



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, April 19, 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
Mrs. Jeanne Dozier, Member	
Dr. Jane E. Kuckel, Member	
Mr. Don Armstrong, Member	Mrs. Susan Johnson, Recording Secretary

Ms. Fischer called the Briefing Meeting of April 19, 2011, to order at 2:42 P.M.

A. Item(s) with Guests

1. Board Advisory Committee Chair Reports

Representatives from the Board Advisory Committees delivered an update on their respective committee's activities:

District Advisory Committee – Mr. Andy Erickson, Chairman (*handout provided*). Mr. Erickson gave a summary of the DAC meetings from December 2010 to present.

Curriculum Advisory Committee – Ms. Patti Lochner, Chairman (*handout provided*). Ms. Lochner gave a summary of the Curriculum Advisory Committee meetings from January to present. She thanked Dr. Kuckel for her leadership as the Board Liaison and welcomed Mrs. Dozier as the new Board Liaison. Ms. Lochner also thanked Mrs. Patti Elkin in her role as staff liaison.

Construction Advisory Committee – Mr. Gary Griffin, Chairman (*handout provided*).

Finance Advisory Committee – Mr. David Hall, Chairman (*handout provided*). Mr. Hall thanked Dr. Kuckel, Dr. Ami Desamours, and Ms. Sarah Cox for their service to the Finance Advisory Committee. Mr. Hall noted that the committee is concerned about the impact that the expected budget cuts will have on the quality of our students' education, as well as being concerned with using too much of the reserves.

Continuous Systemic Improvement Advisory Committee – Mr. Todd Rinehart, Chairman, was not in attendance. A report was not submitted.

B. Board Members

1. Special Areas of Board Involvement/Reports

Board Members decided to save their reports/comments for later.

2. Legislative Update

Mrs. Dozier read a letter from Senator Mike Haridopolos noting that he feels that education is a priority. She said that the Governor is threatening budget vetoes – that he wants budget cuts. Mrs. Dozier noted that the Senate is taking a week off and believes this to be a posturing tactic. She noted that there is talk of universal vouchers, and that this bill would put a dent in public school funding. The School Board Members bill was defeated by a close vote. There is support now for the McKay Scholarships bill - which would give credence to the 504 Plans, as well as support for the bill regarding corporate income tax vouchers. Mrs. Dozier noted that there is a School Board Governance bill that is ready for the floor. She noted that Food Services will be moved from the Department of Education to the Department of Agriculture and that this would probably be a good thing. Mrs. Dozier noted that there is a Dues Deduction bill that will hurt the unions. She will speak with Ms. Mutzenard and Mr. Castellano about this. Mrs. Dozier noted that there is a bill out there that would take away professional services contracts for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year teachers. She added that this would hurt the District's teacher retention rate.

Mrs. Dozier requested information on how many teachers in the District have been employed with the District one to three years, with regard to proposed legislation that will not allow districts after July 1, 2011 to issue Professional Services contracts to its employees.

3. Superintendent Search Update

Mr. Scott stated the he contacted the five finalists in the Superintendent Search personally. They all are anxious to come and meet with the Board on May 11th, 12th, and 13th. Mr. Scott thanked the members of the Superintendent Search Citizens Committee for their commitment to the process, as well as to Mr. David Hall, Chairman, and Mr. Cedric Hall, Vice Chairman of the committee. Mr. Scott noted the Board Workshop on May 17th to make the final selection.

4. Identify Topics for Scheduled Future Board Workshops (June 14, August 16 and October 4)

There was much discussion about topics for future Board Workshops and the difference between them and Board Briefings.

Consensus: The following suggested topics for future discussion will be scheduled at future Briefing Meetings, and then, if more information is needed or if Board consensus cannot be obtained on any recommendations brought forward, a Board Workshop would be scheduled.

Mrs. Dozier requested future discussion on the District's Student Assignment Plan (processes and procedures) and RFQs (bid processes, etc.).

Mr. Scott requested future discussion on use of District-owned, vacant property; bullying; and parent involvement.

Consensus: To schedule an overview of an academic program, District process or project each Briefing meeting, when possible.

C. Academic Services – Dr. Constance Jones - None

D. Administrative/Support Services – Mr. Bill Moore

1. Change Orders/March 2011 (*documents on file*)

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

1. FY12 Budget – Legislative Budgets

Dr. Desamours shared the latest budget numbers and the differences in calculations. (documents on file)

F. Human Resources – Dr. Greg Adkins

1. Suspension with Pay

Dr. Greg Adkins and Ms. Ranice Monroe gave a presentation on the statistics of the number of suspensions, average number of days and average daily costs of employees suspended with pay. Discussion followed with input from Mr. Rob Dodig, Staff Attorney. This presentation is on file.

Consensus: Proceed with Consideration 1) Grant the authority to the Superintendent, in Board Policy, to issue suspensions without pay prior to Board Action and Consideration; 2) amend Board Policy 1.16, to provide the right to a hearing before the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) to instructional employees and administrators only, as required by Florida Statutes.

Consensus: Bring back to the Board, a plan to include those considerations (items 3-6) discussed at today’s meeting and to consider changing the name “Suspension with Pay” and “Suspension without Pay” to “Administrative Leave.”

Mr. Scott agrees with the recommendation to increase the staffing level of the Professional Standards and Equity Department commensurate with the level of incidences of employee misconduct.

2. Recruitment and Retention Efforts

A presentation was given by the Minority Recruitment Committee. This Committee consists of: Ms. Ranice Monroe, Director of Professional Standards and Equity; Ms. Darya Grote, Assistant Principal, Caloosa Middle School; Mr. Dwayne Courtney, Principal of Lehigh Elementary School; and Mr. Obed Morales, Assistant Principal of East Lee County High School. This presentation is on file.

G. Executive Services – Dr. Larry Tihen

1. Cerra Consulting Contract – Legislative Services

Dr. Tihen briefed the Board on a contract with Cerra Consulting. The current contract expires on June 30, 2011. It was noted that the new contract has a 5% reduction in cost, as compared to the current contract.

Dr. Kuckel passed out some new language that she is suggesting to add to this contract.

Consensus: To bring the contract forward for official Board action with the following: To add the following “new language” as B.7) and renumber the current B.7), 8) and 9) to B.8), 9) and 10). B.7) The consultant agrees not to use its relationship with the Board, its officers, agents or employees, to gain or seek to gain an advantage or benefit for any client it is representing or any other vendor seeking to do business with the School District.

Mrs. Dozier suggested that we look at the “black out period.”

Mrs. Dozier also suggested that any concerns with a proposed contract be brought back to the Board for consideration.

H. Public Comment (*None*)

I. Board Attorney’s / Superintendent’s Comments

Mr. Martin (*none*)

Dr. Tihen (*none*)

Ms. Fischer adjourned the April 19, 2011, Briefing Meeting at 5:15 P.M.

Mary Fischer, M.A., Meeting Chairman

ATTEST:

Lawrence D. Tihen, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent/Secretary

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.