



NOTES  
Meeting of Advisory Committee Chairpersons  
Monday, December 12, 2005  
3:40 P.M. to 4:55 P.M.

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**CALLED TO ORDER:** BY KEITH B. MARTIN **TIME:** 3:40 P.M.

**Present:** Mr. Jack Eikenberg, Compliance Advisory Committee  
Mr. David Hall, 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

**Recording Secretary:** Mrs. Claire McMasters

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**1. Approval of September 12, 2005 Minutes**

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

**2. Discussion of Individual Committee Initiatives**

**A.** Mr. David Hall of the Finance Advisory Committee reported that their committee has discussed the following issues:

1. Mike Olliff resigned as Budget Director in September and Jim Buckley has returned from Manatee County on a contract basis. They met with him at their last meeting and he brought in his staff.
2. The budget schedule for next year. They set up their meetings to coincide with the budget schedule.
3. They have two volunteers for the auditor selection committee for the external audit next year.
4. Mike Olliff's 9-year analysis of the impact of sales tax vs. impact fees may need to be revamped based on different scenarios. They have gone back through them with staff, who are rerunning the numbers under different scenarios.
5. Capital budget.
6. Replacement of Budget Director (position will be advertised again in January).
7. Permanent business manager – target is first or second quarter of next year.

Mr. Martin said the Board is scheduled to receive an update on impact fees/ funding source at the 12/ 13/ 05 briefing meeting.

**B.** Mr. Christopher Mills of the Construction Advisory Committee reported that their discussions have centered on:

1. Only one new school is being built next year – River Hall. The District is going to build additions to 16 existing campuses. There are only three design/ build contractors for the 16 projects. Eleven campuses have portables. There is concern about delays in meeting Board objectives. Due to the hurricanes, there is a labor shortage and the cost of materials continues to escalate.
2. There are issues with getting permitting on school sites – the Army Corps of Engineers, wetlands. He pointed out as a public entity we are not using the same team of engineers to do business with the permitting agencies. It would be more effective to use the “best players” each time. There are a lot of obstacles.
3. Finding usable, suitable land to purchase. There should be a separation between the planners and the people doing the construction projects. Bill Moore said that by 2011, the projections are that the District will have no additional land for any future growth.
4. They struggle with their membership. They are supposed to have 16 members but they only have 6 at their meetings.

There was a general discussion about membership issues at the various committees.

Dr. Browder entered the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Hall recapped his report for Dr. Browder. They talked at the last meeting with Jim Buckley about the assumptions Mike Olliff used in his projections about the impact fees. Dr. Browder said they will have some of the updated figures for the Board at tomorrow’s meeting. He added the Board is now getting weekly status reports on the projects.

Mr. Mills summarized his report. Their concerns are about having construction at 16 different campuses, a hurricane, only three contractors, difficulty in establishing a schedule, labor shortage, and material costs.

Dr. Browder said that they are preparing new sites for portables located away from future expansion areas. They have started several sites. This is a very aggressive timeline. It’s our first look at renovation vs. 6 new buildings. The time it takes to start the projects – SWFMD, Army Corps of Engineers, governmental agencies, slow it down.

Mr. Mills said there will be three different construction types for these 16 sites:

1. Block
2. Tilt-up
3. Panelized system – steel clad Styrofoam panels. That will probably be the fastest.

The inside environment on all three should be the same. The District allowed the preference of the builder. Each contractor came with a different concept.

Upon questioning, Mr. Mills explained that the panelized system is designed for 150-mph. winds. Dr. Browder said this will allow the district to compare construction types.

Mr. Mills stated his committee needs to go out to the schools, and give them an opportunity to comment. They want to be heard and considered.

There was a general discussion about card swipe systems vs. master keys, the cost to re-key a school, and security. River Hall school will have a card swipe system. They will be on the outside entrances to start. Dr. Browder mentioned all high schools have indoor hallway cameras.

C. Mr. Andy Erickson of the District Advisory Committee reported they have 80 members and four subcommittees. They have developed a committee action form that they follow with each subcommittee. The form lists the speaker, if any, topics for discussion, and what is being done about the topics.

1. The elementary school subcommittee is concerned with school crossing guards, GPS systems on school buses, funding of School Resource Officers. Dr. Browder added the safe schools grant from the state funds the SRO program. All high schools and middle schools and some elementary schools have SRO's.

2. The middle school subcommittee has been discussing the loss of block scheduling and its effect on students. They have also been discussing dress code vs. uniforms.

