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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, September 8, 2009

Attending

Mr. Steven K. Teuber, Vice Chair Dr. James W. Browder, Secretary and District Superintendent
Mr. Robert D. Chilmonik, Member Mr. Keith Martin, Board Attorney
Mrs. Jeanne S. Dozier, Member Mrs. Donna Lesansky, Recording Secretary
Dr. Elinor C. Scricca, Member (*arrived at 2:40 P.M.*)

Mr. Teuber called the Briefing Meeting of September 8, 2009, to order at 2:30 P.M. He stated that Dr. Scricca would be joining the meeting shortly but that Dr. Kuckel was out of town.

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

B. Board Members

1. Special Areas of Board Involvement / Reports

Mr. Chilmonik: stated that he felt the President's speech should be aired in all of the schools this Friday, September 11th, and that parents who do not wish their children to view the speech should have the option to "opt out"; asked for Board consensus on this matter. *Mr. Teuber requested that Mr. Chilmonik bring this back at this evening's Board Meeting.*

Mr. Chilmonik: stated that he would be bringing some information regarding academics to the next Briefing Meeting.

Mrs. Dozier: stated that she would be hesitant to direct anyone to stop instruction on Friday in order to air the speech and asked the Superintendent to outline the plan for the President's speech during his comments; stated that she attended the Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards' recent Legislative Meeting and that the Consortium's proposed legislative platform addresses a number of issues including: adequate funding, budget shortfalls and millages, class size, hurricane disaster relief, governance, Constitutional authority, school construction issues, and impact fees.

Mr. Teuber: thanked Mrs. Dozier for attending the GFCSB meeting in his place; stated that he would be attending the FSBA Board of Directors' Retreat beginning tomorrow; stated that he attended several high school football games last week, including the rededication of the field at Mariner High School; requested consensus of the Board to adopt a resolution to honor Tony McKenna for his positive, long-term influence on the Triton Family at Mariner High School. *Mr. Chilmonik agreed with Mr. Teuber's proposal and stated that he had not yet seen anything regarding a remembrance for Mr. Carl Snipes.*

Dr. Scricca: stated that she is continuing her efforts to raise money for this year's Pride & Patriotism event.

C. Academic Services – Dr. Constance Jones

1. District Academic Plans

Dr. Larry Tihen and Ms. Patti Elkin presented information regarding the District Academic Plans, which are available on the District's LEARN page at <http://acadplan.leeschools.net/Forms/index.htm>. Dr. Tihen explained that the Academic Plan System was established to create a unified District-wide curriculum and to serve students, teachers, and parents. He stated that the Academic Plans were written by outstanding teachers and curriculum coordinators within the District and provide important information on instructional objectives, vocabulary, and instructional resources for over one hundred courses offered by the District. He added that the plans are updated annually to ensure that all students receive the quality instruction needed to reach their greatest potential.

A presentation regarding the instructional component of the Academic Plan System will be scheduled for a future briefing meeting.

D. Administrative/Support Services – Mr. Michael McNerney

1. Change Orders – August 2009

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

E. Business Services – Mrs. Greta Campbell / Dr. Ami Desamours (*None*)**F. Human Resources – Dr. Greg Adkins (*None*)****G. Executive Services – Dr. James Browder**

1. Rules

▪ District Educational Facilities Plan

Dr. Desamours briefly reviewed the Plan as contained in the meeting packet. She explained that each school district must submit a five-year work plan to the Department of Education each year by October 1st. She informed the Board that the Plan was being provided to them today for their review and that it would be coming back to them on September 22nd for approval at a Public Hearing. Dr. Desamours added that any changes to the Plan between now and then would be provided to the Board in preparation of the Public Hearing.

Dr. Browder informed the Board that a need exists to add 21 school buses (15 in the West Zone, 2 in the East Zone, and 4 in the South Zone) in order to accommodate increased student numbers during afternoon transportation runs. In order to do this, Dr. Browder explained that \$630,000 of contingency funds would need to be used. He added that the situation would be examined again in January in order to determine if any of the additional buses could be eliminated at that time.

It was the consensus of the Board that Dr. Browder move forward to address this need.

H. Public Comment

Sue Jacobse expressed a concern as to how students who opt out of viewing the President's speech might be viewed by other students.

Patti Lochner (Chairman of the Curriculum Committee) stated that "resources" is the key word in connection with the Academic Plans; advocated for the airing of the President's speech in the District's classrooms.

I. Board Attorney's / Superintendent's Comments

Mr. Martin stated that had no comments this afternoon.

(The following comments attributed to the Superintendent and Board Members are condensed and are not to be construed as their only comments on the subject of President's Obama's address to schoolchildren.)

Dr. Browder stated that very little information regarding President Obama's speech was shared with Florida school districts prior to the event, and that his decision to not televise the speech was not politically motivated but was made out of concern regarding its impact on the instructional day. He stated that the speech has been reviewed by a District committee, just as are all supplemental instructional materials, and has been approved for placement in the Instructional TV library. Dr. Browder added that the decision was his alone and that unless the Board directs him differently, he will simply communicate with school principals and the media that the recording is available for use.

Mr. Chilmonik expressed concern that there is a split in the community and that any decision whether or not to televise must be made at the Board level. He requested Board consensus to televise the speech on Friday and allow parents to decide if they want their children to view it.

Dr. Browder stated that arrangements have been made to air the speech several times on the School District's Comcast cable station and to post it on the District's website.

Dr. Scricca stated that she agreed with the position taken by the Superintendent but that to allow teachers to make the decision now whether or not to air the speech would be placing an unfair burden on them. She stated that there are students who need to hear the President's speech but might not have the resources to do so. Dr. Scricca added that it needs to be viewed in a neutral setting but is concerned about the treatment of students whose parents choose to opt them out. She asked the Superintendent to find a way that the speech may be viewed in the schools while providing a way for students to opt out anonymously.

Mrs. Dozier stated that she felt the Superintendent made a good call and that the matter is over and done. She added that she does not see a way for students to opt out unnoticed.

Mr. Teuber stated that his position has not changed and that he supports the Superintendent's actions. He added that he believes the speech is worthwhile viewing for all students and that most parents will have their children watch it, as it is available in a number of venues. Mr. Teuber stated that if a teacher elects to show the speech, there should be no opportunity for students to opt out.

The September 8, 2009, Briefing Meeting adjourned at 4:07 P.M.

Steven K. Teuber, J.D., School Board Vice Chairman and Meeting Chair

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.