



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 23, 2008 / 2:30 p.m. (called to order by Dr. Kuckel at 2:41 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. ITEMS WITH GUESTS

1. Presentation/Critter Cards – Dr. Carlin introduced staff and Pinewoods students. Ms. Reasoner, teacher, noted gifted program's successful business last 10 years—gives experience marketing a (profitable) product to completion; students donate portion to a community organization (e.g., \$500--CROW) with partnerships with cultural groups, businesses, community, university professor mentor; parents volunteer/work with the students (show expertise). Students here today explained this year's endangered animal notecards (habitat, characteristics), drawings, research, and advertising.

B. BOARD MEMBERS

1. Special Areas of Board Involvement/Reports – Mr. Teuber attended an open house, noting amazement of what students do daily if one were to go to a classroom for 10 minutes and commended staff, parents, and community members—he's humbled by District work day-to-day. He's looking forward to his being DAC liaison (meetings recently attended) and complimented Mr. McNerney and Dr. Scricca for their work. Dr. Scricca thanked DAC; she commended the students heard today. She noted Foundation's Partners in Education (PIE) outstanding speaker; and impressive Horizon Council Industry Appreciation where creativity, initiative, and forthrightness of business community members recognized. Mrs. Dozier apologized for missing these two, as she was ill; she noted FSBA conference call where discussed was formation of some kind of state banking organization vs. what's previously existed. All seem interested and hands-on board member involvement will be different than past as seeing investments/transparency wanted. She noted on-going work for Board planning session (4+ hours) and topics to be e-mailed. Mr. Chilmonik noted: Pine Island Special Olympics' run this past weekend, as some students did fabulous; and Kappa Alpha Psi event, thanking Dr. Browder for comments and strategic listening used. Re Industry Appreciation event, Mr. Chilmonik felt, though 9% unemployment, there's a lot of innovation and it's good to meet/recognize businesses—some he was unaware of. Dr. Kuckel attended PIE, noting tribute to Dr. Browder for what he's brought to the District as well as the Foundation and District staff; this sold-out event was held in a small room not so many years ago, and thanks to business partners for what they do for schools. Students experience real-life experiences vs. how smart or not. Dr. Kuckel spoke at Cape's Do the Right Thing ceremony; character ed exemplified by students. Insurance Task Force's struggling re claim costs but they problem-solve, communicate well and research. She's planning to meet with all Bonita Council members (some new) to get acquainted, talk interests in our schools, and work collaboratively; some may be unfamiliar with our library and parks' partnerships.

C. ACADEMIC SERVICES

1. Recognitions/Graduations – Dr. Browder noted Dr. Jones' summary prep re cum laude recommendations (copy on file); he thought it important to bring back at the beginning of school—reminder of new system modeled after universities. Instead of 1-2, this brings recognition to over 4,320. System has been successful at Fort Myers High the last several years. Dr. Jones noted the description of cum laude (based on weighted system) is part of the student progression plan (on website) for anyone to check criteria. After 2005 approval, every affected parent received a letter to receive information as part of the new system's coordination. Student speakers are to be selected by schools, similar to IB—summa cum laude students choose a speaker for the ceremony. Re Dr. Scricca's question today on career education certification, a new high school diploma was added to encourage students entering a career (has to do with comprehensive high schools).

D. ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT SERVICES – no agenda items today

E. BUSINESS SERVICES – no items

F. HUMAN RESOURCES – no items

G. EXECUTIVE SERVICES

1. English Language Learners Plan (EEL) [10/7] – Dr. Clarke noted this formerly known as ESOL plan; template is DOE's. She explained a parent is asked at Student Assignment a variety of questions—three re language spoken at home;

