



**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, May 3, 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	Mrs. Susan Johnson, Recording Secretary

**Absent:**

Mr. Don Armstrong, Member

---

Ms. Fischer called the Briefing Meeting of May 3, 2011, to order at 3:06 P.M.

**A. Item(s) with Guests – None**

**B. Board Members**

1. Special Areas of Board Involvement/Reports

Mr. Scott: Attended the “Do the Right Thing” awards ceremony on April 21<sup>st</sup>; met with Marty Mesch, the Executive Director of the Lee County Education Administrators’ Association; and spoke at a men’s breakfast meeting at Faith Presbyterian Church in Cape Coral. Mr. Scott also attended the Horizon Council Meeting last Friday where they talked about a series of upcoming meetings with key people. It was noted that difficulty understanding School Choice was brought up by all of the key people associated with these meetings.

Mr. Scott suggested that a retreat be scheduled for a two to three-day period, maybe in August, to allow the new Superintendent, Board Members and senior staff the opportunity to meet, plan, etc. Mrs. Dozier suggested that Master Board Training, provided by FSBA, be considered in September or October, and suggested that senior level staff be invited to participate.

**Consensus: Approved in concept the Board, new Superintendent and senior level staff meet in August, September, or October – specific details to be established.**

Dr. Kuckel: Attended the Finance Advisory Committee meeting. She noted that Dr. Desamours delivered a great presentation on how our departments are funded. Dr. Kuckel noted that a lot of time has been spent with legislative updates. She said that she has contacted many teachers and administrators regarding our superintendent search to obtain their input regarding qualities and characteristics. Dr. Kuckel noted that she was pleased that all of the Board Members received a list from the District Advisory Council (DAC) regarding their preferred qualities/characteristics of the future superintendent.

Mrs. Dozier: *No report given.*

Ms. Fischer: Attended the PACE Center for Girls meeting. Ms. Fischer noted that she was unable to attend the DAC meeting for April, but reports that it was a very productive meeting with a budget update from Dr. Desamours, science textbook overview by Mr. Lee Hughes for the elementary school subcommittee, and an end of course overview by Mr. Jim Propert for the middle and high school subcommittees. Ms. Fischer thanked Mr. Andy Erickson and all of the members for all of their work. Ms. Fischer attended the “Do the Right Thing” awards ceremony, as well as the Cape Coral Mayor’s Scholarship Committee. She also attended a United Way funding meeting for Learning for Life, as well as a Quality Improvement Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Fischer noted that anti-bullying training will start in September of 2011.

## 2. Legislative Update

Mrs. Dozier noted that she has been involved in legislative conference calls. She added that she had asked Dr. Tihen to give the report today since she does not have her full voice. Dr. Tihen shared that now the funding for student has been cut by 71.93%, which is greater than the original funding cuts that we were expecting to experience; however, there are additional dollars coming to us that were unexpected. He noted that Dr. Desamours would give specifics during her budget update.

How legislative changes affect employees: The employee contribution rate for retirement has been established at 3%. Other changes in the retirement system for FRS employees: where there had previously been a 3% cost of living raise, now employees will not get the 3% for time earned after July 1, 2011. Also, now FRS will now calculate employees last eight years, instead of their last five, which would be a reduction in the amount received for most employees (for employees hired after July 1, 2011). Employees will now qualify for retirement at 33 years or the age of 65, instead of 30 years or age 62 (for employees hired after July 1, 2011). Employees in the future DROP program (entering after July 1, 2011) will receive a percentage return of 1.3% instead of receiving the current 6.5%.

Other bills affecting the School District: The accountability bill now allows the District to look at our supplement educational service providers and to mandate pre and post tests so that we can now track student progress on those supplemental educational services that students are receiving. The middle school civics exam can be exempt by certain students, if their IEP deems appropriate. The class size revisions were addressed. These are pretty stable with what has been in the past, redefining the core classes – these were cut by about two-thirds. The count for class size will be in October, allowing the flexibility to deal with growth, and then by the following October, we have to be back within the class size amendments again. McKay vouchers have been expanded to students with 504 plans. Now high schools students will be required to take one class through virtual education to qualify for graduation. We can now have state-wide virtual charter schools or district virtual charter schools. The charter schools now require that two members of the charter school boards live in the area of the charter school. Charter schools with grades of “A” or “B” may increase their program by 25% and have long term charters provided to them. This expedites the charter schools coming into the district, if they have been successful in other districts of the state. More information on this will be forthcoming. There were changes for School Choice under No Child Left Behind pertaining to students at an “F” and now “D” school having an alternate school to choose; however, Lee County does not have any “F” or “D” schools at this time. The School Nutrition Program which has been under the Department of Education has been moved under the Department of Agriculture. Of major

concern a repealer bill which does remove the option of professional services contract for all teachers. A technical assistance bulletin will be forthcoming with more information on how this directly affects districts throughout the state. Our Human Resources Department has determined that we have 284 teachers who might have been eligible for the professional services contract this June. More clarification will be forthcoming from the state. Mrs. Dozier noted that the Cerras would both be here at the next Board Briefing Meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> to give a thorough update of everything that happened during this legislative session.

3. Superintendent Search Update

Mr. Scott shared that the four finalists will all be in the District next week. There will be a welcome dinner on May 11<sup>th</sup> to get acquainted with the Board Members. On May 12<sup>th</sup> are the one-on-one interviews with Board Members, followed by the candidates/spouses taking a tour of the area, and the candidate reception open to the public to be held in the atrium of the LCPEC at 6:30 p.m. On May 13<sup>th</sup> the interviews will be held with the Search Committee, as well as the mock presentations. That evening a reception/dinner for the candidates will take place. On the following Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Special Board Meeting to discuss the next steps of the Superintendent search. Mr. Scott thanked Mrs. McDaniel for all of her hard work and the following organizations for their contributions: The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, The News-Press, the Lee County Visitors and Convention Bureau, TALC, SPALC, the Lee County Education Administrators Association and Norman Love Chocolates.

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

1. ~~Overview/Grants Department~~

2. Policy 4.35, Head Start Eligibility, Recruitment, Selection & Enrollment (5/17)

Mrs. Jeanne LaFountain noted that revisions were being made to be consistent with meeting the needs of the children. (*document on file*)

**D. Administrative/Support Services – Mr. Bill Moore**

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

1. FY12 Budget Update – Legislative Budgets

Dr. Desamours noted that the budget numbers are not final; however, preliminary figures show that Lee County will be taking a \$48 million loss. Changes in retirement contributions will show a savings of \$1.1 billion dollars statewide. Our savings should pay the \$10.5 million loss. (*handouts on file*)

**F. Human Resources – Dr. Greg Adkins - None**

**G. Executive Services – Dr. Larry Tihen - None**

**H. Public Comment (*None*)**

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

**Mr. Martin** gave a law minute. He shared that there are three exceptions to the Sunshine Law: 1) collective bargaining; 2) student expulsions; 3) litigation meetings (court reporter present). He noted that employee matters are not exempt from the Sunshine Law.

**Dr. Tihen** thanked everyone for their hard work.

Ms. Fischer adjourned the May 3, 2011, Briefing Meeting at 3:48 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](http://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.*