



VISION:
To be a world-class school system.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY – Briefing Meeting / M I N U T E S
Tuesday—September 9, 2008 / 2:30 p.m. (called to order by Dr. Kuckel at 2:44 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

A. BOARD MEMBERS

- 1. Special Areas of Board Involvement/Reports** – Mr. Teuber attended the Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards' meeting where work was done on their legislative platform to bring to Tallahassee (vote at 9/23 meeting); he explained background on pulled Amendments 5, 7, and 9. He noted an upcoming conference on student use of cell phones/devices; Mrs. Dozier cautioned re legislation passed after 9/11, but Mr. Teuber noted his goal was to empower principals at a local level vs. the Board. Dr. Kuckel noted his comment of speaking to several principals and suggested a survey be done, with a recommendation through Dr. Browder. Dr. Browder suggested cautiously looking at this with Mr. Teuber; info can be brought to the Board planning session on how students spend their time. Dr. Kuckel noted the Board's policy responsibility but staff members need to be included; we need to spread far and wide to find pros/cons in making changes or issues. Mr. Chilmonik noted a great Estero fundraising running event. He complimented Fort Myers High for being the only District school to exceed every SAT number on national and state and complimented other District schools' gains, noting he'll communicate in future as to why SAT is important to the District, county growth. Mrs. Dozier noted the Board liaison slot to the current Calendar Committee (Dr. Kuckel can't make first meeting); consensus was for Mrs. Dozier and Dr. Scricca, alternate. Mrs. Dozier noted FSBA Board of Directors meeting where good ideas heard about other districts' budget cuts/what they're doing; she'll provide a copy to Board of FSBA events' calendar. Consensus reached after discussion that Board won't be joining NSBA (FSBA belongs); we won't attend national conference(s). Mrs. Dozier noted Sam Sirianni event; he was thought of very highly, as community paid thousands for statute in tribute. She noted the upcoming (October or November) planning session and Board Members are to forward their topics to Mrs. Lesansky via e-mail (if some have the same topic, then that many facilitators). Dr. Scricca arrived and apologized for being late; she noted the FSBA conference's theme of "Bridge Over Troubled Waters." The pulling of the amendments seemed to provide some calm but it was disparaging to hear other districts' troubles/wringing of hands. She noted there's much to be grateful for, mentioning our two re-elected members and our good Board and Superintendent leadership. Dr. Kuckel noted our forward direction to try and solve problems/looking at things in our district; hard-working Insurance Task Force is reviewing health care costs to make the best decisions. The interest-based decision/negotiating works well; Dr. Kuckel noted the pulling of a straw design for what most could live with, and she thanked the bargaining units. She noted the tough times and staying positive though the education economy won't do better until Tallahassee decisions are made. Dr. Kuckel noted doing an upbeat Lee in the Loop article, challenging the pockets of excellence (Mr. Teuber will switch for the next issue due to a hot topic). Dr. Kuckel looks forward to meeting with the Curriculum Advisory Committee; she would like discussion, topics and policy reviewed for the charges given to Board advisory committees.
- 2. Discussion/Value Adjustment Board (VAB)** – Dr. Browder noted two applications received (his 9/5/08 memo and attachments on file with these minutes); he requests direction to move forward (9/23 agenda item), asking Mr. Martin the appropriate next step. Consensus was given to recommend Mr. Kobie (Dr. Browder will call him) and Dr. Kuckel will be the VAB Board liaison, with Mr. Teuber as alternate.
- 3. Discussion/Board Advisory Committees** – The Board gave consensus on the list of proposed names (copy on file).

B. ACADEMIC SERVICES

- 1. New Charter School Applications** – Dr. Browder noted the Goodwill Academy of SWFL and the Bonita ap. Dr. Scricca commended Ms. Pottorf (Goodwill leader in audience) in embodying all possible good will and leadership, with compassion and a curriculum where students are encouraged. Mr. McCullers noted Lisa Hay in attendance for the other charter, and he proceeded with a PowerPoint re background information (copy on file with agenda back-up). The Bonita school will be prep and fitness (they don't participate in FRS). The second one—Goodwill—is comparable to their Life Academy and will be transition for those completing special diploma (8 students expected to grow to 15); the building's adjacent on the same campus. Independent living is being worked on. Students will be helped re accessing public transportation. Competitive grants were included in this proposed charter ap due to confidence felt.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT SERVICES

1. **Change Orders/August** – there were no questions (back-up on file with minutes).

