



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, August 11, 2009

Attending

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

The Briefing Meeting of August 11, 2009, was called to order at 2:33 P.M.

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

B. Board Members

1. Special Areas of Board Involvement / Reports (*None*)
2. Legislative Platform 2010

Messrs. Bob and John Cerra, from Cerra Consulting Group, were present to review a discussion draft of the District's 2010 Legislative Priorities. Mr. Bob Cerra stated that the starting point was the effect of the 2009 Legislative Session on the individual issues contained within last year's legislative platform. He then presented each item on the discussion draft as follows:

Put a Proposed Constitutional Amendment on the ballot in 2010 that will freeze Class Size Reduction Implementation at the Class Size Average instead of mandating class by class caps.

- *Implementation of the current Class Size Reduction Implementing Statutes assumes that beginning in 2010-2011 that each school district will comply with class size caps in every single core subject area classroom. Given the mobility of our population and difficulties in scheduling at the middle school and high school levels, we request that the Legislature ask the citizens to amend the requirements to maintain the averages instead of a class by class cap.*

There was discussion among the Board whether or not this was appropriate for inclusion in the School District's platform or whether it would be better if it were included in the state-wide platforms of the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) and the Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards. Mr. Cerra told the Board that if the issue is important to them, they should include it in the District platform.

Provide for Appropriate Funding for Public Schools Operations as required by the Constitution.

- *Establish a long term plan to make Florida's public education system world class including a long range plan to provide for adequate and stable funding.*

- *Safeguard the “90% Rule for base FEFP funding to protect the citizens of property wealthy districts such as Lee County Schools from having to bear an unfair portion of their public school costs for the state.*
- *Fund 100% of the true operational costs of Class Size Reduction as required by the Constitution from state funds.*
- *Reject any new unfunded legislative mandates.*

It was noted that it is especially important to maintain the unfunded mandates portion.

Amend Statutes to Improve Instruction and Accountability.

We respectfully request that the Legislature:

- *Change the school grading system to remove scores of new district students for the first year of testing until both performance scores and learning gain scores are available for these students.*
- *Update the system for determining graduation rates and drop-out rates to more accurately calculate the true graduation rates in Florida.*

There was discussion about including language that would provide individual school districts flexibility with regard to a school starting date. Mr. Cerra told the Board that he would draft something appropriate regarding the school calendar based on today’s discussion.

Assist with Classroom Space Needs

We respectfully request that the Legislature:

- *Maintain school impact fees and capital outlay property taxes for the purposes for which they were collected.*
- *Reject any new proposals to shift capital property taxes into operations either in the required local effort or the discretionary local effort.*

Mr. Cerra noted that he eliminated the voluntary Pre-K priority from this year’s platform.

Mr. Cerra agreed to revise the draft based on today’s discussion and resubmit it to the Board for their further consideration. He also stated that he would share these priorities with FSBA and the Consortium for consideration for their platforms.

C. Academic Services – Dr. Constance Jones

1. Update / CSI – Lee

Mr. Don Bryant, Principal of Tropic Isles Elementary School, utilized a PowerPoint presentation to provide information on the history and background of the Continuous Systemic Improvement (CSI) process as well as an update of the past year. *(A copy of the presentation will be filed with the official minutes.)*

Following the presentation, Board Members raised and were provided answers to the following questions:

- Besides student achievement, what criteria are used to determine a best practice?
- How are best practices measured?
- Are parent participants volunteers or are they chosen by the principal?
- Is there any cost to the District involved in this process?
- How is information about best practices communicated to other schools?
- How are best practices incorporated in the Strategic Plan to ensure implementation across the District?

D. Administrative/Support Services – Mr. Michael McNerney

1. Change Orders – July 2009

A packet containing the information was included in the Briefing Meeting packets for review by the Board Members.

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

1. Capital Outlay Stimulus Dollars

Dr. Browder informed the Board that the District is one of 11 school districts in the state that has automatically qualified for \$25 million in Qualified School Construction Bonds through the federal stimulus plan because it has a large proportion of students from families living below the poverty level. He explained that these funds, which must be spent on school projects that would benefit students, are offered interest-free with a two-year calendar allocation, and that the principal must be repaid within 15 years. He also stated that if the funds are not spent by the end of the appropriate calendar year, they revert to the State.

