



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY

Compliance Advisory Committee

Dr. James A. Adams Public Education Center

Monday, November 14, 2005

6:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Dr. Timothy Butts, Mr. Jack Eikenberg, Mr. Marvin Goetz, Mr. Gary Griffin, Mr. James Hebner, Ms. Lynne Lampila, Mr. Orin Oppermann, Mr. Richard Young

Committee Members Absent: Mr. Ken Caserio, Ms. Arlene Franklin, Ms. Karin Grant, Mr. Charles Gutekunst

Board Liaison Present: Mr. Robert Chilmonik

School District Personnel Present: Mrs. Greta S. Campbell

Guests: Mr. Keith Martin, Board Attorney

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Lisa Meo

Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and made the following reports:

- This is Mr. Chilmonik's last meeting as Board Liaison to this Committee as he will be moving to the Curriculum Advisory Committee and Dr. Jane Kuckel will be joining our Committee in December. He thanked Mr. Chilmonik for his service and guidance and for seeing the Committee through many issues.
- Mr. Richard Houlihan and Ms. Karen Ryan have resigned from the Committee.
- Mrs. Susan Strong, initially scheduled to give a presentation at tonight's meeting on Health Insurance and Workman's Compensation has re-scheduled and will present the topics in two parts at two separate meetings – Health Insurance in December and Workman's Compensation in April.
- Mrs. Vicki Stockman, who gave a presentation on Sterling Quality initiatives in the schools at the November meeting, will be checking with the Quality Improvement Advisory Committee at their next meeting in January before reporting back on how this Committee can provide follow-up/assistance to the Quality initiative.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Chilmonik thanked everyone for their support and involvement and assured them that the Committee has made a difference. As an example, he shared that the District's minority/non-minority achievement gap has been narrowed as a direct result of the Committee's involvement. He reported that the proposed Employee Hotline will be approved and the Board is planning a workshop in the future to discuss details; and that the new Internal Auditor to the Board will be hired in the very near future. He encouraged the Committee to pursue the issues of Substitute Teacher recruitment, hiring standards, and rates of pay.

After his comments, Mr. Chilmonik shared in discussions with the Committee on a number of topics including the Committee's future direction; the District forming alliances with local universities; and Regular and Substitute Teacher recruitment, rates of pay, and keeping hiring standards high.

Public Comment (Agenda Items only)

None

Sunshine Law

For the benefit of the new members and as a refresher for the long-standing members, Mr. Keith Martin, Board Attorney, spoke to the Committee about the role of Advisory Committees and how they are subject to the Sunshine Law. He explained that all meetings must be advertised and open to the public, an Agenda must be published prior to the meeting, non-verbatim Minutes taken and published timely afterward, and all discussions among/between Committee Members concerning Committee business should only take place during the meetings. After his comments, Mr. Martin took questions from Committee Members concerning the history and effects of the Sunshine Law and the kinds of communications permissible outside the context of the meetings (anything other than Committee business).

Ethics Discussions

There was extensive discussion on the topic of nepotism, in which it was determined that, while Florida Statute clearly exempts School Districts from the practice, it is District policy that no administrator may directly supervise or give performance evaluations to a relative. Mrs. Campbell explained the District’s policy and gave concrete examples. Mr. Martin pointed out that Page 7, Paragraph 2(b) of the Florida Commission on Ethics’ *2005 Guide to the Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees* addressed the issue as well.

After this, the Chairman asked Mr. Hebner to frame his ethics issues for the benefit of the Committee. Mr. Hebner explained that, basically, he has a problem with how the District’s Strategic Plan was compiled, resulting in an apparent emphasis on areas that aren’t the most critical. Thus, the Committee’s vote on which areas of the Strategic Plan to focus on was likewise flawed as a result. There was discussion on the differences between the OPPAGA Report (how things should work and what to do to implement them) and the Strategic Plan (goals for a period of time and strategies used to reach them). It was agreed that these two documents are entirely different in their focus. Ms. Lampila stated that, rather than supporting different areas of the Strategic Plan, perhaps the Committee would be better off focusing on implementation as a whole and monitoring the progress of the different action areas, the percentage of implementation over time, the tie-ins to Sterling Quality, NCLB, etc.

Additional discussion was had with Mr. Martin regarding the Committee’s jurisdiction and the possibility of looking into pending litigation to see where the District is not in compliance.

Future Meeting Dates

No discussion

Public Comment (Open)

None

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Mr. Griffin requested a summary of the District's different Health Insurance plans and related costs to review prior to the December meeting. He spoke briefly on how his company recruited employees from up north and pointed out that they may not make as much money here, but they are happy because it is a beautiful area with many amenities to enjoy. He also shared that his company offers health costs reimbursements rather than having a company wellness center or health club.

Mr. Oppermann stated that he thinks the Committee should follow the money trail and act as a watchdog for the taxpayers in order to determine areas in which wasteful spending is occurring and in order to find ways to save money or spend it more wisely.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Compliance Advisory Committee is scheduled for **Monday, December 12, 2005**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's Conference Room on the third floor of the Dr. James A. Adams Public Education Center, 2055 Central Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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