



VISION
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Board Advisory Committee Chairs' Meeting – N O T E S (Draft)
Monday – January 28, 2008

Call to Order: by Dr. James W. Browder, Superintendent (at approximately 3:40 p.m.)

Attendees: Ms. Carrie Chase-Robideaux, District Advisory Council Mr. David Hall, Finance Advisory Committee
Dr. Constance Dennis, Curriculum Advisory Committee Dr. Connie Jones, Chief Academic Officer
Ms. Brenda Wall, Recording Secretary Mr. Keith Martin, School Board Attorney

Absent: Mr. Nicholas Alexander, Compliance Advisory Committee Ms. Trish Leonard, Construction Advisory Council

1. WELCOME FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Browder welcomed the group. He explained that there had been State Board of Administration (SBA) money issues in the State and that the District has been attempting to work through them. The state has released up to 40% of the money and this has been a definite positive. The District is still in a wait and see pattern.

There has been a positive opening of the second semester and the District is currently gearing up for the FCAT.

Dr. Browder mentioned the horrific situation that occurred in Cape Coral at the day care facility and how it proves that no matter how much planning is done, it is almost impossible to plan for the person who is determined to do something crazy. Dr. Browder sent an email to all the principals asking them to be extra vigilant regarding security at their schools as the second semester begins.

2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 5, 2007 MINUTES

Minutes were accepted as submitted. Mr. David Hall moved and Carrie Chase Robideaux seconded.

3. DISCUSSION OF INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE INITIATIVES

A. Mr. David Hall, Finance Committee Advisory Chair (FAC) – Committee discussed numerous items over the last quarter. The most significant being Amendment #1, which was being voted on Tuesday, January 29, 2008. Ami Desamours, District Budget Director, put together a projection of what she thought the impact would be on the District's budget if it passed and it was several million dollars. Dr. Browder shared that the approximate number would be 65 million in five (5) years. Mr. Hall stated that this would have a significant impact, considering our reserve is 3% of the total budget or about 15 or 20 million. Dr. Dennis asked if this would make it worse regarding the new classroom size amendments. Mr. Hall stated that it would just add more stress to the budget and Dr. Browder agreed. Mr. Teuber met with the committee and asked if they would like to take a position and publish it. The committee discussed it and could not come to a consensus on the outcome of the Amendment, so it was decided not to publish their position.

The FAC also discussed the Internal School Board Auditor resigning and what the committee would like to see as a replacement in the future. Mr. Teuber asked what had worked for others in the past, regarding retaining an auditor on staff or using an outside source. It really is dependant upon the management team. The committee's recommendation was that they would first prepare a paper on exactly what

things they would like to have accomplished and to compile a list of skills they are looking for to accomplish those tasks, and to try to find the best people possible. The District may hire a person who is perfectly suited for the position or perhaps two (2) or three (3) companies will be used who have expertise in various areas of what the District is looking for.

FAC discussed the possibility of the Superintendent leaving the District. The committee is very appreciative of the stability that has been brought into play over the last five (5) years and that Dr. Browder is of great value to the Lee County District parents and children.

The committee discussed the upcoming 2008/2009 budget. Ami Desamours, District Budget Director, has begun this process. The entire plan is going to be moved forward by about a month. This is being done because there are so many high dollar items at risk for next year, that the various managers and supervisors need to have enough time to complete the budget process.

The committee had a very good meeting with Ms. Shelhorse, who is in charge of the conversion of the computer system. Ms. Shelhorse brought in the people in charge of this project and they went through the various phases of it. It is a very important project and Mr. Hall said that he felt that it should have been done a long time ago.

Mr. Bill Moore visited at the last FAC meeting and reviewed all of the construction projects. The maintenance people and the construction people are now working with one another on the projects; this ensures a smoother process in getting things done. Dr. Dennis brought up the topic of the safety of the light bulbs in the schools. She had spoken to an expert at her school. Dr. Browder asked that he be put in contact with Mr. Bill Moore. Most of the schools have been visited by Florida Power and Light for an energy conservation evaluation. A perfect example of this was done in Cape High School. All of the bulbs were replaced, since the technology was from 1982.

