



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Curriculum Advisory Committee

April 27, 2006

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Elaine Armani, Barbara Chapin, Susan Cook, Constance Dennis, Marianne DeVargas, Susan Ehr, Patricia Howell, Lois Redmond, Alicia Reyes, Charles Spire, John Traube, Virginia Wallace

Committee Members Absent: Susan Jacobse, Rebecca White

Lee County School Personnel Present: Mr. Robert Chilmonik, Dr. Larry Tihen

Recording Secretary: Sherry Pearsall

Reading/Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chairperson, Ginny Wallace. Two new members, Barbara Chapin and Susan Cook were introduced and welcomed.

Minutes from the February and March meetings were dispensed and reviewed. A motion to accept the February minutes was made by John Traube, seconded by Marianne DeVargas and the vote was carried unanimously. A motion to accept the March minutes was made by John Traube, seconded by Charles Spire and the vote was carried unanimously.

Board Members' Report

Mr. Chilmonik

- thanked committee members for their work towards academic excellence
- stated that the School Board is looking at borrowing over \$138 million to build new schools
- informed members that FCAT reading and math scores will be coming out shortly. Writing results are already available.
- made committee members aware of the district-wide salary request by the News-Press
- will follow up on an inquiry about a culinary center being placed in the new administration building, (the old Metro Mall) and cost cutting measures being put into place

Old Business

Dr. Tihen presented an updates and initiatives analysis on Algebra. He recently met with high school teachers with students who have had 1-2 years of algebra in middle school and are coming to high school and taking algebra again. Some students are taking four years of algebra to complete one credit. Students are being placed in algebra for a variety of reasons. Currently, a systematic way of identifying student's needs is underway. This is a systems problem, a curricular placement issue. Many students, currently enrolled in algebra classes, should not be in algebra, and should be placed in computational math skill classes. 8th grade students are currently being placed according to their 7th grade DSS scores. Handouts were shared identifying the numbers of middle school students enrolled in individual math courses and their achievement levels. Only 17.56% of students go onto any advanced math course

beyond algebra. An algebra assessment is being created this year for all level 1, 2, and 3 students looking to be placed in pre-algebra or algebra in middle school. As a result of this assessment, level 4 algebra student enrollment should double in number. The offering of dual enrollment classes contributes to the decline in students taking advanced math classes.

A movement is underway across the country for restructuring schools, moving to K-8 schools to increase student achievement. This is a very costly endeavor, yet worthwhile.

New Business

Marianne DeVargas and Susan Ehr presented the subcommittee's research and recommendations on the proposed Math/Science/Technology magnet high school. There are several of these programs in place across the country. Most of these schools partner with a university. FGCU has created such a school. CarolAnn Popovich, Coordinator for the FGCU Collegiate High School, spoke of the early admissions program that supports juniors and seniors who wish to have careers in math, science and technology. This is a collaboration between the university, the high school and the student. The curricular demands are rigorous and a step up. Many summer programs are currently in place around the country that focuses on the math/science and technology curriculums. The committee recommendations include:

- Focus on early intervention to identify and prepare youngsters for the challenge using a practical approach
- Implement intensive teacher training programs offering current research-based best practices
- High quality instruction in how to integrate technology into the curriculum
- Provide academic enrichment through the formation of community partnerships
- Provide competitive teacher/substitute teacher salary packages that are competitive locally and nationally
- Develop a screening program at the elementary level to identify bright, motivated students
- Implementation of a strong preparatory program that begins in elementary school
- Make these academic programs accessible to all Lee County students

Cypress Lake Center for the Arts, Franklin Park, Ft. Myers Middle and Dunbar High are all identified as magnet attractor schools. Grants are being written for magnet programs in each zone. A wealth of pre-existing possibilities is currently in place. This does not need to be a stand alone high school.

A suggestion was made to begin the identification process at the Pre-K level. At the conclusion of the presentation, it was agreed that members needed time to digest the information shared this evening, before making any recommendations to the School Board. This committee will e-mail their personal recommendations/comments to Marianne DeVargas or Susan Ehr by May 11th. The subcommittee will meet again before the May meeting and pull together the polled recommendations. This item will be placed as old business on next month's agenda.

Good of the Order

Summer Meetings-

A current schedule has monthly meetings calendared through May. A discussion followed on whether or not to meet in June and July. Elaine Armani motioned to not meet in June and July; Marianne DeVargas seconded the motion, the vote carried unanimously. A motion to meet on August 24th was made by John Traube, seconded by Patsy Howell, the vote carried unanimously

Announcement-

Mrs. Wallace will not be reapplying for membership in September. Next month (May), will be her last meeting. John Traube will chair the August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m. The next meeting of the Curriculum Advisory Committee is scheduled for: **May 25, 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