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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, February 23, 2010

Attending

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

Dr. Scricca called the Briefing Meeting of February 23, 2010, to order at 2:30 P.M.

A. Item(s) with Guests (*None*)

B. Board Members

1. Special Areas of Board Involvement / Reports

Mr. Chilmonik: congratulated the schools that participated in the Edison Pageant of Light events; stated that he attended the Teacher of the Year presentation at Mariner High School; requested a discussion regarding AP exams and the percentage of students who are taking these tests; requested that an independent audit of the Purchasing Department be conducted as it relates to the Office Depot situation, especially with regard to the amount refunded for overpayments, and asked for input from the other Board Members.

Mrs. Dozier, Dr. Kuckel, and Dr. Scricca deferred to the Superintendent to provide input. Dr. Browder provided an update on the matter, reminding the Board Members that they all understood and agreed to the process before the District moved forward with the agreement with Office Depot. He added that the District continues to explore the data and work with the company on any additional resolution.

Dr. Kuckel: stated that she represented the Board at the February VAB meeting and will do so again in March, and that she attended tea with the Bonita Art League; announced that she is looking forward to reading in the schools in March.

Mrs. Dozier: stated that she recently met with the Continuous Systemic Improvement Advisory Committee, and that the Committee has asked that the District look at the Strategic Plan because there is nothing in the document that addresses AYP; stated that she attended several Edison of Pageant of Light events; referred to the recent ranking of outside counsel provided by Mr. Martin and asked him to comment on the ranking of Tom Gonzalez; referred to a recent e-mail about a Craig's List advertisement soliciting District employees with badges and requested that the Superintendent look into it.

Dr. Scricca: stated that she attended a meeting of the Lehigh Chamber of Commerce; stated that she is looking forward to reading in the schools, judging the History Fair, and attending the Military Ball; asked the Superintendent to provide the number of Haitian students that the District has accepted.

Dr. Browder informed the Board that 40 Haitian students have enrolled, which qualifies the District for federal grant money for displaced students. He added that Lee County is in the top 7/8 districts in the state for the number of students enrolled.

C. Academic Services – Dr. Constance Jones

1. STEM Initiative with Imaginarium

Dr. Browder stated that he recently attended a STEM session at Florida Gulf Coast University where the initiative with the Imaginarium was discussed. He provided some statistics garnered from the session and stated that STEM is related to the Race to The Top grant.

2. Update / Title I

Dr. Sheryl Clarke, Director of Intervention Services, provided and reviewed a document containing information on Supplemental Educational Services (SES). She explained that under the No Child Left Behind Act, many public school students from low-income families are eligible to receive free academic tutoring under the national SES program. During her presentation, Dr. Clarke responded to Board Members' questions regarding the qualifications that parents look for when choosing an SES site, the possibility of establishing common assessments for all providers, facility rentals, and strategies to encourage more parents to partake of the service.

3. Strategic Plan Summary Data (*respond to questions*)

Dr. Browder referred to his February 4, 2010, memorandum and told the Board that he or staff would be happy to answer any questions.

Dr. Itzen responded to Mr. Chilmonik's question regarding the Science Performance Data in the District Strategic Plan. He explained that the data is taken directly from the Florida DOE district grading report.

D. Administrative/Support Services – Mr. Michael McNerney

1. Update / TransPar Group – Transportation

Dr. Browder informed the Board that members of the TransPar Group are in the District and have been working with staff to collect information during the audit process. He added that he is looking forward to receiving their report some time in April.

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

1. Update / Budget

Dr. Desamours, Executive Director for Business Services, provided a comparison between the Governor's recommended budget and the State's final budget for fiscal years 2007 through 2010. She informed the Board that the best case scenario for FY2011 is that the District would lose \$8.43 per FTE or \$1 million, and that the worst case scenario is that the District would lose \$342 per FTE or \$28 million. Dr. Desamours stated that information will continue to be updated and provided as the budget process moves forward.

Mrs. Dozier provided information received from Bob Cerra from Cerra Consulting regarding the Governor's recommended 2010-2011 budget and noted that now is the Board's opportunity to present the Superintendent with concrete budget ideas/suggestions.

F. Human Resources – Dr. Greg Adkins1. New Credential Requirements/Paraprofessionals, Helping Teachers, etc. *(respond to questions)*

Dr. Browder referred to his February 10, 2010, memorandum in which he provided information regarding the new credential requirements. He stated that the District is working to get individuals who are not yet qualified through the process. Dr. Browder explained that originally only paraprofessionals assigned to Title I schools needed to meet the “highly qualified” paraprofessional requirement; however, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, all instructional paraprofessionals and helping teachers in all schools must meet the requirement. He added that Dr. Clarke may have uncovered some information that indicates that non-Title I paraprofessionals may be afforded another year to become qualified.

Dr. Clarke reviewed the credentials that need to be satisfied in order to meet the requirement:

High school diploma or its equivalent; *and*

- Two years (48 semester hours) of study at an accredited postsecondary institution; *or*
- Associate’s degree or higher from an accredited postsecondary institution; *or*
- Passing score on the ParaPro exam (464 or higher).

In conclusion, Dr. Browder informed the Board that there will be individuals who will be unemployable and will not be eligible for reappointment until they have met the necessary requirements.

G. Executive Services – Dr. James Browder

1. Policies

a. P4.32, Head Start Eligibility Recruitment, Selection and Enrollment *(revised 3/9/10)*

Dr. Browder explained that the revisions are being recommended to ensure that the policy is in alignment with the community assessment and expansion grant requirements.

b. P7.04, Driving and Replacing District Vehicles *(revised 3/9/10)*

Dr. Browder explained that the revisions are being recommended to comply with the President’s Executive Order that each Federal agency that provides procurement contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements to encourage contractors, subcontractors, recipients, and sub-recipients, to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving government vehicles or their own vehicles while on government business.

Dr. Browder stated that these revised policies will be brought to the Board for adoption at the March 9, 2010, Board Meeting.

H. Public Comment *(None)***I. Board Attorney’s / Superintendent’s Comments**

Mr. Martin, in response to Mrs. Dozier’s request, explained that Mr. Gonzalez’ evaluation by Johns Eastern was low because a couple of the status reports for the one case that he is currently assigned were late; shared a “School Law Minute” about maintaining impartiality in student and employee discipline matters.

Dr. Browder congratulated Stephan Frank of Mariner High School for being chosen as the 2010 Teacher of the Year; stated that he participated in a number of Edison Pageant of Light activities; noted that preparation for the FCAT is beginning and urged everyone to stay focused; provided some information on strategies being employed by the Fulton County, Georgia, School District to

deal with budget reductions that include furloughing teachers, reducing the number of student school days, and increasing class size; stated that he attended an Imagine Solutions conference in Naples yesterday and shared some information on health care insurance in the nation.

Dr. Scricca adjourned the February 23, 2010, Briefing Meeting at 3:35 P.M.

Elinor C. Scricca, Ph.D., Meeting Chairman

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.leeschools.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.