



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, February 22, 2011

Attending

Mr. Thomas Scott, Chairman	Dr. Lawrence D. Tihen, Interim Superintendent/Secretary
Ms. Mary Fischer, M.A., Vice Chairman	Mr. Keith Martin, Board Attorney
Dr. Jane E. Kuckel, Member	
Mr. Don Armstrong, Member	Mrs. Susan Johnson, Recording Secretary

Absent:

Mrs. Jeanne Dozier, Member

Ms. Fischer called the Briefing Meeting of February 22, 2011, to order at 2:35 P.M.

A. Item(s) with Guests

1. Review/Procurement Processes – Mrs. Greta Campbell/Ms. Susan Malay

Ms. Malay gave a review on the Procurement Processes. (*handout on file*)

Consensus: Bring back recommendation for discussion to merge the work of the Construction, Maintenance and Procurement Departments as it relates to the procurement and bidding processes.

Ms. Fischer requested information on how much money was spent on purchases under the \$25,000 bidding threshold.

Consensus: Board Members support consideration of increasing the bidding threshold from \$25,000 to possibly \$50,000. Dr. Kuckel suggested surveying Districts and bringing back a recommendation to the Board for consideration.

B. Board Members

1. Special Areas of Board Involvement/Reports

Dr. Kuckel: Attended the Finance Advisory Committee meeting and participated in *Read Across America* at different schools.

Dr. Kuckel reported that she would be making a recommendation to remove item VIII.A., *Revisions to Board Policy 1.09, Board Meetings*; and requested that discussion at the next Briefing meeting be scheduled regarding establishing dates for future workshops with consideration of policy changes discussed at or after the Board's organizational meeting in November.

Mr. Armstrong: Was impressed with the District floats, bands, students, and staff that participated in the Edison Pageant of Light. He had a meeting earlier today with representatives from the City of Cape Coral to discuss illumination at bus stops. The next meeting will be on March 29th. Mr. Armstrong congratulated the students that were honored at the “Do the Right Thing” awards ceremony. He also congratulated the Cape Coral High School soccer team in winning the state championship. Mr. Armstrong thanked Dr. Ann Cole for inviting him to the Caloosa Middle School Science Fair.

Mr. Scott: Met with Carmen Rey-Gomez from Hodges University to discuss how to assist the children of 1st generation Spanish speakers to perform better. This is an on-going conversation. Mr. Scott participated in the Reconnecting Lee Symposium at Harborside on February 11th. The symposium was to discuss what Lee County might look like in the year 2035. He noted that out of 400+ in attendance, about 100 were Lee County students.

Mr. Scott noted that he is interested in minority employment as it relates to job classification. Dr. Adkins shared that the District is moving in the wrong direction, that the District has dropped a couple of percentage points from last year. He has convened a Minority Recruitment Committee to put together some strategies and has been meeting with the principal groups.

Mr. Scott asked about the results Transportation Workshop and if there is anything that we can do to impact this year. Dr. Tihen noted that he has been working with Mr. Robert Morgan on that and they have been revisiting routes and will be bringing that information forward. They are also looking to reduce the amount of staff overtime and lessen the number of buses on the roads.

Mr. Scott noted that he wrote an editorial piece on parent responsibility that appeared in the News-Press a couple of weeks ago. He has created an “Agreement to Assist” document which was handed out for feedback. (*handout on file*) Mr. Scott would like to get parents involved and form a partnership with them.

Ms. Fischer: Visited Cape Elementary School and participated in playground activities. Ms. Fischer read to second grade students at Caloosa Elementary School for “Read Across America.” She attended that National Conference on Bullying in Orlando, where ALC-Central teacher, Debbie Johnston, was a keynote speaker.

Ms. Fischer gave an update on the February DAC meeting. She noted that Dr. Tihen was the featured speaker, sharing a comprehensive overview of the District’s goals and strategies to educate students. During the breakout sessions, the high school subcommittee reviewed the revised attendance policy and was concerned with the increase in absenteeism. There were also concerns raised regarding supplemental contracts for coaches and club sponsors. The middle school subcommittee discussed the breakfast program and the need for a 4.0 on the FCAT Writing, and attendance as it relates to academic achievement. The elementary subcommittee had a comprehensive presentation by Ms. Sharon Vandeventer on the new math services.

Ms. Fischer attended the “Do the Right Thing” awards ceremony and is proud of the students honored. Ms. Fischer noted that the Lee County Medical Society Alliance has submitted a proposal to pass on to Dr. Tihen that they are willing to pay for training, manuals, and food for a 3-day District workshop on anti-bullying.

Consensus: Requested Dr. Tihen assign staff to align District policies regarding bullying with those rules and regulations established by the state; and consider staff attending a 3-day anti-bullying training sponsored/provided by the Lee County Medical Society Alliance.

2. Status Report/Superintendent Search

Mr. Scott shared that the brochure for the Superintendent Search is posted on the Florida School Boards Association website. The ad is in the process of being posted in Education Week for two weeks. The advertisement is on the TopSchoolJobs.org and the Edweek.org websites. There were seven applicants as of last Friday.

Dr. Kuckel suggested a cover checklist for each application.

Consensus: Provide a checklist cover sheet for each application to outline at a glance if the candidate meets the standard criteria for the position.

C. Academic Services – Dr. Constance Jones

1. Review/Dropout Data

Dr. Jones gave an update on Dropout Data. (*handout on file*)

D. Administrative/Support Services – Mr. Bill Moore (*None*)

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

1. FY12 Budget

a. Department Allocations and Process

Dr. Desamours gave an overview of the FY12 budget department allocations and process. (*handout on file*)

b. Budget Predictions

Dr. Desamours gave a background on FY09 and FY10 budget cuts. (*handouts on file*) She noted that she will have more information at the next Briefing Meeting.

F. Human Resources – Dr. Greg Adkins

1. Job Description/Helping Teacher, Social Communications Technician

Dr. Greg Adkins and Mr. Mike Bursztyn gave background on the Helping Teacher, Social Communications Technician job description. (*handout on file*)

G. Executive Services – Dr. Larry Tihen

1. Request from Board Chair/Record and Broadcast Meetings for RFQs, RFPs, and Contract Awards

There was discussion related to recording the RFQ, RFP and contract awards meetings.

Consensus: Bring back to Briefing a recommendation to include costs to record and broadcast construction vendor presentations and public meetings in which decisions/recommendations are made as it relates at this time to construction.

H. Public Comment (*None*)

I. Board Attorney's / Superintendent's Comments

Mr. Martin gave advisement to Board Members regarding the Sunshine Law. Board Members cannot communicate outside of Board Meetings on items that they will be voting.

Dr. Tihen noted that he was glad to take part in the Drug Abuse and Prevention Forum at Fort Myers High School on February 18th with Mr. Kerlikoske, a former Fort Myers High School graduate. Dr. Tihen added that he has recently spoken at Rotary Clubs, Daughters of the American Revolutions, etc., and is impressed at the level of community support for the School District.

Ms. Fischer adjourned the February 22, 2011, Briefing Meeting at 4:45 P.M.

Mary Fischer, M.A., Meeting Chairman

ATTEST:

Gregory K. Adkins, Ed.D., Secretary and District Acting 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/stream 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.