3. The high school subcommittee is discussing extra credits, the valedictorian and salutatorian designation, and the cum laude system. Dr. Browder noted the incoming ninth grade class will be initiating the cum laude system. It recognizes more youngsters and takes pressure off parents and kids.

Mr. Erickson distributed a handout prepared by Dr. Lott.

D. Mr. Eikenberg of the Compliance Advisory Committee reported his committee has struggled to find a "home." Their problem has been to find some issues to make the members feel they are making a difference, and to find someone in the district with enough clout to get something done. They seldom have a meeting. Their concern has been with filling the CFO and internal auditor positions, so the committee will have someone to work with. He feels the CFO is a critical position to protect the district. Dr. Browder said they have someone in mind.

Mr. Eikenberg said the hot line issue came up. He is on Lee Memorial's finance committee and they have an effective hot line system.

He reported that Dr. Larry Tihen talked to the committee about reading improvements, grades, and graduation rates. He said math and science is just as important, but there isn't the same public push for math and science. Dr. Browder noted that next year, the State of Florida will have 10,000 uncertified math and science teachers. He said last week at a college recruiting fair, a

math teacher asked what the signing bonus would be. Several counties offer a sign-on bonus. We don't offer bonuses.

Mr. Eikenberg distributed an article from Stanford University about first-time teachers wanting to teach close to their home. This makes schools such as FGCU so important.

Mr. Eikenberg brought up the topic of the Sterling/ Quality program. Dr. Browder talked about the quality results that Tropic Isles Elementary is having. He mentioned the Board is getting a report on the Strategic Plan tomorrow and every six months.

Mr. Erickson asked if there is a procedure to ask why teachers decide to leave the District – was it money, environment, housing?

Dr. Browder said the State of Florida is losing 40% of recruited teachers. Lee County's turnover for the last two years has been about 48%. He mentioned the class size amendment as a factor. He mentioned that there are currently 2300 teaching vacancies in the State of Florida. Lee County has 50.

Mr. Eikenberg said the Compliance Committee is also looking at "low visibility-high cost" items such as health care benefit costs and workers' comp. Susan Strong will speak to them tonight on these topics.

Mr. Eikenberg said their problem is finding things that the members are qualified to look into, and where they can make an impact in the District.

- E. Mrs. Virginia Wallace of the Curriculum Advisory Committee explained her lengthy absence from this group as resulting from an automobile accident in March. She reported that their committee was interrupted by hurricanes.
1. One thing they did was to take a tour of the new South High School because of the comprehensive high school curriculum. They will be going to Ida Baker High School for a tour this Thursday night.
  2. Another thing they have been discussing is the loss of the middle school block scheduling. Dr. Browder explained the reason was the class size amendment.
  3. They have been discussing the possibility of a comprehensive middle school that would lead to better preparation for the comprehensive high school. Dr. Browder said he hopes the State will reinstate the middle school career funding. The Superintendent's Association is recommending it. He stated 60% of their students do not go to college so they need career prep.
  4. They had a presentation from Dr. Hughes and Brian Botts about small learning communities. They have a transition program for incoming 9<sup>th</sup>-graders. Their committee will endorse this, and recommend that it be done District-wide.
  5. They discussed the cum laude program. They endorsed the 24-credit requirement and unweighted GPA. There is a scale. Dr. Browder said they

are still working on whether it will be based on the 15 core credits or 24 credits required for graduation.

6. Mrs. Wallace reported that Mr. Chilmonik will be their Board Liaison beginning in January. She said they have had good attendance: 12 out of 15. They've been meeting on Thursday nights and will have to change that because Mr. Chilmonik cannot be there on Thursday nights. She added that Dr. Scricca has done a fantastic job with them.

### **3. Superintendent's Comments**

Dr. Browder wished everybody a nice holiday. He mentioned the Board has several 6-month reports coming for tomorrow's briefing meeting. He pointed out the difficulty of finding qualified individuals to fill positions because we cannot pay enough in public education. The Chief Business Officer position doesn't pay enough to attract the right individual. He was fortunate to get Jim Buckley to come back for several months; he is highly qualified.

Dr. Browder said he appreciates the dialog with this group.

### **4. Discussion of Future Meetings**

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 6, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Martin reminded the committee chairpersons that quarterly reports are due on December 13, 2005 at the 3:00 Board briefing meeting. The reports are first on the agenda. He said if anyone is not able to attend the meeting, to send him the report and he will share it with the Board. He added the quarterly reports are generally due the last briefing meeting of each quarter – March, June, September, and December.

### **5. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.