



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Curriculum Advisory Committee

January 26, 2006

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Constance Dennis, Patricia Howell, Susan Jacobse, Lois Redmond, Alicia Reyes, Charles Spire, John Traube, Virginia Wallace, Rebecca White

Committee Members Absent: Elaine Armani, Lori Bronder, Marianne DeVargas, Lisa Torres

Lee County School District Personnel Present: Mr. Robert Chilmonik, Dr. Constance Jones

Guest: Susan Ehr

Recording Secretary: Sherry Pearsall

Reading/Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chairperson, Ginny Wallace.

Susan Ehr, a proposed new committee member, was in attendance as a guest this evening. Minutes of the December meeting were dispensed and reviewed. A motion to approve as recorded was made by Patsy Howell and seconded by Charles Spire. The vote was carried unanimously.

Ms. Wallace added an item to tonight's agenda – Future Meeting Dates.

Board Members' Report

Mr. Chilmonik stated that he would be postponing presenting his ideas at this meeting, while still gathering data on small business curriculum. Mr. Chilmonik will be addressing in the future affordable housing, recruiting and keeping quality teachers, competitive teacher salaries and how resources are being allocated in the District.

Committee members expressed concerns regarding current teacher salaries and substitute teacher salaries that contribute to the continuous daily shortage of substitute teachers in the classroom, and the reducing of qualifications necessary to become a substitute teacher in this District.

Old Business

Future Meeting Dates

Mr. Chilmonik will now be available to attend meetings on Thursdays. A motion was made by John Traube to move this committee's monthly meetings back to the fourth Thursday of each month, beginning at 6:00 p.m. and ending at 7:30 p.m. and was seconded by Charles Spire. Meeting dates will be as follows: February 23, March 23, April 27, and May 25, 2006. The vote carried unanimously.

New Business

Division of Academic Services Goals

Dr. Jones shared a handout on department goals within the division of Academic Services. Each department develops a budget and department improvement plan along with their goals aligning to the District Strategic Plan. Dr. Jones feels the new District Strategic Plan is very good, very doable and focuses on student education, safety and well-being. Each department has some responsibility for spending down grant dollars. One of the projects for this year is to develop a matrix showing all grant resources, person responsible and the dates/deadlines for spending down these dollars. It is simply a matter of helping to educate schools on brokering their dollars better.

Our responsibility to charter schools is a monitoring responsibility for their compliance, a fiscal responsibility and developing a curriculum for achievement. They do not have to follow our curriculum. Charter schools are accountable for school grades, FCAT and student achievement and performance. We do have responsibilities to ensure their compliance. They do have access to some of our grant dollars. By the end of this fiscal year, we will be adding three new charter schools.

The District currently has a “B” grade and is working toward becoming an “A” District. We are eight points away from becoming that “A” District.

As schools increase in enrollment, their FTE dollars increase. Mr. Chilmonik suggested a future discussion to educate committee members on FTE (full-time equivalency). The money from the state and federal governments is based on a projected number of students and their needs.

Currently being developed is the Electronic School Profile, showing various data, comparing schools within our District and our District in comparison to other Districts. This will have a user-friendly format.

The District Certification Program assists our teachers in gaining and maintaining their certification through methods including, but not limited to, a standard workshop. Teachers may be hired on a temporary certificate. Reading Endorsement courses are currently being offered.

Mr. Chilmonik suggested a brief presentation be made on where we have been as a District the last couple of years and how we are improving as a District and narrowing the gap between minority and majority students in the area of assessment scores. The current drop-out rate of 7.9% is equal to or below the State level. The graduation level has decreased by 2/10 of a percent.

Sterling Examiner Training and becoming qualified as a Sterling Examiner are steps being taken to move the District towards achieving the Governors Sterling Award. Currently, we have 8-10 demonstration schools modeling Sterling practices. The Glasser Model (Quality) is compatible and is being piloted at Tropic Isles. Dr. Glasser will be here on May 15th to present on this model.

Committee Member Question Requests

Dr. Jones addressed some inquiries from committee members; some will be postponed until next month when Dr. Tihen will be in attendance.

High School Graduation Rate –

- Is down 2/10 of a percent
- Is calculated 9th through 12th grade
- Students are accounted for according to different codes
- Credit is received for GED students (not counted as a dropout)
- Strategies in place to account for every child

Home Schooling-

- 1600 students currently registered in home school program
- Accountability measures are built in for academic progress
- Parents must be in compliance with attendance and curriculum requirements
- Parent designs program of study
- Students take FCAT and standardized tests
- No FTE received by the District on these students
- Students may participate in school sports and extracurricular activities

Hospital/Homebound-

- Curricular oversight is being pursued using accredited middle school and high school software (NovaNet)
- Covers all different subject areas
- Dr. Tihen mentioned as contact person for curriculum questions

Good of the Order

John Traube suggested after reading a letter to the editor of the NewsPress, written by a Lehigh Senior High School student, that the student be invited to the next meeting to hear his point of view on statements made in the article regarding what is taking place in our schools. Following a discussion, it was suggested it would best serve the students' interests to meet with his principal and Dr. Browder.

A motion to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. was made by Charles Spire and seconded by Patsy Howell.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Advisory Committee is scheduled for:

February 23, 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 Ave., Ft. Myers, Fl.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Pearsall