The committee discussed the fact that there would be fewer new buildings going up in the next couple of years. Dr. Browder stated that there are currently 19 parcels in the District bank, whereas five (5) years ago the District did not have any. There are eight (8) or nine (9) projects scheduled. That means in the next five (5) years that we will still have property left if growth comes back. Carrie Chase-Robideaux inquired about several schools that had been slated for reconstruction or an overall change and asked if those were still scheduled to be completed. Dr. Browder explained that Lehigh Elementary is on the list along with Heights Elementary, which is currently under construction; Michigan Elementary will be redone and will reopen in 2009. Sunshine elementary is also on the list. Lehigh Elementary will be in the next five (5) year plan for reconstruction. Dr. Browder informed the committee that the students would be housed in portables during the construction period.

- B. ***Dr. Constance Dennis, Curriculum Advisory Committee (CAC)*** – Dr. Dennis informed the committee that Mr. Chilmonik had spoken at their committee meeting regarding Amendment #1. He explained the ramifications to the District. The CAC is looking at it from a curriculum standpoint, in that if there is less money, there is less that can be done for the curriculum.

The CAC committee also discussed mentoring in their meeting. Dr. Marie Dinon explained what was happening in the District. Dr. Sheryl Clarke spoke with the committee about School Board priorities. The CAC went over all of the priorities and then picked three (3) that they wanted to concentrate on for the committee. The three (3) topics chosen were: dropout prevention, highly qualified teachers and bullying. It was decided that instead of having a small group, that everyone would compile their own research and it would be discussed together as a group. Regarding drop out prevention, Dr. Dennis stated nobody wants the kids to drop out, but there is also the problem of the kids and the parents who do not care at a young age. Dr. Dennis stated that she sees this a lot at the middle school level. The programs that the District currently has, NovaNet, the kids are not participating in the program, because there is nobody to make them do so. Calls are made to the parents, but many times there is not any

parental support. Even though the District has a good program that would help the kids if they were here, it is not reaching the kids who are dropping out. The CAC did not come to a consensus on the recommendations yet, because they are still going through the research. Dr. Dennis stated that there are a number of programs around the United States that are doing different things, and maybe some ideas could come from that direction. One of the ideas suggested is getting more support from the community, also getting businesses involved. Another that is currently happening on the East Coast, is a mentoring program that has been in place for quite awhile. Some of the kids that were going to be dropouts went through the program and went on to become lawyers, because they had those models to emulate. The committee came to the conclusion that something else needs to be offered to those kids who are not going on to college. The work that is being done on the FCAT and all the concentration on other things, do not help kids who are on the verge of dropping out. Dr. Browder offered to give to Dr. Dennis a copy of the High Wage List that the Horizon council just published. It gives the top 40 or 50 occupations in the State. This list is much different than earlier lists. In the past there were a lot of construction projects and technology, now it is about accounting and banking, etc. One of the recommendations that came out of this study was that all educational facilities get together to determine what it is that schools need to do for the employers.

Dr. Dennis stated that Dr. Jones had also visited with the committee and gave a presentation on the SAT. Administrators are doing an analysis of the SAT and how many students failed the FCAT, but yet passed the SAT. Our District is a leader in doing an analysis of this SAT information.

- C. ***Carrie Chase-Robideaux, District Advisory Committee (DAC)*** – Ms. Chase advised the committee that Leila Muvdi came in to speak to the elementary committee on school assignment. Concerns are mainly for people who are new to the District. The recommendation was that advertising be done in newspapers informing the parents where to obtain information. Other suggestions to get the word out were to put the information on the side of a bus, in a movie theater, give to realtors and all major apartment buildings.

