



NOTES
Meeting of Advisory Committee Chairpersons
Monday, March 6, 2006
3:35 P.M. to 4:40 P.M.

CALLED TO ORDER: BY KEITH B. MARTIN **TIME:** 3:35 P.M.

Present: Mr. Dick Young, Compliance Advisory Committee
Mr. Doug Wells, Finance Advisory Committee
Mrs. Virginia Wallace, Curriculum Advisory Committee
Mr. Andy Erickson for Dr. Cynthia Lott, District Advisory Committee
Mr. Christopher Mills, Construction Advisory Committee
Dr. James W. Browder, Superintendent
Mrs. Jeanne S. Dozier, Board Member

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Claire McMasters

1. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Browder introduced Mrs. Dozier, who made a presentation on the upcoming informational campaign by the Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards to inform citizens of the need for the State of Florida to fully fund education. She handed out a list of talking points which will be covered at the press conference scheduled for Monday, March 13th at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Room. She invited the chairpersons and vice chairpersons to attend the press conference. Dr. Browder added that there is a reception before the press conference at 12:00 noon, and he also invited the chairpersons and vice chairpersons to the reception. The campaign in Lee County will then continue with telephone calls to parents; an e-mail alert; sample letters provided to encourage people to send letters to their legislators; and letters to the editors of local newspapers.

Dr. Browder noted they are in the middle of legislative planning. He asked the advisory committee chairs to talk to their committees at their next meetings. He repeated that this is an informational campaign.

Dr. Browder asked them to also be present on March 27th to meet the person he is considering hiring as Chief Business Officer. Lunch will be provided, and it will take about one hour. An official invitation will be sent out in the mail.

He expressed appreciation for the committee chairs and the work they do.

2. Approval of December 12, 2005 Minutes

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

3. Discussion of Individual Committee Initiatives

A. Mr. Chris Mills of the Construction Advisory Committee began by recapping the December meeting, when they talked about building initiatives on 17 campuses. At their January meeting, Mrs. Dozier joined their committee as Board Liaison. They looked at the hiring of a structural engineer. After discussion, they recommended the District did not need a structural engineer for design purposes. They then looked at plans for a prototype transportation facility. In February they talked about the 16 building additions and how the District is understaffed. After discussion, the committee recommended hiring two additional project managers. Mr. Mills then showed slides of the committee at their March meeting, visiting three schools, one each utilizing tilt-up construction, concrete masonry, or steel insulated panel system. Mrs. Dozier accompanied them. The first school they visited was Skyline Elementary. This is an example of tilt-up construction. Next was Caloosa, whose addition is being built of concrete block masonry. The last was Colonial Elementary, which is using steel panel construction.

Mr. Erickson asked about the cost factor for the three construction methods. Mr. Mills noted that all three have roughly the same cost.

The steel panel construction at Colonial is by far the fastest method of construction of the three types.

Mr. Mills reported that there is a potential delay with the construction at Cape Elementary. The plan is to use portables as needed. Dr. Browder noted that there was a delay in receiving permission from the State to tear down two of the buildings at Cape Elementary. He added they are of no historical value.

Mr. Mills also reported there are delays in the construction of River Hall; they are looking at alternatives to house the students.

B. Mrs. Virginia Wallace of the Curriculum Advisory Committee reported that at their January meeting, Dr. Connie Jones presented goals from the Division of Academic Services – reading coaching, monitoring charter schools, Sterling Quality training.

At their February meeting, Dr. Larry Tihen spoke about the reading program. They are testing the students several times during the year to monitor their improvement, and not setting students up for failure by, for example, expecting them to improve four grade levels in one year. Mr. Chilmonik proposed a science and math high school for very bright students. They were asked to look into that before the March meeting.

Dr. Browder added that Larry Tihen’s reading model for K-5 has been adopted at the state level.

Mr. Erickson commented about feedback DAC has received from parents that the students who don’t need the reading classes can’t get the electives they want because there are not enough students for the electives.

Dr. Browder stated the reading programs are a statewide requirement. This would be more likely to affect electives at the middle school level rather than high school. Lee County has 7 periods in grades 6-12. Most Florida districts have 6. He

mentioned there is a waiver process if a child has improved a couple of grade levels in reading but is still not up to grade level, to promote the student to the next grade.

C. Mr. Andy Erickson of the District Advisory Committee reported that Dr. Scricca is now their Board liaison. He distributed a handout prepared by Dr. Lott which reports on the various committees/ subcommittees:

- DAC Executive Board – Mrs. Linda Boyle spoke about creation of a brochure to highlight the responsibilities of DAC members. Members will be reminded at each meeting to take information back to their SAC committees. Mr. Marcus Goodson and Ms. Marcia Davis from the Fort Myers Housing Authority made a presentation about the Michigan Court Project.
- District Advisory Council – Mr. Jack Shelton, Mr. Armando DeLeon and Mr. Robert Morgan provided a presentation on Transportation budget issues and state funding.
- Elementary School Subcommittee – Discussed parent pickup and student walker safety, and the fact that SRO's are being pulled from schools due to lack of grant funding. Business participation was suggested as an alternative for funding.
- Middle School Subcommittee – Discussed block scheduling, inequity of technology dollars among schools, and the decision making process for retention. Mr. Dwayne Alton is scheduled to share the 5-10 year technology plan and parallel plan for existing schools at their next meeting.
- High School Subcommittee – Two issues were resolved: consistency in grading by adopting the cum laude system, and an ESE student testing issue. Current issues are the drop-out program and reading endorsement.
- District Committee – A concern was raised about having attendance records of the DAC meetings supplied with the agenda.

D. Mr. Doug Wells of the Finance Advisory Committee reported on the following matters:

- Mr. Steve Teuber is the Board liaison.
- They have been working with Jim Buckley and Ami Desamours, Director of Budget. They requested backup data and have been looking at Mr. Olliff's 9-year analysis.

Dr. Browder added they are looking at high, medium and low projections for the impact fees.

- The 65% Solution – a group from Texas is pushing an initiative in many states for 65% of dollars to be put into the classroom. There is tremendous momentum behind it. The committee passed a motion for Mr. Teuber to draft an amendment to the 65% proposal.

Dr. Browder said if you just include teachers, our district is at 53%. But if you include support people such as media people, guidance counselors, student service people, reading coaches, we're at 65%. What the legislature needs to do is include the appropriate language to include the necessary personnel. Functions 5000 (teachers) and 6000 (educational support personnel) need to be included. He added this will be a portion of the class size amendment vote.

E. Mr. Dick Young of the Compliance Advisory Committee summarized what their committee has been discussing:

- Dropout rates – why there is a greater dropout rate in 9th grade than at other levels. Lack of parental interest may be a leading factor.
- Teacher pay increase. Their members have been writing to legislators
- Hot line – Dr. Browder added it is going to be called the “Call Center.”
- Litigation
- Sterling Quality Program
- Improvement to school booths at the fair this year. He gives the credit to Mrs. Dozier. The television coverage has been wonderful.

4. Discussion of Future Meetings

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 5, 2006 at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Martin gave a reminder that quarterly reports to the Board are due on March 28 at the 3:00 p.m. briefing meeting.

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.