board Office's travel budget for all five board members; travel is planned to be an item on the Board retreat/workshop agenda. She noted there was a training/speaker for the District at the Don Caesar and Dr. Browder had it brought here. Mrs. Dozier feels a workshop atmosphere provides the opportunity to roll-up the sleeves and is appropriate. Dr. Browder feels to say no to further trips in Vegas and not somewhere else as well would be shortsighted; he feels maybe the number sent is being questioned. The Superintendent noted looking at the learning gains inside schools and training out there; we don't want to give money back if not properly planning. Mr. McCullers is the lead person and he's frugal—the Board will be pleased where we end up. The travel guidelines were laid on the table prior (due to the spring budget reduction discussions); Dr. Kuckel noted we'll workshop. Mr. Chilmonik wants to see tracking re travel; he's talking about bring of hundreds of people to encourage Lee economy.

Separately, Mrs. Dozier noted the Olympic theme at the Summer Institute held at Cypress Lake High; she noted Dr. Browder's leadership team is energized. She also was at the North Fort Myers High new teacher orientation and attended

CAC where high school guard house projects are being furthered. A recent community meeting was held in the Board Room for contracts to talk about processes (38 represented); the strategic listening device was used for questions and feedback to assess current process.

B. ACADEMIC SERVICES – Dr. Itzen gave a PowerPoint presentation (copy is on file with these minutes) of the District’s 2008 Grades’ Summary. This year’s academic gain is unparalleled in the District’s history, speaking well of staff. After the presentation, Dr. Browder noted Brevard is the only A in the state; Palm Beach has 79% of their schools as A or B (Lee is at 87%). The District’s schools are seeing steady progress. Dr. Kuckel noted thanks for the good news and to those who help make it happen; she’s proud. Dr. Browder has followed continuous improvement; there are big leaps under his leadership.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT SERVICES – none

D. BUSINESS SERVICES – none

E. HUMAN RESOURCES – none

F. EXECUTIVE SERVICES – none

G. PUBLIC COMMENT – Sue Jacobse noted hearing real information at these meetings and others miss by leaving (who have spoken before). Mrs. Jacobse feels it’s brilliant to utilize Title 1 funds in providing teachers credit to keep license going and takes the burden off the operational budget.

H. BOARD ATTORNEY / SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS – Mr. Martin had no comments. Dr. Browder noted Mrs. Dozier touching upon continuous systemic improvement in Lee. He noted getting the results we’re talking about and everyone to talk a common language as we move forward. He thanked—from the bottom of his heart—the Board, teachers and support staff as they stand daily for children and to imagine one second that they don’t is contrary to what’s right. It was reiterated that that 87% of District schools are A and B. The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

/dwm

Jane E. Kuckel, Ph.D., Meeting Chair

ATTEST:

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.