



**DRAFT**

**NOTES**

Meeting of Advisory Committee Chairpersons  
Monday, June 5, 2006  
3:35 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

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

**Present:** Mr. Jack Eikenberg, Compliance Advisory Committee  
Mr. David Hall, Finance Advisory Committee  
Mrs. Virginia Wallace, Curriculum Advisory Committee  
Dr. Cynthia Lott, District Advisory Council  
Mr. Dick Young, Compliance Advisory Committee  
Dr. James W. Browder, Superintendent

**Recording Secretary:** Mrs. Claire McMasters

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**1. Approval of March 6, 2006 Minutes**

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

**2. Reminder of Committee Reports**

Mr. Martin reminded the chairpersons that quarterly advisory committee reports are due to be presented to the School Board at its June 20<sup>th</sup> briefing meeting. Mr. Hall indicated that he has asked Fred Whitehouse to present his committee's report. It was pointed out that the reports become part of the minutes for the briefing meeting.

**3. Discussion of Future Meetings**

A discussion was held about a date for the next meeting. Dr. Lott said DAC will not be meeting during the summer. Mrs. Wallace and Mr. Hall reported their committees will not be meeting in June or July. A decision was made to postpone the next meeting until November, after committees have met and chosen their new chairpersons. A specific date will be picked later.

**4. Superintendent's Comments**

Dr. Browder joined the meeting at 3:40.

There was a discussion of qualifications of committee members. Mr. Eikenberg pointed out if members do not have a specific background for that committee, they are limited in what they can look at to simple things that everybody can understand, which defeats the purpose of having specialized committees.

Dr. Browder brought up the process for selecting advisory committee members. They advertise in the newspapers and do a variety of things to get people interested. They send in their applications, then Board Members pick people they don't even

know. Years ago, committees were made up of people Board Members knew from the community. He asked if the process is working, or if the selection should be more restricted. DAC membership comes from the School Advisory Committees, so they already have knowledge of their area. He said if a member does not have expertise in their area, they waste a lot of time with basic questions trying to get up to speed.

Mr. Young shared his prior experience on the Construction Advisory Committee. At that time, everybody was involved in the construction industry. When members dropped out and new members started coming in, they had no experience and it hurt the committee.

Mrs. Wallace said she is a retired teacher. She added that with Curriculum, they need some new blood from time to time. Three years is enough. Mr. Eikenberg asked if Dr. Browder could recommend to the Board that they have a workshop to discuss membership of the advisory committees. Dr. Lott asked if potential members can choose which committee they want to serve on when they apply. Mr. Hall said the Finance Committee has a member from the Transportation Department and his comments are very helpful and insightful.

Dr. Browder asked how the committees should be organized – is it necessary to advertise in the paper or should each Board Member be responsible to appoint one person to each committee? He asked if the chairpersons would want to be part of the workshop with the Board.

Mr. Young added that when he was chair of the Construction Advisory Committee some members had contracts with the School District, and asked if that creates an issue. Mr. Martin replied that according to policy, they have to declare that.

Dr. Browder suggested an August workshop, around the first two weeks of August, before the September appointments and reappointments.

Mr. Eikenberg said that of all the appointments to his committee, he has not been a part of that process. Dr. Browder thanked Mr. Eikenberg for bringing the issue forward, and said that had been his issue for the meeting also.

## **5. Discussion of Individual Committee Initiatives**

- A.** Dr. Cynthia Lott of the District Advisory Council submitted a written report.
- The Elementary School subcommittee has discussed retention policy with regard to tardiness and absences.
  - The Middle School subcommittee has discussed transportation. They have had speakers from the Transportation Department come in and make a presentation.
  - The High School subcommittee has been discussing technology in the schools, making sure that all schools have the same opportunity to use technology, and had a speaker come in to talk about that.
  - At their last meeting they had a survey with two sets of questions: How can they improve participation by parents? DAC members voted that informing parents of the SAC meetings at other school functions and at School Choice functions would be the most effective.

- The second part of the survey was about the effectiveness of DAC. Members voted that guest speakers are an effective way to communicate information (90%), DAC monthly meetings are necessary (61%), breakout sessions are necessary (53%), and the mission statement for DAC is being fulfilled through the present format (36%).

Mr. Eikenberg commented that his committee doesn't usually appreciate guest speakers; they would rather be working on something.