The Committee also had a presentation on bullying by Jan Klein. The committee had many questions after the presentation. It was decided that the questions would be compiled and Ms. Chase-Robideaux would take the answers back to the committee at their next meeting.

Dr. Itzen is coming to meet with the committee in February to discuss the School District accreditation. Ms. Chase Robideaux asked whether advisory committee chairs would be interviewed by the accreditation committee. The answer was, yes. Dr. Browder stated that a list would be compiled and submitted to the team. Dr. Browder went on to explain to the committee how the accreditation process would be handled. The main difference from a school accreditation review, is that the entire District will be evaluated, not just an individual school. Dr. Connie Jones explained that she is working on the self-study report, because the District sends one in now, not just the individual schools. Copies will be provided for each of the committee chairs for their review and to share with each of their individual committees. The committee will be asked to provide any comments, changes or questions and then a final report will be submitted. Dr. Connie Jones stated that she will be requesting a meeting with the advisory committee chairs and share with the chairs the types of interview questions that may be asked by the accreditation team. The visit is scheduled for April 27 through April 30, 2008. Dr. Jones asked that the committee members keep these dates available to meet with the team. Dr. Jones said that the advisory chairs will be interviewed as a group, not on an individual basis and that SAC chairs may be randomly selected to be interviewed. Dr. Jones informed the committee that the entire District would know prior to the site visit which schools have been selected for a visit from the team. Dr. Browder assured the committee that there are no right or wrong answers to the questions that they will be asked. Dr. Browder stated that the site visit would be a key learning component for the District.

Ms. Chase Robideaux asked Dr. Browder for an update on the call center. Dr. Browder explained that that there is currently an employee hotline in place that is directed into Ranice Monroe's area. This line is for employees only. At the recommendation of the Compliance Advisory Committee, the line for

parents to call in was removed. As the Compliance Advisory Committee looks at their data, they may go back to adding the line for parents to start calling in at the beginning of the next school year.

The next topic discussed was the length of the school day. Ms. Chase Robideaux stated that she did not have sufficient time to bring back any answers to the committee regarding this topic. This is due to scheduling conflicts she has with her committee. It is currently being discussed in Executive DAC. She did inform DAC committee members this issue was coming up and for them to begin compiling questions and concerns they may have regarding this issue.

Middle school credit retrieval program was discussed. The problem is that some kids may be failing 6th grade math and either summer school is not available or the student chooses not to attend. The student must then master 6th grade and 7th grade math all at the same time, this sets the student up for failure. Dr. Browder stated that the middle and high school principals are concerned about the number of students that will be held back because they have not attained the number of credits necessary to be promoted. This issue is compounded by the 3rd grade retention law. This could mean that a student would be 17 years old and in the 8th grade. Dr. Browder stated that this would negatively affect the dropout rate. Students will realize that they cannot get to the next level and dropout of school.

The Executive DAC committee brought up the issue of water and snacks for FCAT. Dr. Browder stated that it would not be in the budget this year to provide to students. Each year this has cost the District approximately \$80,000.00. Each individual school will be allowed to do something for the students to provide water and possibly a snack.

Ms. Chase Robideaux stated that one of her committee members wants to get rid of the current lunch trays the District is currently using and replace them with biodegradable trays. The cost of doing this is being investigated by that committee member.

Ms. Chase Robideaux brought up a concern she had about free and reduced lunches. The point was made that a bigger concern was the students NOT on the free or reduced lunch. It is an unknown if the kids not on the program are getting breakfast or lunch during the day. Dr. Browder said that the schools are trying to make sure that all children are getting breakfast and lunch every day. Many of the parents need the help, but just have not signed up for the program.

4. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting was scheduled for March 24, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Martin reminded the committee that on March 25, 2008, the committee chairs will need to provide their quarterly report to the School Board at the briefing meeting at 2:30 p.m. on that day. Mr. Martin explained that this would be each committee's opportunity to report to the School Board all initiatives that the committee is pursuing and any input and recommendations that each may have to present to the Board.

5. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

/blw