



VISION:
To be a world-class school system.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY – Briefing Meeting / M I N U T E S
Tuesday – November 18, 2008 / 2:30 p.m. (called to order by Dr. Kuckel at 3:01 p.m.)

Attendees: Mrs. Jeanne S. Dozier, School Board Chair
Mr. Robert D. Chilmonik, Board Member
Dr. Elinor C. Scricca, Board Member
Dr. James W. Browder, Secretary & District Superintendent
Dr. Jane E. Kuckel, Board 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. **Ida S. Baker High School / Scholarship Web Site** – Melissa Robery, Assistant Principal, noted each student develops a personal portfolio with accomplishments at Ida Baker High; today's project was coordinated with the Cape Coral Chamber (speakers today also included two students, Ida Baker Academy Instructor and Coordinator, Chamber rep—latter works for local Cape bank and on Chamber education committee). There's a good working relationship with the schools, with new ways sought. The website shown will help students in future; it's desired to have students return to the city where they grew up. The students explained the background, nicer look desired, sponsor page/subsequent updating, website page in general; the local scholarship page is the main focus with the months/due dates and it's a central place for students to make post-graduate inquiries (other informative links were noted). Mr. Teuber would like this at the next DAC meeting. The project took 35-40 hours for the Ida Baker students to type through from hard copy; there was also design time. The Guidance Counselor noted this as a great tool; there are 200+ scholarship opportunities.

B. BOARD MEMBERS

1. **Special Areas of Board Involvement / Reports** – Mr. Chilmonik attended Lee Mental Health community awards (volunteers) lunch and Skyline and Gulf Middle's Veterans Day events; he noted students' Cape parade participation and the great community- and vendor-supported Autism walk. Cafferata School was congratulated for their coin drive. Mrs. Dozier noted the 11/7 Board Re-organization/Planning Meeting where all participated in much discussion, talking about future plans; she noted the Continuous Systemic Improvement (Board advisory committee) meeting where a Chair and Vice Chair were elected as well as Dr. Itzen and Mrs. Boyle going over the Strategic Plan and School Improvement Plan alignments. Mrs. Dozier painted on a South Fort Myers High visit and attended the Take Stock in Children auction where the Board's donation for a progressive dinner raised around \$2,600; she went to the Edison-Ford meeting. Mr. Teuber noted the Foundation's Take Stock event as great. Dr. Kuckel visited Bonita Middle this morning and noted it's phenomenal, getting better all the time, and Dr. Lohmeyer taking it by storm. There's work with community organizations—FGCU; discipline program involving students; etc. Dr. Kuckel was also at: Take Stock; PACE lunch (students spoke about difficult experiences and new opportunities); Children's Advocacy Center reception (wonderful for abused/neglected children); Estero Historical Society lunch; and Nova's new facility community welcome.

C. ACADEMIC SERVICES

1. **FELLA-HS Grant** – Dr. Jones noted we've special interest in literacy program and language skills. Dr. Clarke and Ms. LaFountain presented (handout on file). It's interesting to know some of the studies so as to improve. Ms. LaFountain noted the District's participation in a special grant for Florida English Language Learners. There's the ACF Head Start University Partnership grant and other counties are participating also (Hillsborough, Monroe, Palm Beach, etc.). From the handout, examples were given of what they have, when they leave, etc. Domains, measures, and additional measures (classroom—environment and interactions in children) were noted. There are classes at Caloosa, Orangewood, Orange River, Villas, and North Ft. Myers Academy for the Arts (all primarily 4-year-olds). The program duration and scope were reviewed from the handout (data to be provided for in study); results will be shared via on-going process and final results of the project published 2010-11. Training will be provided for curriculum specialists; there'll be a spring focus group on ELL children. We feel lucky to be selected and proud. It was explained by Dr. Browder that with 3- to 4-year-olds, it's easier to be successful as they enter our schools with this. Dr. Kuckel noted it's data-driven along the way.

D. ADMINISTRATIVE / SUPPORT SERVICES

1. **LEED Presentation** – Bill Moore noted the state initiative to protect natural resources/environment and after 7/1/08, projects are to be constructed to meet the standards of any nationally-recognized, high-performance green building rating system approved by the Department of Management Services; charter schools are not required to follow. (See handout on file.) Points were given re certification; all three are about the same except Florida green for disaster mitigation. An important point made was that all of our design professionals are already accredited in LEED and some of the construction managers as well. Mr. Moore noted we already met most requirements of some of the standards; during the past 5 years, using most energy-efficient HVAC, pressurizing air, automated light controls, etc. District's been out

front—e.g., Treeline (last school prototyped/opened), architect was requested to run a LEED analysis and he came back with a score of 37 where only a 29 was needed. Mr. Moore noted the Board and Superintendent's pride for decisions over operations past 5 years. In response to Mr. Chilmonik's question on FGCU's solar panels, Mr. Moore believes this is separate but points/credit can be received. All options are to be looked at for future energy. Dr. Kuckel noted good questions and as options energy-source options become efficient (cost-wise as well), it's anticipated they'll be considered for offsets. For the District, inside the LEED program, we're being proactive and costs are being minimized—ice storage, instruments, and new things inside schools. Unfunded mandates were noted as well as continued work with legislators and Consortium; there'll be more expenses though some may save money in the meantime.

