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**The School Board of Lee County
Board Organizational Planning Meeting - Minutes
Friday, October 30, 2009
The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc.
2266 Second Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901**

Attendees:

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| Jane E. Kuckel, Ph.D., Chairman | James W. Browder, Ed.D., Superintendent |
| Steven K. Teuber, J.D., Vice Chairman | Keith Martin, Board Attorney |
| Robert D. Chilmonik, Member | Donna Lesansky, Administrative Assistant to the Board and Recording Secretary |
| Jeanne S. Dozier, Member | |
| Elinor C. Scricca, Ph.D., Member | |


Welcome / Opening Comments

The School Board of Lee County met on Friday, October 30, 2009, for a Board Organizational Planning Meeting. Dr. Kuckel called the meeting to order at 12:25 P.M. She welcomed everyone and briefly reviewed the five items on the agenda.

Board Office

❖ Board Member Needs for the Upcoming Year

Board Members expressed appreciation for the support and assistance provided by Mrs. Lesansky. With regard to items that require response by Board Members, it was requested that Mrs. Lesansky provide a due date by which a response is needed. It was agreed that if Board Members do not respond by the established date, it would be their responsibility to make the necessary arrangements.

❖ Lee in the Loop 

The schedule provided by Mr. Donzelli was reviewed and the due date for articles was noted. Since the "Back to School" message is assigned to the Board Chairman, it was suggested that the subsequent rotation resume from that point.

Board Meeting Issues

❖ Annual Organization of the Board

It was the consensus of the Board that Mr. Teuber would assume the role of Board Chairman and that Dr. Scricca would assume the role of Board Vice Chairman for the coming year. (*Official action to be taken during the Annual Organization of the Board at the November 17, 2009, Board Meeting.*)

❖ Proposed Calendar for Action and Briefing Meetings 

Mr. Teuber offered a suggestion to alter current practice by instituting a new meeting schedule that would involve scheduling only one business meeting a month (as required by Statute), scheduling a meeting for recognitions on the alternate Tuesday, and scheduling special Board meetings as needed. During the ensuing discussion, comments/suggestions were made as follows:

- Including recognitions as part of the regular Board meetings lends an "invitational note" to the meetings
- The School District is not a regular business per se but is, rather, about children and their successes and achievements
- By having separate business and recognitions meetings, the latter focuses more on successes and achievements
- Any meetings at which official Board/District business would be addressed and action taken should be scheduled at a time when the public may attend
- Public comment should be placed on the agenda so that it occurs prior to any action taken by the Board

- Leave business meetings as are (twice a month) and schedule an awards meeting once a month on an off week
- Institute a “District Night of Events” separate from all meetings
- Adding another meeting each month would place an additional burden on staff
- Student entertainment could be scheduled as part of recognitions meetings

Since the Board could not reach consensus on the original suggestion, it was agreed that the dates as presented would be brought forward for official action at the November 17, 2009, Annual Organization of the Board, and that Mr. Teuber could work with Dr. Browder to follow up on any alteration of the status quo.

❖ Board Liaison Assignments

It was agreed that Mr. Martin would bring forward an agenda item at the November 17, 2009, Board Meeting recommending that Dr. Kuckel serve as the Board representative to the Value Adjustment Board (VAB) for the coming year and that Mr. Chilmonik serve as the alternate.

While it was agreed that most Board liaison assignments would remain unchanged, some adjustments, in addition to VAB, were made. Following is a list of liaison assignments that will become effective following the November 17th Annual Organization of the Board (*changes are italicized and underlined*):

Coalition for a Drug-Free Southwest Florida: Jane Kuckel

Edison & Ford Winter Estates: Jeanne Dozier

Equity & Diversity Advisory Committee: Elinor Scricca

Florida Fair Board: Jeanne Dozier

Horizon Council: Steve Teuber as Board Chairman

Instructional Calendar Committee (for 2011-2012 school year): Steve Teuber

Insurance Task Force: Bob Chilmonik

Learning for Life: Steve Teuber

Lee County Head Start Policy Council: Jane Kuckel

Partners in Education: Steve Teuber as Board Chairman

Quality Improvement Advisory Committee: Steve Teuber as Chairman; Elinor Scricca as Vice Chairman

School Health Advisory Committee: Bob Chilmonik; Steve Teuber as alternate

Smart Growth Advisory Committee: Bob Chilmonik

SW Florida Workforce Development Board: Elinor Scricca

The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools: Steve Teuber as Board Chairman