Dr. Browder suggested using the stimulus dollars to finance already planned and underway projects while investing the District’s capital fund dollars that had been allocated for the same. In this way, the District could earn interest on the invested funds while completing the projects. He asked the Board for direction to move forward with requesting the funds from the State.

Following discussion, Dr. Browder agreed to gather additional information as to what the stimulus dollars would be used for, including the possibility of purchasing and installing solar panels. Dr. Browder stated that he would schedule this for further discussion at the August 25th Briefing Meeting. He added that this is time sensitive and that direction from the Board on August 25th to move forward would allow the District to meet the deadline for the first round of distribution.

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

G. Executive Services – Dr. James Browder

1. Proposed Board Meeting Dates / December 2009-November 2010

Dr. Browder presented the following proposed dates for School Board briefing and regular action meetings for the period December 2009 through November 2010. *[Note: these dates will be brought forward for official Board approval during the annual organization portion of the Board at the November 17, 2009, Board Meeting.]*

December 8, 2009	June 22, 2010
January 12, 2010	July 29, 2010*
January 26, 2010	August 10, 2010
February 9, 2010	August 31, 2010
February 23, 2010	September 14, 2010**
March 9, 2010	September 28, 2010
March 23, 2010	October 5, 2010
April 20, 2010	October 19, 2010
May 4, 2010	November 2, 2010
May 18, 2010	November 16, 2010***

**Tentative Budget Public Hearing will be scheduled for 5:05 P.M.*

***Final Budget Public Hearing will be scheduled for 5:05 P.M.*

****Annual Organization of the Board*

2. Swine Flu / Plans and Processes

Dr. Browder distributed a copy of the H1N1 (Swine) Flu Guidelines/Procedures, a copy of which will be filed with the official minutes. He informed the Board Members that Dr. Judith Hartner [Director of the Lee County Health Department] has reviewed and approved the information contained in the document. He also noted that the document is printed in three languages: English, Spanish and Creole. Dr. Browder stated that the document will be sent home with every elementary school student and will also be printed in school newsletters.

1. Rules (8/25)
 - a. Policy 2.28, Charter Schools (revised)
 - b. Policy 4.28, Admission of International & Foreign Exchange students (revised)
 - c. Policy 5.20, Family and Medical Leave
 - d. ESE Policies & Procedures SP&P / 2009-10 through 2011-12

A packet containing the information on the above was included in the Briefing Meeting packets for review by the Board Members. Dr. Browder requested that Board Members contact him with any questions.

H. Public Comment (*None*)

I. Board Attorney's / Superintendent's Comments

Mr. Martin presented a *School Law Minute* dealing with Senate Bill 1676, particularly Section 1011.09, Expenditures. He explained that this section of the bill was amended during this year's legislative session to stipulate that during the 2009-2010 fiscal year, certain types of expenditures below \$25,000 must be approved by the School Board. These expenditures include: out-of-state travel; cell phones; cell phone service; PDA's or any other mobile, wireless communication device or service.

Dr. Browder (1) stated that the District is working with local law enforcement agencies regarding continuation of the SRO program and that he would keep the Board updated on any new developments; (2) thanked and commended Joe Donzelli and his staff for developing the "welcome back to school" link on the District's website; (3) stated that Lee County ranks #1 in the state for the number of teachers and students who have received industry certification and thanked the Board for their support; (4) informed the Board that approval of the job description for the position of School to Community Specialist, which had been tabled at the July 29, 2009, Board Meeting, would be coming back for approval at this evening's Board Meeting and reviewed how he would appreciate it being handled in order to facilitate him to bring it back at the August 25th Board Meeting; he also informed the Board that although the position is included in Salary Schedule "N," which is on this evening's Board Meeting agenda, nothing will be done with the position until the Board takes action on it at the August 25th meeting.

The August 11, 2009, Briefing Meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Steven K. Teuber, J.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.