



**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, December 8, 2009**

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**Attending**

Mr. Steven K. Teuber, Chairman                      Dr. James W. Browder, Secretary and District Superintendent  
Dr. Elinor C. Scricca, Vice Chairman              Mr. Keith Martin, Board Attorney  
Mr. Robert D. Chilmonik, Member  
Mrs. Jeanne S. Dozier, Member                      Mrs. Donna Lesansky, Recording Secretary  
Dr. Jane E. Kuckel, Member (*left the meeting at 4:15 P.M.*)

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Dr. Scricca called the Briefing Meeting of December 8, 2009, to order at 2:53 P.M.

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

**B. Board Members**

1. Special Areas of Board Involvement / Reports

Mr. Chilmonik: reported that he attended the NAACP dinner; expressed a concern regarding bus pick-up times for some kindergarten students; asked the Superintendent to address the length of bus rides and comments related to Board Members riding school buses.

Mrs. Dozier: reported that she attended the recent FSBA Conference in Tampa; stated that the Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards (GFCSB) has sent a letter to Governor Crist and legislators requesting that they find a way to balance the budget mid-year without affecting school districts and added that each school district has been asked to do the same; invited the other Board Members to attend the Holiday Nights event at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates tomorrow evening from 6:00-8:00 P.M.; issued a reminder about the Lee County Legislative Delegation Public Hearing on December 15<sup>th</sup>, opined that the District will probably present somewhere between 11:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M., and invited Mr. Teuber to address the Delegation (*Mr. Teuber accepted the invitation*); referred to an e-mail from NSBA regarding the Race To The Top grant; asked Mr. Martin to address during his comments issues related to forwarding e-mails containing information about students.

Dr. Kuckel: reported that she attended the rededication of Lehigh Elementary School, a Foundation grants event, a portion of the FSBA Conference, and will attend a performance of The Nutcracker at North Fort Myers Academy for the Arts on Thursday evening; announced that the next meeting of the Calendar Committee is scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Teuber: stated that he would stop by the Holiday Nights event tomorrow evening but would also be attending the Adult Education graduation at Fort Myers High School and had a commitment at Caloosa Elementary School; gained consensus from the Board to write a letter to the Governor, similar to the one sent by the GFCSB, requesting no proration mid-year budget reductions; stated that the Board should not micromanage issues involving schools of choice; referred to a memorandum issued by the Superintendent in which he informed the Board that the Lee County School District is one of 100 school districts in the

country eligible for the 2010 Broad Prize for Urban Education and stated that the Superintendent will keep the Board apprised throughout the process.

Dr. Scricca: reported that she attended the rededication of Lehigh Elementary School and commended Dwayne Courtney and his staff on the wonderful event; announced that she too would be attending a performance of The Nutcracker; stated that plans for next year's Pride & Patriotism celebration are underway.

**C. Academic Services – Dr. Constance Jones**

1. Transition High Schools

Dr. Browder informed the Board that plans for transition high schools continue and that he would keep them updated as the process moves along.

2. Lee Virtual Instruction Program

Dr. Browder informed the Board that legislation passed in 2008 required that, beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, each school district provide eligible students within its boundaries the option of participating in a virtual instruction program and that toward that end, the District established the Lee Virtual Instruction Program (LVIP). He added that future potential legislation could require that every student in grades 9-12 throughout the state take a virtual class. He added that the District is now investigating a franchise with the Florida Virtual School.

Mr. Al Shilling, Assistant Director for Emerging Technology & Lee Virtual Instruction Program, used a PowerPoint presentation to provide the Board Members with an update as to the status of the District's Virtual Education Program and the plans for its future. *(A copy of the presentation slides is filed with the official minutes.)*

Following the presentation, requests from Board Members included:

- A breakdown of virtual school students by grade level, not including students enrolled in charter schools; and
- Information regarding graduation of the first virtual school class in Broward County.

Dr. Browder stated that the information would be provided and that he would keep the Board actively engaged in the Virtual School progression.

**D. Administrative/Support Services – Mr. Michael McNerney**

1. Change Orders – November 2009

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

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

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

**G. Executive Services – Dr. James Browder**

1. Update: Race to the Top (RTTT)

Dr. Browder stated that this will be a highly competitive grant process among the states. He provided an update concerning the initiative, explaining that the District's share of the RTTT could potentially be somewhere between \$8 and \$12 million, and possibly more if less school districts participate. Dr. Browder informed the Board that the deadline to submit the Memorandum of Understanding to the U.S. Department of Education is January 12, 2010. He stated that at this point he needs the Board's direction to move forward.

Following discussion, consensus was given for the Superintendent and his staff to begin the RTTT grant application process.

(Dr. Kuckel left the meeting.)

**H. Public Comment**

*Donna Mutzenard, Executive Director of Island Coast FEA Service Unit*, outlined some concerns related to the Race To The Top, including issues of performance pay and time required by teachers.

**I. Board Attorney's / Superintendent's Comments**

**Mr. Martin** responded to Mrs. Dozier's request by explaining that any communication, including e-mails, received from a parent that contains information about a student's school performance is considered a student record and is, therefore, confidential. He added that sharing the communication with the Superintendent would not violate any laws; however, parental permission should be obtained before sharing the communication with anyone else.

**Dr. Browder** distributed a memorandum and shared information related to the budget and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (*a copy of the memorandum is on file with the official minutes*); responded to questions concerning transportation, explaining (1) that the District reduced the bus fleet by 30-35 buses this year which resulted in drivers having more stops on their runs, (2) that 72% of parents chose schools other than those closest to their residences, (3) that the District is transporting more students this year than ever before, and (4) that the District's transportation system encompasses more than 1,000 sq. miles.

Dr. Scricca adjourned the December 8, 2009, Briefing Meeting at 4:30 P.M.

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

ATTEST:

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**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](http://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.*