if 'yes' to any of these, then need for a LAP test is assessed (61% or lower require receiving English language barrier assistance). Re sheltered, there's inclusion for basic core; at middle and secondary, many have sheltered English. Sheltered core basic's in international classrooms with intensive language barrier focus. She proceeded with PowerPoint (on file). With LEP changing to ELL terminology (ESOL phased out), meta course unaffected; child scoring 32% or lower gets services. District changed it to 61%; one change is no longer having flexibility. We're under current plan for LAP scores. We're in a year of transition; it's unwanted for students immediately exiting because of change. CELLA was revised; Dr. Clarke showed the last survey, noting another language spoken in home (re home language survey). Charter schools not in the big number; ELL population as of last week was 6,804 out of 70,877. Re number of surveyed (23,249), Mike Smith has it run off mainframe. Another language in the home may be by a family member; simply here is the survey asked for every applicable student and if yes, testing moved forward for eligibility determined on that score. She continued, noting some things working great; others can improve. There is learning after school (Title 3, over last three years, requires schools not performing well/achievement gap/EL to implement extended learning opportunities). Re four years ago, analysis/scientific-based research done but we're heading towards more standardized initiative vs. previous five options. We'll assess and evaluate; Dr. Browder noted it goes back to the standardization discussion to ensue instructional materials match what we're trying to achieve. We're moving upward trend with requirements (annual measurable goals to see what students are achieving). Re a question, ELL graduations increased 1% but we want to move forward; our numbers in reading and math are not up to standards re AYP and there's been a decrease in students below grade level (2% in reading and 4% in math district-wide). We missed Safe Harbor by 1% (would have to improve 1% in writing). There are more parent literacy opportunities to learn in English in resource centers and schools. Thanks were noted.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT – Sue Jacobse noted accolades to schools for her full-time gifted daughter's success (Edison Park, Pinewoods) due to stability and breadth of knowledge quality delivered daily; business skills and science are able to be combined with students holding onto these facts—it's how to learn (vs. being special). She's thankful for gifted under ESE.

I. BOARD ATTORNEY / SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS – Mr. Martin provided a school law minute on SB 642—classroom placement of multiple-birth siblings. Dr. Browder appreciates Kappa Alpha Psi event's positive comments and use of strategic listening; latter gave feel of what known about school system and an opportunity to fill in blanks. From last week's meeting of superintendents, Dr. Browder noted a doctor's piece of information on larger U.S. learning; latter was schooled and humbled by his 6-year-old grandson on what needs to be looked at/done for public education. Dr. Browder asked this inside of Central Leadership. Toy manufacturers are way in front. He noted we'll suffer another budget reduction mid-year; districts being asked to hold back 4% though it might be 2 (3-1/2 might be smart figure; governor has tapped \$700 million of rainy day fund). Timing's before winter break or return unless general state revenues increase. Superintendents are concerned about the economy and people, though education was to be held harmless (reduced 14%); if Board Members have questions, please contact him. He'll be sharing outline of what's been done inside Florida and Lee as it relates to the state and our budget situation (6-8 pages); if one talks with organizations, they'll have accurate details—it's not just about the state but national economy. He distributed one-page chart (on-file) containing a circle re school improvement, noting what we'll do inside District to fill in blank areas around the wheel. In last 6-year window, standardizing curriculum is an example; next 6 are to deliver best quality education to students. He's talking about common assessments going quarterly (TALC involved); some examples given. He feels this is one of biggest curriculum items (delivering instruction)—where we're going next 20 years/what sticks when you're gone. Many around state are significantly behind us re common assessments/where we are going; he's hoping we'll have more discussions on academic plans (every subject by grade level) and piloting wider/deeper. He feels we're in top 8 districts in state on this work DOE's attempting to do (Brevard's done much; Alachua just starting); many are realizing consistency is key. There are standards students have to know for the state (there is less in other countries versus Florida) but our teachers are artful at taking these to teach, so kids have pre-requisite skills. Dr. Browder answered Mr. Chilmonik (latter thanked for memo) re our Fund B's 3-1/2% (moved to Fund A when liquid). Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

ATTEST:

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

James W. Browder, Ed.D., Secretary and District Superintendent

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