



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Curriculum Advisory Committee

March 23, 2006

Meeting Minutes

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

Committee Members Absent: Lori Bronder, Marianne DeVargas, Patricia Howell

Lee County School Personnel Present: Mr. Robert Chilmonik

Recording Secretary: Sherry Pearsall

Reading/Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairperson, Ginny Wallace. Ms. Wallace asked to include two additional items under Good of the Order this evening.

Minutes from the February meeting were unavailable and will be reviewed for approval at the March meeting.

Board Members' Report

Mr. Chilmonik will be sharing some hopefully good news from Tallahassee regarding budgets in the near future. The District is closer to hiring a chief business officer. An Internal Board Auditor has been hired, salary is being negotiated. Mr. Chilmonik is currently doing an extensive budget analysis looking at opportunities to increase spending in the classroom.

A question was raised asking when committee members would need to reapply, if they wished to continue on this committee. Mr. Chilmonik stated that members will receive letters in June or July for reapplication. All current members will serve until September. Board members appoint from their district and at-large.

Old Business

Handouts were shared with members on research updates for a proposed Math/Science High School provided by Ms. DeVargas, who was unable to be here this evening. Susan Ehr provided information on NASA Explorer Schools that would be of benefit to the curriculum for this magnet. John Traube stated that there are 3 schools in New York City with these programs: Stuyvesant High School, Bronx High School of Science, Brooklyn Technical High School (engineering – draws elite students). An entrance exam is required for each of these competitive programs. Mr. Traube would like to see hands on technology added to math and science offerings. Mrs. Wallace will ask Ms. DeVargas to organize a subcommittee meeting before our next meeting in April and bring back recommendations. This item will be placed on the April agenda. Subcommittee members include: Marianne DeVargas, Susan Ehr and John Traube. If members come across any information related to this subject, you may e-mail it to Sherry to be included for the next monthly meeting.

New Business

Vicki Stockman, Director for Staff Development, presented information on Sterling Quality. Sterling is a set of criteria for organizational performance excellence that an organization would use as a framework for assessing their own practices and performance. Sterling is an extremely complicated and detailed process requiring 5 days of training and 300 hours of work to become a trainer. Quality is excellence in performance. Our school improvement planning process is a quality process. The customers in education sometimes are students, sometimes employees. The organization makes the decision of who their customers are. Sterling is a Florida organization that supports both public and private sectors. Standards are simply best practices. The best practices came about through many hours of research. Malcolm Baldrige is the national organization. Florida is considered to be a benchmark program.

A handout was shared with members outlining the seven criteria for Sterling Quality:

- Leadership
Leadership must understand and communicate who are the customers/stakeholders
- Strategic Planning
Everyone knows the plan and contributes toward goals and objectives
- Student, Stakeholder & Market focus
Engage students in planning and decision making
- Measurement, Analysis, & Knowledge Management
Setting goals that are measurable and collecting clean data
- Faculty and Staff Focus
Faculty and staff is the most valuable asset in achieving mission & goals
- Process Management
Identifying key processes is the key to improving organizational performance
- Organizational Results
All about data, how do you compare to other similar organizations?

Criteria can be applied at any level of an organization.

Charles Hadley Elementary, located in Miami-Dade County was a 2005 recipient of the Sterling Award. Mrs. Stockman made note of their key learning processes in place that maximize student success.

Classroom Walk-Through Training and Strategic Listening are examples of sessions being offered by our District that are recognized as being aligned with Sterling practices.

The Glasser Program is primarily focused on process pieces and relates very strongly to Sterling. It is another way of doing Sterling. Tropic Isles will be recognized as a Sterling School in May. Mrs. Stockman will provide Sherry with the date and members will be invited to attend. Glasser principals are being integrated into our quality training. Most of our teachers in demo schools are already using components of Sterling. The cost for Quality Training is covered through District dollars. The cost for this benefit is very low as we develop our own materials and set goals according to the data collected from our demo schools.

School Improvement Plans and District Improvement Plans must now align to the District Strategic Plan.

Good of the Order

Mrs. Wallace attended a District Committee Chairpersons meeting in March. Each committee chairperson presented a report. The chairperson of the Construction Committee shared the new construction plans for three new schools. The Finance Committee chairman reported on the applicant for Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Legutko, from Duval County. The next meeting for Committee Chairpersons will be held in June. At the March 28th Board Briefing meeting, Mrs. Wallace will present this committee's quarterly report.

Mr. Chilmonik stated that the District is planning to spend \$3 million revamping our computer system, desperately in need of updating. On the business side, we are stalled. He is currently working on a large invoice project that our current system does not allow him to gather necessary information. On the capital side, we have no automated system. At this time, it is being run on excel spread sheets on someone's computer.

The purchase price of the Metro Mall is approximately \$13 million dollars. Approximately, an additional \$25 million dollars will be put into updating the facility. 80,000 students are projected for enrollment in the 2006-2007 school year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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

Thursday, April 27, 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