E. BUSINESS SERVICES – none

F. HUMAN RESOURCES – none

G. EXECUTIVE SERVICES

1. **Policies / Chapter 2** – Dr. Browder noted, for revising/minimizing duplication, there are nine chapters to do in the next 1-1/2 years (this one was big). Mr. Martin noted it will come to the Board one more time at Briefing. Dr. Browder asked for Board review and forward on any questions/comments. It was clarified to Mr. Chilmonik that the line (35/a) re public comments is for people in attendance at a rally; Mr. Martin noted in amendment to use grounds for legislation passage.
2. **Rule 403(b), TSA Plan Document [12/9]** – Dr. Browder explained item's requirement re IRS and we've a number of companies providing service to our employees/having to meet law requirements; today's being shared what transpired—Insurance Task Force has been meeting to finalize (Ms. Strong noted 10/29 meeting finalization). There are requirements for Districts to have a plan document; TSA consulting groups provided this to us (our consultants help us to comply). In response to Mr. Chilmonik, it was confirmed that employees can take loans from TSAs but with rules; and employees can do multiple companies—some have 2-3 (agencies have to qualify; there are changes with age and years of service—it's very complicated, thus we use a service). The District was fortunate in the model plan in that vendors agree to pay the price (e.g., administration cost)--\$1/employee with active account each month; the Board approved the 6/19 amendment to the TSA consulting group's contract (companies are paying fees directly to our consultant so we don't have to).
3. **Rule 2009-10 Plan for Student Assignment [12/9]** – Dr. Browder noted the summary/changes—minor in nature and focus on achieving efficiencies and equity inside Plan (people were added on the Placement Committee; language added between sibling preference and guarantee; some sub-zone work done to allow students opportunity to get in schools; eligibility pools moved back 15 days, etc.). It's realized when something doesn't work, we come back. Other changes: Dunbar High to East (more kids choosing out of East, technology aspect; South zone still can do as magnet preference), sub-zone boundaries adjusted/Manatee and Oak Hammock into E-2. Mrs. Dozier noted possible criteria for Dunbar High when not picked for technology—e.g., sports. Dr. Browder noted Dunbar's high mobility vs. low stability rate (as seats become available in other zones, students leave no matter what program—it's not desired to say to South that now you must go into a South Zone school). It's hoped to see, with East Zone students choosing, that stability will be helped (if not, can be revisited in two years). In the (East Zone) staging school, G. Weaver Hipps will be opened. The new Michigan Academy was thought to be built but as data studied/analyzed, Dr. Browder's feeling was to step away from construction at this point and use what we've done and refurbish as park atmosphere, moving Michigan into Lee Middle (requiring additional renovation for latter). At that location, a K-8 school would be housed (900 kids); the IB middle years program started would be attached once permission obtained. The Superintendent feels it's a good maximization of buildings, saving possibly half of the \$17 million project allocation; tech upgrade and Title 1 school requested (will be top-notch building to use in future no matter what plan). It's not expected to see the merger creating a loss of jobs but spread out. Dr. Browder talked at the EDAC meeting last Thursday re this as well as Ms. Muvdi and Mr. Smith. EDAC thought sensible and was supportive of park atmosphere. Mrs. Dozier noted traffic safety issue, suggesting pedestrian overpass to access park, but it's good putting infrastructure in for the community. Dr. Browder, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Castellanos discussed this; the Board does other things right re facilities (positive access from one side to another, enclosed). The City can be contacted re encouragement to participate. In response to Mr. Chilmonik, it's not the law but by example—there are sidewalks in front of the building (but don't extend beyond 4-way stop/not beyond our property line). Due diligence will be done. Dr. Kuckel's interested in maybe an interlocal. Dr. Browder will bring a plan and public hearing needed. Per Dr. Kuckel's inquiry on transportation costs, we're moving (not eliminating) Oak Hammock and Manatee; he doesn't see cost increase (business already in area and gives more flexibility).

H. PUBLIC COMMENT – Ms. Jacobse observed EDAC committee meeting, noting their synergy/positive support towards the Plan. She likes the leadership of Dr. Browder and staff, citing the idea of re-doing as a park; she noted 52% of parents choose schools not closest to them due to work, safety and that they're afraid of who's lurking out the front door.

I. **BOARD ATTORNEY / SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS** – Mr. Martin provided a school law minute on SB1070— intergovernmental cooperation (interlocals with other local governments in the state; e.g., maintenance, providing transportation for public purposes, reimbursing District for cost/maintenance/other; renting public facility, indemnifying District from arising uses). We have numerous interlocals (portion of maintenance/upkeep by joint user). There’s new statute compliance, new entity paying costs of maintenance and other (liability for us paid for us to sue), and relevant contracts’ requirements. Dr. Browder wished all a happy Thanksgiving on behalf of the Board and himself. Meeting adjourned at 4:19.

/dwm

ATTEST:

Jane E. Kuckel, Ph.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.