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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 22, 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

Mr. Teuber called the Briefing Meeting of September 22, 2009, to order at 2:57 P.M.

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

B. Board Members

1. Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards: Proposed 2010 Legislative Program

Mrs. Dozier reviewed the issues contained in the Consortium's Proposed Legislative Program. During discussion, Mr. Chilmonik stated that he had a concern regarding the "Waiver of Statutes" issue because statutes are put in place for a reason. He added that he would have a problem supporting the Program with this issue in place. Following further discussion, the Board directed the Superintendent to bring forward a Good Cause item at tonight's Board Meeting recommending Board ratification of the Legislative Program.

1. Special Areas of Board Involvement / Reports

Mr. Chilmonik: stated that he attended the Industry Appreciation Luncheon and the "Remember 9-11" event at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre; announced several upcoming "running" events; stated that he had prepared a packet of information containing statistics on District academics but that, in the interest of time, he would bring discussion to a future briefing meeting. (*A copy of the packet is on file with the official minutes.*)

Mrs. Dozier: stated that she and Dr. Browder met with Virginia Cervasio from C.A.R.E.S., a suicide prevention organization and that she will be providing services to the District at no cost to assist guidance counselors in recognizing the signs of suicidal tendencies in students; shared information on H.R. 3221, Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009, which provides grants to school districts and states for school modernization, renovation and repair projects; she asked the Superintendent to review the information and consider having staff write grants to apply for the available funds.

Dr. Kuckel: recommended that everyone view the legislative updates provided by Dr. Wayne Blanton that are posted on the Florida School Boards Association's website; stated that she and Mr. Chilmonik were judges at the recent Realty Association Trade Show, that she would be attending the Bonita Springs Chamber of Commerce's Annual Recognition luncheon tomorrow, that the Partners in Education Breakfast is scheduled for this Friday, that she meets periodically with the chairs of the Collier and Charlotte County School

Boards to share best practices, and that there is an Autism awareness reception this Thursday evening at Hodges University.

Dr. Scricca: acknowledged Sandi Agle and the Rotarians for their work related to the annual dictionary giveaway event; stated that she attended a veterans' luncheon at Edison State College on September 10th, addressed the Florida Retired Educators Association, attended the Do The Right Thing awards ceremony and the Industry Appreciation Luncheon, and participated in a phone interview with Mandy Connell about Pride & Patriotism; added that the public response to the interview has been very positive.

Mr. Teuber: stated that he attended the Florida School Boards Association's Board of Directors' Retreat and that he would send out a memorandum to outlining what transpired and the best practices that were shared.

C. Academic Services – Dr. Constance Jones

1. District Academic Plans – Instructional Portion

As a follow up to the September 8, 2009, Briefing Meeting, Dr. Jones, Dr. Tihen, and Ms. Elkin shared additional “real life” information on the District's Academic Plan System, particularly the “Essential Concepts Instructional Guide” portion. Dr. Tihen explained that the process is designed to contain all of the components of effective instruction.

During discussion, Mr. Teuber suggested that the Superintendent look into the possibility of the District applying for copyright protection for its District Academic Plan System.

D. Administrative/Support Services – Mr. Michael McNerney (*None*)

E. Business Services – Mrs. Greta Campbell / Dr. Ami Desamours (*None*)

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

G. Executive Services – Dr. James Browder

1. Revisions to Policy 4.08, Zero Tolerance for School-related Crimes
2. Adoption of Policy 4.33, By-laws of the Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council

Information on the above was included in the Briefing Meeting packets for review by the Board Members. Dr. Browder explained that the proposed revisions to Policy 4.08 are being recommended to meet the requirements of recently amended statutes to minimize the number of students being expelled or referred to law enforcement agencies because of disruptive behavior. He also explained that the proposed adoption of Policy 4.33 is to establish and outline the responsibilities for the direction of the District's Head Start Program.

Dr. Browder added that these two policies would be brought to the Board at the October 6th Board Meeting and requested that Board Members contact him with any questions.

H. Public Comment

Brian Mayberry approached the Board to address an item on this evening's Board Meeting. He was informed that he would need to return at 6:00 P.M. to speak on the topic.

Sue Jacobse commended the District on its leadership team that developed the Academic Plan System.

I. Board Attorney’s / Superintendent’s Comments

Mr. Martin shared a “School Law Minute” on Senate Bill 1676, Appropriations Conforming Bill.

Dr. Browder stated that it has taken the District a considerable number of years to develop and implement the Academic Plan System and that there is still more work to be done. He added that it is advantageous to have consistent staff in place that can take a project such as this from start to finish. As follow up to a question that was raised during today’s earlier Special Board Meeting, Dr. Browder informed the Board that there are currently 114 students in Hospital Homebound and that that number remains relatively steady. He announced that the School District is the recipient of the Platinum Award from the American Heart Association, which is the Association’s way of recognizing employers who champion the health of their employees and work to create a culture of physical activity in the workplace. Dr. Browder commented that although block scheduling is a challenge right now, teachers will soon recognize the valuable advantage of completing instruction in one academic setting.

The September 22, 2009, Briefing Meeting adjourned at 4:18 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.