



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Curriculum Advisory Committee

January 30, 2007

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Elaine Armani, Barbara Chapin, Susan Cook, Constance Dennis, Linda Houston, Susan Jacobse, Lois Redmond, Alicia Reyes, John Traube

Committee Members Absent: Angel Coleman, Joseph Harris, Patsy Howell, Susan Kohler, Charles Spire, and Sheila Terry

Lee County School Personnel Present: Dr. Constance Jones

Recording Secretary: Sherry Pearsall

Reading/Approval of Minutes

Chairperson, Connie Dennis, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Apologies were made for canceling the December meeting.

Minutes from the November 14th meeting were dispensed and reviewed. Dr. Dennis asked for a motion to accept the minutes. A motion was made by John Traube and seconded by Lois Redmond. The vote was carried unanimously.

Board Members' Report

Mr. Chilmonik was recently appointed to newly elected Governor Crist's Education Transition Team in November. Nine members from across the state were chosen (voluntary positions) to look at the present state of education in Florida. Interviews were conducted within a 2-3 week period and recommendations were then presented. Mr. Chilmonik will bring the follow-up report once it is posted to share with committee members. FCAT was briefly discussed – this will not change. Pre-K programs and transportation for those students were also discussed. Mr. Chilmonik shared with the Governor his concern of so many students having difficulty regarding the mechanics of English. Graduation (71% in Lee County) and dropout rates were other areas of major concern. Governor Crist also expressed the fact that he would like to improve teacher salaries.

Board Members will be holding town hall meetings in each zone in the near future. Mr. Chilmonik will kick-off this schedule beginning February 26 at Ida S. Baker High.

Is there any way that students can be surveyed to see if they feel the curriculum is meeting their needs? What are their reasons for dropping out? John Traube put these questions out for discussion. He sees a need to talk to our clientele (the students). Mr. Chilmonik was in agreement that this item should be pursued. The discussion was tabled for a further meeting.

New Business

Overview of the ESE Program –

Dr. Carl Brunick, Director of ESE, was the featured speaker this evening. Dr. Brunick's background is in gifted education. A handout on the special education services available to Lee County students was distributed.

The ESE Department serves every student with an ability or disability in the District from 3 years to 22 years of age. We currently have approximately 13,000 students with a disability. 14.1% of the students in Lee County are classified with a disability. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is written for each student receiving ESE services. Most ESE students are mainstreamed most of the time, which is determined by the IEP. Florida spends more money than any other state on gifted education services. There is a state criterion to receive gifted services. There are currently 6,000 students in grades K-12 identified as gifted. The basic cost factor received now for gifted students is very close to what is received for regular education students. At the elementary level, we have part-time pullout programs taught by certified teachers of gifted. At the middle school level, there could be 1-4 classes in gifted education. At the high school level, we have teachers who go out and do seminars and counseling with students. We also have full-time gifted programs in each zone. Funding is allocated to the schools for these programs. A profoundly handicapped student is funded five times more than the average regular ed student. The rationale is that certain students have more need than other students.

Most ESE students are on a standard diploma tract. The curriculum for all of these students is varied. Autism is a spectrum and has the fastest growing population for ESE services. Autistic children are treated the same way you would want your child treated. Yes, some autistic children have to be restrained at times. Teachers serving these students are highly qualified. John Traube expressed a concern about the fact, that at times, substitute teachers are placed into situations they are not trained for. Dr. Brunick shared the directive from Dr. Browder that principals are to be sure that their staffs are prepared when placed with students with disabilities. Any classroom has the potential for an accident, not just ESE classrooms. CPI training, which de-escalates potentially serious situations, was discussed by Mr. Chilmonik.

Connie Dennis inquired about what types of early identification is done for students. The best identifiers of gifted students is 1) students; 2) parents; and 3) teachers.

Integrating Technology into the Classroom-

Mr. Chilmonik, before teaching, worked in a number of corporate jobs. One of those positions was coordinating personal computers for a company. An outline will be e-mailed to members listing future points of discussion. Currently, Mr. Chilmonik is teaching an integrating technology class at Edison. How are new students learning, what's different? Digitally - styles of learning have changed. Having a strategy for integrating computers in the classroom is the key. Technology is a way for us to increase parent and community involvement, improve communication and increase teacher support in the classroom by increasing productivity.

Presently, we have over 20,000 computers in our schools. Mr. Chilmonik suggested this committee might want to look at:

- How technology is currently being used and what can be done to increase productivity
- Hardware
- How do we integrate digital media in education software applications in the classroom
- Identify K-12 software programs – what are we doing in curriculum?
- Electronic curriculum pages - SmartBoards are being used in some classrooms in our District.

- Teacher training
 - Possible reallocation of computers not being used (such as media centers, some computer labs)
 - Integrate technology into specific subject areas
- Mr. Chilmonik is willing to serve as a consultant to a subcommittee interested in pursuing some of these ideas. John Traube and Connie Dennis offered to participate.

Old Business

Future Monthly Meeting Dates-

Discussion among members to calendar future monthly meetings resulted in the following: February 20, March 20, April 17, no meeting in May, and June 12, 2007. A motion to accept these dates was made by John Traube, seconded by Elaine Armani and carried unanimously.

Subcommittee reports were tabled for the next meeting. Suggested items for discussion at the next meeting included:

- Status of technology in the District
- High School Majors
- District Accreditation

Public Comment

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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

Tuesday, February 20, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. in Waldo #4 (portable classroom) at the Dr. James A. Adams Public Education Center, 2055 Central Ave., Ft. Myers, Fl.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Pearsall