



## THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

### *Curriculum Advisory Committee*

*JUNE 10, 2008*

*6:00 p.m. – Training Room D*

### **Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members Present: Donna Butts, Kathleen Cherasia, Connie Dennis, Susan Jacobse, Patti Lochner, Lois Redmond, Charles Spire, John Traube

Committee Members Absent: Barbara Chapin, Karen Wood

Guests: Kathleen Saucier

Recording Secretary: Sherry Pearsall

#### **Welcome**

Dr. Connie Dennis called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and welcomed Debbie Johnston back to continue her presentation from the previous month. Dr. Dennis reviewed the committee's rules of engagement and reminded members that meetings will be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order. If a motion is brought forth and debated, everyone will be given an opportunity to speak after being recognized by the Chairperson. Mr. Traube rose to a point of personal privilege, according to Robert's Rules of Order, to distribute a letter he received from the Chairperson. It was decided that Mr. Traube would be given adequate time at the end of the meeting to address his concern.

A motion to accept the agenda as presented was made by Lois Redmond and seconded by Charles Spire. The motion carried.

#### **Reading/Approval of Minutes**

A motion to accept the minutes as amended from the May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting was made by Kathleen Cherasia and seconded by Donna Butts. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Board Member's Report**

Mr. Chilmonik reported on the following items:

- Thanked members for their participation and comments and reminded all that Robert's Rules of Order are to be followed. Everyone has a right to speak and we need to respect each other's opinion and conduct polite discussions to provide informative reports to the School Board.
- At today's Board Briefing meeting, as a result of a legislative presentation, it was revealed that we have significant financial shortfalls, coming up short in quarterly reports, and that the news is not positive financially. Classrooms will be impacted.
- Suggested politely lobbying your local representatives, be advocates for the system
- Discussions will continue through the summer
- FCAT results came out today. Math Science and Reading (10<sup>th</sup> grade) scores show reason for future discussion.
- Scheduled a meeting with the Florida Gulf Coast University president tomorrow on how to work collaboratively through this financial crisis. Please send your questions and/or suggestions that you would like to see discussed at this meeting.

## Old Business

### **Bully Bill Update (CONTINUATION) – Mrs. Debbie Johnston**

Mrs. Debbie Johnston, parent and teacher, continued the discussion that began at the last meeting in June updating the committee on the “The Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act” (Bully Bill). Mrs. Johnston brought Kathleen Saucier, guidance counselor at Mariner Middle and Lee County’s Counselor the Year to this evening’s meeting as she has worked with students who are victims of bullying and has also been involved in the process of seeing this bill become law. As a result of this bill’s passing, Mrs. Johnston has been conducting newspaper, radio and television interviews. Mrs. Johnston stated that schools need to step forward and lead the way in dealing with bullying. Teacher support is crucial to the success of implementation. The law looks at all of the inconsistencies and makes sense of them. As a result, changes to the wording in the student codes of conduct mandating that schools keep parents informed if their student is being bullied (cyber bullying and in school), keeping their child safe and what consequences is being done to correct the situation is now being looked at in other states. How will the enforcement of this bill be handled in our schools? Consistency is key. Our District has already made changes to the Student Code of Conduct that outlines what bullying actually is and the disciplinary action for bullying offenses. Peer conflict often precludes teen suicide. Students will stand up for each other if given the opportunity. Encourage students to be vocal on this subject without fear of retribution. A suggestion was made to look at current discipline policy that expels all students automatically that is involved in an altercation. A concern was raised that there may be inconsistency in the implementation of bullying consequences in some schools depending on school culture. There is no funding appropriated to this legislation. The majority of our Safe School funds pay for Student Resource Officers and Saturday School. We will see a cut in this funding also next year. Currently, online BullySafe USA Training is available to District staff. Bus stops are a consistent place where bullies target others. Some signs to look for in a bully victim are: depression, loss of appetite, kids isolated in the cafeteria and/or classroom; kids refusing to come to school; behavior problems. Students need to feel safe to learn.

A motion was made by John Traube and amended by Sue Jacobse that this committee recommend to the Board that the District establish the position of a district ombudsman, a parent advocate related specifically to bullying, modeled after the ESE parent liaison position, and be a funded position through researched grants. Donna Butts seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Kathleen Cherasia recommended that committee members view the bully video. It was also suggested that this bully video be attached to Parent Link.

## Good of the Order

A motion to continue meeting past the adjournment time of 7:30 p.m. was made by John Traube. Mr. Traube dispersed a letter he received from the committee chairperson and shared his displeasure with receiving the letter. Mr. Traube raised two issues of concern: 1) he felt that the chairperson violated the Sunshine Law; 2) and the issue of bullying he brought up at the last meeting was appropriate. Committee members expressed their views and opinions and agreed to disagree respectfully.

## Public Comment

None

## Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. was made by Patsy Howell and seconded by Lois Redmond.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Advisory Committee is scheduled for: **Tuesday, August 19, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lee County Public Education Center, Board Annex – Training Room D, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Ft. Myers, Florida.**

