

	<p style="text-align: center;">THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEE COUNTY <i>Compliance Advisory Committee</i> Dr. James A. Adams Public Education Center Monday, September 11, 2006 6:00 p.m.</p>
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Committee Members Present: Mr. Jack Eikenberg (Chairman), Mr. James Hebner, Ms. Lynne Lampila, Mr. Orin Opperman, Mr. Raymond Rhodes, Ms. Vicki Santini, Mr. Richard Young

Committee Members Absent: Dr. Timothy Butts, Ms. Arlene Franklin (Vice-Chairman), Mr. Charles Gutekunst, Ms. Patricia Ward

Board Liaison: Dr. Jane Kuckel

District Staff Liaison: Mrs. Greta S. Campbell

Guests: Mrs. Susan Strong; Mrs. Julie Nieminski

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Lisa Meo

Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m., welcomed everyone, and made the following reports:

- Announced that Mr. Gary Griffin had resigned the Committee.
- Reminded everyone that the Board will be re-appointing all current members at the September 26, 2006 Board Action Meeting and then the Committee will be electing new officers at the October 9, 2006 meeting.

Public Comment (Agenda Items only)

None

Board Member Comments

None

Board Auditor Comments

Mrs. Julie Nieminski, Internal Auditor to the Board, reported that she had finished reviewing Mr. Chilmonik’s Special Report to the Board regarding “...non-Board approved spending and...potential weaknesses in the management and oversight procedures...not directly under Board purview.” She stated that the only violation that stood out was a failure to bond Hector Cafferata Elementary prior to starting construction, but that it was clear to her that this was an isolated incident and not standard practice. Basically, she has three recommendations after reviewing the report: 1. Need to perform a purchasing audit; 2. The Board Auditor’s office should coordinate District responses to internal and external audits; and 3. Need stronger internal controls in Maintenance and an inventory audit performed this year. She stated she will next review bonding, bid-splitting, and change-order compliance issues. She then spent some time in a general discussion with the Committee on the sources/ response to the allegations, various aspects of accounting and compliance issues, fraud, ethics, accountability, and the role of the internal auditor.

Dr. Kuckel shared with the Committee that the District is truly fortunate to have Mrs. Nieminski on staff and the Board is very impressed with her work. She is truly independent and is thorough and unrushed in her responses.

New Business

Workers’ Compensation

Mrs. Susan Strong, Director of Insurance & Benefits Management, reported on the District’s Worker’s Compensation statistics over the past five years (2002-2006). She broke down the data into the following categories: Number of Claims; Number of Employees; Total Claim Costs by Fiscal Year; Claim Costs/ Number of Employees; Frequency of Claims; Severity of Claims; Total Settlement Costs; Average Settlement Amounts; Total Cost of the Workers’ Compensation program; Breakdown of Program Costs (FY06 only); and Problems/ Challenges. She explained the procedures that are followed when an employee is injured and shared that most Workers’ Compensation accidents are among four groups – Food Service workers, Maintenance workers, Transportation workers, and Custodians. She reviewed the trends in claims over the five year period, explained the rules and responsibilities in order to claim Workers’ Compensation and receive benefits, and shared that it is in the best interest of all involved to settle claims quickly, among other things. She then shared in an extended discussion with the Committee on District initiatives to improve the overall health of the employees.

Committee Improvements

On September 12, 2006, the School Board will hold a workshop on advisory committees. In trying to determine how the Compliance Advisory Committee can provide better outcomes to the Board, the Chairman asked for suggestions that Dr. Kuckel, as Board Liaison to the Committee, could take with her to the workshop. The Committee spent time in a general discussion with Dr. Kuckel on their thoughts, ideas, and opinions. Everyone agreed that things are moving along, but that the Committee needs to be given specific assignments/projects to work on in order to be truly effective. It was decided that the Committee should start with the Call Center/ Hotline and work on returning to a true hotline concept, rather than a general information line as it seems to be functioning now. A Motion was made and seconded to investigate the appointment of a volunteer neutral party to act as an Ombudsman who would review the Call Center calls and follow-up on outcomes with the complainants. Further discussion ensued and a second Motion was made to table the first Motion with the understanding that Dr. Kuckel would take the idea of a volunteer Ombudsman to the Board Workshop and receive direction from the Board. The Motion to Table was carried 7-0.

**Approval of Minutes
(August 14, 2006)**

The Chairman asked if there were any changes/corrections to the Minutes of the August 14, 2006 meeting. Hearing none he called for a Motion to approve the Minutes. Motion was made, seconded, and carried 7-0.

Public Comment

None

Good of the Order

Mr. Eikenberg reminded everyone the next meeting is October 9, 2006, and announced the November meeting will be held on November 13, 2006.

FINAL – Approved 10/09/06

Dr. Kuckel handed out copies of the Board’s 2005 Annual Report to the Community Calendar with some brochures, a fact sheet on the District entitled “Lee County Public Schools by the Numbers,” and a flyer for a fundraiser to help landscape the fencing around Estero High School (which is in her District).

Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Compliance Advisory Committee is scheduled for **Monday, October 9, 2006**, 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.

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