**B.** Mrs. Virginia Wallace of the Curriculum Advisory Committee reported that Mr. Chilmonik had talked about researching a math-science-technology immersion program. Their subcommittee worked on it and gave a presentation at their last meeting. It's not like a magnet school or a gifted program. One thing they discussed was how students would be selected for the program. She said there are a lot of schools with such a program, and there is a NASA program they could get involved in also. Dr. Browder added the Central Florida Consortium works with NASA. Now that FGCU is starting an engineering program, we would have a local connection.

Mrs. Wallace said another concern is getting and retaining teachers. We would like to have local kids come back and teach after they've graduated college.

She reported they are also working with an algebra program.

She noted their committee will not meet in June or July.

The chairpersons and Dr. Browder then had a discussion about testing, retaining students, improvements in reading and math scores. Dr. Browder noted the trend is in the right direction.

Mr. Eikenberg brought up the concept of looping – using the same teacher for two consecutive grades, i.e. K-1, 2-3, 4-5. The benefit is that the teachers know their students well. Dr. Browder mentioned Lehigh Senior High School has their 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy, where they are going to loop 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. He also mentioned Bonita Elementary, which utilizes looping and their school grade is very positive. A number of elementary schools have some form of looping. Mrs. Wallace spoke about her experience teaching gifted students at Trafalgar Middle School, where the students were looped for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. She noted they got to know the students very well. Mr. Young mentioned his grandchildren in Naples who had looping in their elementary school. Dr. Browder added that a guest speaker, Mr. Lee Jenkins, said that schools spend 30% of their time reviewing. Looping helps eliminate that wasted time. Dr. Browder noted that 2-year increments seem to be the best.

**C.** Mr. David Hall of the Finance Advisory Committee reported that they have met Mr. Lee Legutko, the new Chief Business Officer, and he has attended two of their meetings. Jim Buckley has been a big help to him. They have had much discussion regarding the budget this year; they are more involved in budget preparation. They are re-looking at the projection for impact fees and the capital plan. Their concern is that the district may have built too much growth (new housing) into the projections for impact fees. Now that there are so many existing homes on the market, there is not the same need to build new housing, due to the slowdown in the economy. He mentioned they may have to go back and look at sales tax. Double sessions were brought up at the last meeting again, and year-round schools.

**D.** Mr. Jack Eikenberg of the Compliance Advisory Committee reported his committee has had some good discussions. Dr. Kuckel recommended they “adopt” Joe Donzelli so he can feed them the issues as they come up. Joe gave them a report on the first month of the Call Center. Dr. Browder also gave them a report. Dr. Kuckel asked the committee to make a recommendation to the Board on what they think of the Call Center. The committee would prefer a more restrictive employee-only Call Center, not the broader public relations feedback. One positive thing that came out is to look at the problem in our external communication system caused by growth. For example, how do parents get into the phone system, who do they call. They will make a recommendation probably on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Eikenberg said Joe Donzelli will update the committee on what the calls have been about.

(Dr. Browder left the meeting at this point at 4:30)

Mr. Eikenberg added they have spoken with Julie Nieminski, the Internal Auditor to the School Board. He spoke about the audit of recent construction costs on certain projects done by Cuthill & Eddy. They may recommend that at the conclusion of each project, Cuthill & Eddy take a look at the expenses. He mentioned Linda Boyle came in and spoke to them about OPPAGA and Strategic Planning.

Mr. Eikenberg then brought up Mr. Chilmonik’s report scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> on the \$25,000 Superintendent spending limit on any one item and whether the cap should remain at \$25,000. Mr. Hall asked what limits other districts use. Mr. Martin replied none have a spending limit less than \$25,000, and some have up to \$100,000. Mr. Martin added the Lee County School District limit is based on the bid threshold in state statute. Mrs. Wallace asked if the committee discussed the \$25,000 limit and if it should be raised. Mr. Eikenberg replied that they did not discuss it on a formal basis, but noted that if the limit were lowered it would increase the Board’s work and they would probably recommend no reduction.

Dr. Browder returned to the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

Mr. Eikenberg asked Mr. Martin about the current status of the choice plan. He replied that there is an annual review of the plan. Dr. Browder said over the next five years we will need to make adjustments. The South and East Zones are growing so quickly, there may be more minority than majority students in those schools. We need to maintain diversity within the zones.

## **6. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.