



VISION:
To be a world-class school system.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY
School Board Briefing Meeting – MINUTES
(School Board Meeting Room, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Fort Myers, FL)
Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Attending

Mr. Steven K. Teuber, Chairman	Dr. James W. Browder, Secretary and District Superintendent
Dr. Elinor C. Scricca, Vice Chairman	Mr. Keith Martin, Board Attorney
Mr. Robert D. Chilmonik, Member	
Mrs. Jeanne S. Dozier, Member	Mrs. Donna Lesansky, Recording Secretary
Dr. Jane E. Kuckel, Member	

Dr. Scricca called the Briefing Meeting of January 12, 2010, to order at 2:50 P.M.

A. Item(s) with Guests

1. Lee County Health Department – Dr. Judith Hartner

Dr. Hartner, Director of the Lee County Health Department, expressed appreciation to Dr. Browder and his staff for allowing the Health Department to use the District's high schools as H1N1 vaccination clinics. She spoke very highly of everyone with whom she worked during that time.

B. Board Members

1. Special Areas of Board Involvement / Reports

Mr. Chilmonik: spoke at a recent Rotary Club meeting; attended a League of Women Voters dinner on Sunday; participated in the "Bad to the Bone" race at the Pine Island Complex and will participate in another race on February 6th at Lakes Park; asked that the Superintendent address transportation issues and The Sanibel School investigation during his comments.

Mrs. Dozier: distributed packets to the Board Members containing information on Achieve3000 and provided a brief overview of this reading program.

Dr. Kuckel: commented on her involvement on the Calendar Committee; attended last night's Curriculum Advisory Committee Meeting where a discussion regarding textbook selection occurred.

Mr. Teuber: attended a recent Learning for Life meeting; received consensus from the Board for him to work with Dr. Browder regarding expansion of the Teen Mentor program; requested that discussions with Lee Tran resume/continue regarding the establishment of routes to assist with the transportation of Lee County students.

Dr. Scricca: attended another Pride & Patriotism meeting; assisted at the Burroughs Home prior to the holidays in her capacity as liaison to the Uncommon Friends Foundation; met with the Construction Advisory Committee last week where a review of the energy savings document was conducted; announced that she would be meeting with a representative from

the County on January 27th regarding the removal of the old tree in front of the Courthouse to determine if there is a School District use for the seedlings; offered congratulations to the 30 Golden Apple finalists and Johnny Weeks, the District's Educational Support Person of the Year.

C. Academic Services – Dr. Constance Jones

1. Update / Race to The Top (“RTTT”)

Dr. Browder distributed a draft of the School District's Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) (*a copy of which is on file with the official minutes*) and provided an update on the status of this initiative. He stated that while Mr. Castellano, as President of the Teachers Association of Lee County, has declined to sign the MOU, he [Dr. Browder] would like to submit it to the Department of Education with his own and Mr. Teuber's signatures.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to decline transmittal of the MOU. Dr. Browder stated that he would send a letter today to the DOE informing them that Lee County would not be a participating school district in the RTTT grant but would like to retain the right to be an involved district when such opportunities occur.

2. Transition High Schools

Dr. Browder updated the Board on the plan to transition 83 middle school students of high school age to high school campuses for accelerated learning purposes. He explained that the initiative involves the hiring of four to six teachers and the purchase of mobile labs. He informed the Board that he would be meeting with middle school personnel in the morning and that the Board could be asked to approve the cost related to the transition high schools at the next Board Meeting.

Dr. Ami Desamours clarified that the cost for the mobile labs alone is approximately \$275,000.

D. Administrative/Support Services – Mr. Michael McNerney

1. Change Orders – December 2009

A packet containing the information was included in the meeting packets for the Board Members' information and review.

E. Business Services – Mrs. Greta Campbell / Dr. Ami Desamours

1. FY11 FTE Forecast

Dr. Ami Desamours reviewed the FY11 FTE Projection Analysis contained in the meeting packet. She informed the Board that the District has submitted its projection of 80,600 students (which represents an increase of approximately 1.7% over current enrollment) to the State but has not yet been notified whether or not this projection would be accepted.

F. Human Resources – Dr. Greg Adkins (None)

G. Executive Services – Dr. James Browder

1. Proposed FY11 School Calendar

Dr. Browder presented the draft FY11 School Calendar that was created as a result of work by the Calendar Committee and informed the Board that he planned to bring it forward for Board approval at the next Board Meeting.

Board Members expressed concern regarding the interruptions to learning that would result from a number of the days off, especially during the week of September 6th-10th.

Mr. Martin informed the Board that to the extent that they choose to adopt a calendar that provides for no school on a religious holiday, the valid legal purpose is to acknowledge that a substantial number of students may not attend school on that day and by no means is an acknowledgment of the religious holiday in and of itself.

Dr. Browder asked the Board to approve the proposed calendar when it is presented, to allow him to work with Mr. Teuber to schedule a workshop for the purpose of discussing and identifying what should be considered during the development of the FY12 school calendar in order to ensure an educationally sound schedule, and to allow him to form a task force to review suggestions and concerns that arise from the workshop.

The Board provided consensus on the above plan.

2. Policy 4.30, Student Assignment Under the No Child Left Behind (“NCLB”) Act
(revisions 1/26/10)

Dr. Browder asked that the Board support the changes to Policy 4.30 to allow the District flexibility in communicating and implementing federal legislation related to the NCLB Act.

H. Public Comment

Mark Castellano (President of the Teachers Association of Lee County): stated his pleasure with the Board’s decision regarding the Race to The Top grant

Sue Jacobse: transportation issues

I. Board Attorney’s / Superintendent’s Comments

Mr. Martin shared a “School Law Minute” on Senate Bill 278, which makes changes to the Statute addressing the operation of charter schools.

Dr. Browder stated that prior to Winter Break, LCPEC employees collected approximately 775 pounds of food for needy families; acknowledged Tropic Isles as a Title I Distinguished School, Trafalgar Elementary as a Kagan Model School, and North Fort Myers High School and Ida S. Baker High School as State Academic Team Champions; commented and provided information on the e-mails regarding school bus transportation issues that were provided to the Board by FOX-4 at the December 8th Board Meeting; distributed and reviewed a memorandum to the Board dated January 12, 2009, regarding The Sanibel School investigation, concluding that no grounds to discipline the principal were found (*a copy of the memorandum is on file with the official minutes*).

Dr. Scricca adjourned the January 12, 2010, Briefing Meeting at 4:30 P.M.

ATTEST:

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

An audio-visual recording of this meeting has been produced to provide a verbatim record of the proceedings and may be viewed on the School District's Website at www.leechools.net/board/stream/welcome.htm Members of the public wishing to obtain a copy of the recording of this or any meeting of the School Board must make a request through the District's Communications Department at (239) 337-8327.