Uncommon Friends Advisory Board: Elinor Scricca

Board/District Legislation: Jeanne Dozier

Federal Legislation: Jeanne Dozier

Liaisons to Board Advisory Committees will remain the same until terms expire in November 2010 and are as follows:

Construction Advisory: Elinor Scricca

Continuous Systemic Improvement (CSI) Advisory: Jeanne Dozier

Curriculum Advisory: Jane Kuckel

District Advisory (DAC): Steve Teuber

Finance Advisory: Bob Chilmonik

❖ Response to Public Comment Procedures

Dr. Kuckel noted that it had been previously agreed that following public comment at meetings, the Board Chairman would respond to comments, clarify issues, or refer matters to Dr. Browder for handling; but that it has now gotten to the point where all Board Members are responding to speakers. In response to Dr. Kuckel’s suggestion that Board Members refrain from referring to individual speakers and only address topics brought forward, the other Board Members expressed reluctance to agree to anything that would restrict comments from Board Members during their allotted comment time at meetings.

❖ Policy 1.09, Board Meetings / Proposed Revisions

Dr. Kuckel reminded the Board that she was previously tasked with working with Dr. Browder and Mr. Martin to develop revised language to the Board Meeting Policy as it relates to comments by Board Members at the various types of meetings. Mr. Chilmonik stated that he had reviewed the proposed language and had developed his own proposed policy, which he distributed. Mrs. Dozier verbally shared policies from other counties regarding several aspects of board meetings. It was the consensus of the Board that, rather than moving forward at this time with any changes to current policy, Mr. Martin schedule a training session on Robert's Rules of Order. Mr. Martin requested and received the Board's permission to work with Mrs. Dozier to ensure that all of the topics that the Board Members need to address are included.

Legal Issues

❖ Legal Services Expenses Annual Report [@](#)

Mr. Martin reviewed the report of the School District's legal expenses, comparing the 2007, 2008, and 2009 fiscal years and highlighting the areas of increased and decreased spending. Mrs. Dozier questioned the increase in expenses for Workers Compensation cases and requested a printout of claims to include where the incidents occurred and the circumstances of each. In response, Dr. Browder stated that he would provide a three-year cost comparison for the Board's review.

Superintendent

❖ Board Policies: Chapter 3, Curriculum and Instruction [@](#)

Dr. Browder reminded the Board that the Chapter 3 policies would be coming forward for adoption by the Board at an upcoming Board Meeting Public Hearing.

❖ Board/Superintendent Communication [@](#)

Dr. Browder stated that this is the process under which he has been operating for the past several years.

❖ Possible Audit Areas

Dr. Browder informed the Board that he has an interdepartmental group looking at potential audit areas in each of the divisions and that he would bring their suggestions to the Board when they were finished.

The Board Members offered their suggestions for possible audit areas:

- The Master File (a revisit of Julie Nieminski's report, especially in this area)
- The Office Depot issue
- Transportation costs: there was consensus from the Board to conduct a comparative study of transportation costs in other districts with School Choice programs
- Construction and maintenance costs: a request to have an outsider review the District's processes to determine if there are more efficient ways of doing business to reduce costs

Dr. Browder informed the Board that he has had staff investigating the Office Depot matter for the past nine days and that he has arranged for Mr. Short from the Lee County Clerk of Court's Office to assist in looking into the matter. He added that he suspects there will be a percentage of overcharging the District over the course of the past few years.

Good of the Order

- ❖ Dr. Scricca stated that she appreciated the tenor and civility of the meeting and the fact that the issues for further pursuit were the result of Board consensus.
- ❖ Mr. Teuber thanked everyone for attending; thanked Mrs. Dozier for her continued efforts with regard to the Florida School Boards Association; thanked Dr. Kuckel for her leadership as Chairman during the past year.
- ❖ Mr. Chilmonik thanked the other Board Members; stated that in the packet he distributed earlier there was a new ethics policy and added that he looks forward to discussing it at a future meeting; stated that he needs some clarification regarding the ratio of teachers to administrators in full-time positions.
- ❖ Mrs. Dozier thanked Dr. Kuckel for her leadership during the past year and wished the new leadership the best for the coming year; stated that she spoke to a gentleman [Mr. Kalfus] the other

evening and that he was disappointed that all of the Board Members did not contact him in response to his e-mail.

- ❖ Dr. Kuckel thanked the other Board Members for their support during the past year.
- ❖ Mr. Martin stated that he looks forward to the training on parliamentary procedure.
- ❖ Dr. Browder thanked everyone and stated that he looks forward to another good year.

The Board Organizational Planning Meeting concluded at 2:50 P.M.

Jane E. Kuckel, PhD, Meeting Chairman

ATTEST:

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