D. BUSINESS SERVICES – no items today**E. HUMAN RESOURCES** – no items**F. EXECUTIVE SERVICES****1. Policies/Rules**

- Policy 4.28, Admission of International & Foreign Exchange Students (revised) [9/23] – It was confirmed that the language's basically changing and not the expectation; Dr. Browder noted we deal a lot with foreign exchange issues but it's positive and flows smoothly.
- Policy 5.04, Fingerprinting & Background Screening (revised) [9/23] – Dr. Browder commended the applicable Professional Standards' personnel in attendance and this was done in 1-2 years vs. the 4-5 we set out with. After 7/1/04, all have to be re-fingerprinted; the process was changed/rewritten/reviewed by Mr. Dodig and Martin. Re a question on employees paying, the language says "may" but Dr. Browder noted if applicable (another round), it would have to come to the Board for discussion and current seeded employees would have to be negotiated.
- Policy 6.01, Authorized Travel Expense Reimbursement (revised) [9/23] – It was noted 'f' is where the major change is—the Board Member part. Mileage for transportation from residence to any School Board Meeting was taken out. Mr. Martin noted two components of the issue: transportation from residence to Board Meeting; and to some other location in the District (re the latter, employees entitled to reimbursement for official duty). There's the possibility of restricting the second; Mr. Martin noted it can be put on the Board's planning agenda. Mr. Chilmonik noted he's in favor of eliminating it all and strike reimbursing functions. It was confirmed that there had been discussion/consensus (gentlemen's/ladies' agreement) at a previous Board meeting to not charge mileage to meetings. Mr. Martin will look into the second component. In response to removing it from the 9/23 agenda, Mr. Martin noted to give consensus (public hearing already advertised) to this portion as he doesn't have doubt the Board can remove the home to LCPEC part. Mrs. Dozier noted getting new policies in place for new school year. The subject of mileage reimbursement for other in-county travel (not to LCPEC) and functions will be discussed at the planning meeting.
- SP&P for ESE (extension) [9/23] – Dr. Browder noted this relates to ESE, requirements we follow (comes from state); he recommends we carry over this year's items until state has opportunity to re-do and give back to us (that's what item's about; public hearing advertised). This is actually moving forward the submission of policies/procedures; it was noted that by December the state plans to have revised and the document will be brought back when in place.

2. **Update/Impact Fees** – Dr. Browder note today's (lack of) discussion at the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) meeting; he has given information to the Board on impact fees and he can answer as well as Keith or Heather. Mr. Martin explained to Mr. Chilmonik that the amount of the fee is adopted into a County ordinance and that the School Board doesn't adopt policy—it's the Commission's authority. If the School Board wishes, as a body, to endorse different action, Mr. Martin's noted appreciation of input. The BoCC will be considering an amendment to their ordinance to change the fee (school part downward) at their 9/23 meeting; Dr. Browder will attend with Mr. Legutko and others. Mrs. Dozier noted they've been through the process. While impact fees are for districts, the Board has authority to discuss and make recommendation to BoCC (who usually acts on our recommendation). Mr. Chilmonik noted he'll make some suggestions in an editorial, as there appears to be no time for Board discussion re the timeline; he noted impacts businesses and jobs.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT – none today

- H. **BOARD ATTORNEY / SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS** – Mr. Martin provided a school law minute on legislations from the past—SB 242 of single-gender programs in school activities/curriculum (must be equal to other gender, with co-ed class open to all; no requirement to do single gender but every two years reviewed for success/implementation). Dr. Browder will check into a question of single-gender opportunities alternating years (he'll provide info). Separately, Dr. Browder noted the City of Fort Myers has stepped away from their original position of interest in the Adams building; Ms. Hawkins will contact others (about 4) who were interested and an advertising standpoint then taken (follow process). Dr. Browder shared a brochure (much work) from the Autism Task Force (and subcommittees) going to medical providers, hospitals, Fiddlers, etc.; he commended Dr. Brunick, staff, committee, parents and citizens who are interested in helping children. Early identification

is always stressed. Drs. Kuckel and Scricca attended the rally; appreciation was noted. Re the decreased District enrollment figures, Dr. Browder noted it's around 3,100 to take away a \$13 million FTE shortfall we've set aside vs. 2,000 (his number's around 3,500 not using weighted); there are 62 open-end positions and long-term subs who knew job wasn't permanent (then there's first-year annual contract teachers). In an original thought of losing 30-40 instructional positions, it may be more but a lot of work and time spent on this; Dr. Jones and Budget are still working/trying everything we can to balance the situation and information will be forthcoming. At FSBA conference, numbers being down was heard (also, it was mentioned that teachers were being offered opportunity to be full-time subs). In response to a question, it was noted that in a worst-case scenario possibly, it could be 75 surplus instructional positions. Dr. Browder anticipates bringing a plan on what everything costs. The issue of reducing people after a school year starts is on the east and west coast of Florida; work continues with Ms. Mutzenard, Mr. Castellano, and Dr. Adkins. The fix is to keep as many people working as possible, minimize human capital damage, and realize we can't be in the red. In looking at '06/07, we lost \$9 million in FTE (millions in calendar year 08); if all stays as snapshot today, it could be \$13 million but we're almost a month from October. Dr. Browder feels the number could be more like \$16 million and February could see \$3-4 million; preparations have to be made for worst-case scenario. We're working through it and the schools; Dr. Jones on this all day today and the Superintendent will provide updates via phone or memo. Re Mr. Chilmonik's question, Dr. Browder asks him not to give specific numbers (we've used October FTE number the past few years; that's the exact). The Superintendent, per Mr. Chilmonik's question, again noted open-end, long-term subs, subs (no obligation) and first-year teachers. We'll keep as many people as we can but there's the 97-day opportunity if we're in a real difficult situation. We hope there'll be 62 positions that will be available for movement. These are non-normal things being dealt with across the state; we've taken actual head count by hand as well to see what's inside FTE reporting. These are unprecedented times (there were 15 years' growth); Mike Smith (Planning) is looking at everything possible, as it's a new day. Eligibility lists opened up at schools way down in enrollment (where kids want to go; if something helps, we do) and we're trying to minimize adjustment to master schedules in secondary. Re Dr. Kuckel's question on closing a school, Dr. Browder noted it's a district-wide thing but all options being considered (that being done may not help another situation and it would be hard to do right now). Dr. Browder will bring an item that's capital which looks at shifting some students into a location because of the facility condition they're in (all options explored). Meeting was adjourned at 4:21 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.