



VISION  
*To be a world-class school system.*

**Board Advisory Committee Chairs' Meeting – N O T E S**  
**Tuesday, November 15, 2011**

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**Call to Order:** Mr. Keith B. Martin, Esq., School Board Attorney, at 3:32 p.m.

**Attendees:** Mr. Jeff Monscour, Chair, Construction Advisory Committee  
Ms. Patti Lochner, Chair, Curriculum Advisory Committee  
Mr. Richard Dunmire, Chair, District Advisory Council  
Ms. Cathleen Morgan, Chair, Finance Advisory Committee  
Dr. Joseph P. Burke, Superintendent  
Dr. Alberto Rodriguez, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mrs. Becky Demo, Recording Secretary

**Absent:** Ms. Kathleen B. Davey, Chair, Continuous Systemic Improvement Committee

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Mr. Martin began the meeting by introducing himself and thanked the chairs for their service to their committees. The purpose of the meeting is to get together and inform each other as to what each committee's initiatives are. Mr. Martin told the chairs that he had previously guided Board Committee Chair meetings but in the future Dr. Alberto Rodriguez, Chief Administrative Officer, will be guiding the meetings. The meeting then continued according to the Agenda.

**1. WELCOME FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

The Superintendent welcomed the Committee Chairs and stated that we were fortunate to have them serving as the chair for the Board Committees. It is an opportunity to exchange good information and get valuable input from the community.

Dr. Burke referred to the article in the News-Press that day. It reported that the State Board of Education made major changes in the accountability system in Florida by raising the cut scores on the FCAT. He said this will be a challenge for every District in the state of Florida. There have been meetings with principals, assistant principals and district staff and he is discussing it in a lot of different places. According to Dr. Burke the public will at first think that the students are not performing as well on the FCAT. The numbers will look that way but the reality is that the students will be learning more. The application of the statistical anomaly of the cut scores will make it look like the students are not doing as well. We are going to be working on a strategy of how we will be communicating that to the public. We will need to have important conversations with teachers about that. We don't want teachers to feel a sense of demoralization about the fact that the State Board of Education made these decisions and put them in a situation where they feel they are not getting their job done. Dr. Burke wanted to let the chairs know that over the next few months there will be a communication challenge for the District and one that would be worked on with great zeal in order to help people understand what is happening.

Dr. Burke stated that the Committee Chairs have a good idea of what is going on in the District because of the work they do with their committees. He asked that each of the Chairs give us some information on what their committees are doing.

**2. APPROVAL OF APRIL 11, 2011 MINUTES**

Patti Lochner (the only returning chair) made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2011 meeting. The minutes were approved.

**3. DISCUSSION OF INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE INITIATIVES**

Mr. Martin asked each chair to give a brief update on their individual committee's initiatives.

**A. *Mr. Richard Dunmire, Chair, District Advisory Council***

Mr. Dunmire had handouts and reviewed them for the chairs. The handouts included The District Advisory Goals, the proposed Mission Statement, the role of the DAC Representatives, the purpose of DAC, DAC Composition, a DAC Review/Request Form, a new form for Breakout Meetings and a list of Breakout questions from the September meetings.

Mr. Martin informed the chairs during Mr. Dunmire's review that questions brought up at meetings cannot be answered by email or discussed between committee members. All answers and discussion must take place at the Committee Meetings and become part of the minutes of the meeting due to the Sunshine Law.

One of Mr. Dunmire's concerns was why there so much testing in elementary. Dr. Burke stated that Marie Vetter, Director Elementary Operations, has formed a committee that is working on reducing testing at the elementary level and that it would be a good idea to invite her to a DAC Meeting to address elementary testing.

Mr. Dunmire asked what was meant by the chairs meeting quarterly. Mr. Martin said that they found over the past years that meeting four times a year was more often than needed and for the past few years there were only meetings in the fall and spring. He said that if the chairs feel they need to meet more often they could ask for a change.

**B. *Ms. Patti Lochner, Chair, Curriculum Advisory Committee***

Ms. Lochner had handouts of her report that will be presented to the Board at the Board Briefing on December 6, 2011. It stated the purpose of the Curriculum Advisory Committee and reported on the April, May, September and October meetings. She informed the chairs that she will be in Tallahassee and Mrs. Dozier, Board Liaison for the Curriculum Advisory Committee, will be presenting her report to the Board.

There was discussion regarding a consortium working on curriculum and assessments. Dr. Burke stated the State awarded Race to the Top funds for that purpose; the state will work on particular curricula and assessments that can be used by all Districts. He will get an update on where they are with that.

**C. *Mr. Jeff Monscour, Chair, Construction Advisory Committee***

Mr. Monscour stated that a lot of time has been spent on the discussion of the future of Tice Elementary. It was questioned whether the school should be closed or become a language magnet school. After a lot of discussion and community support, it was determined that the historical part of the building will be left intact and renovated and some of the other buildings will be torn down and replaced. This has already been Board approved.

Mr. Monscour informed the other chairs that an Energy Management Program is in place. There are goals in place and schools are being informed and reminded of different ways they can save energy. If they save 10% on their previous year's energy cost a percentage of the savings will be returned to the school. Those

funds can be spent on a variety of needs for the school. The savings to the District can be enormous.

Dr. Rodriguez stated that reminders are sent out on a regular basis to let schools know what they can do every day and on long weekends to save energy.

Mr. Monscour stated that The Construction Advisory Committee will be starting discussion on the District Recycling Program at their next meeting. The committee will review needs at Cape Coral High School and visit the new Elementary G and Middle School LL.

Dr. Rodriguez gave the chairs information on Florida Power and Light retrofitting the schools and it is estimated that the savings will pay for the retrofitting after 5 years and from then on a savings to the District/School.

**D. Ms. Cathleen Morgan, Chair, Finance Advisory Committee**

Ms. Morgan let the group know that this was her first year as chair of the committee and it was their intent to be more structured and to find projects for the Finance Advisory Committee. She said the September meeting was to get a list of the committee's interests. At the October meeting the Committee decided to work on three things:

- Orient the members through the budget process.
- Tackle part of the budget where they could make recommendations to the Board (take a look at transportation budget).  
Dr. Burke apprised the group that there are changes in The Student Assignment Plan and the Bell Schedule that are going before the Board for approval and should be a savings of 6%.
- The Committee wants to be a voice to the public through publications and fact sheets.

Ms. Morgan said her committee asked her to ask the chairs if there was something the Finance Committee could work on for them. Her committee is ready to help in any way they can.

**4. DISCUSSION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRS QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE BOARD**

Mr. Keith Martin informed the members that Board Policy requires that a quarterly report be made to the Board with respect to the activities of the individual advisory committees. The report is scheduled for December 6, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., at the Board Briefing Meeting. The presentation should be 4 to 5 minutes each.

**5. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the Board Advisory Committee Chairs will be scheduled in the March or April 2012. You may inform Becky Demo (Phone: 461-8487) of dates you will not be available.

**6. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mr. Martin said if there are any questions he could be contacted at 337-8511 or email him at: [KeithBM@leeschools.net](mailto:KeithBM@leeschools.net)

**7. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

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