



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Curriculum Advisory Committee

December 18, 2007

**6:00 p.m. – Board Annex, Training Room D
Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members Present: Donna Butts, Kathleen Cherasia, Connie Dennis, Patsy Howell, Susan Jacobse, Patti Lochner, Lois Redmond, Alicia Reyes, John Traube, Karen Wood

Committee Members Absent: Faezeh Andrews, Barbara Chapin, Susan Cook, Charles Spire

Recording Secretary: Sherry Pearsall

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by chairperson, Dr. Connie Dennis. Dr. Dennis reviewed Robert's Rules of Order and expressed her desire to maintain an orderly and agenda driven meeting. An inquiry was made regarding the process for members requesting items they would like to see on future meeting agendas. A motion to accept the agenda as presented was made by Patti Lochner and seconded by Dr. Redmond. The motion carried unanimously.

Reading/Approval of Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from the November 13th, 2007 meeting was made by John Traube and seconded by Donna Butts. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Member's Report

Mr. Chilmonik reported on the following:

- Currently placing SAT mean scores data on grid sheet, will share in the near future
- Completing editorial on academics
- Wished everyone Happy Holidays

Old Business

Review of Board Priority Goals – Dr. Connie Dennis

Copies of the Board Priority Goals were shared with members and Dr. Dennis reviewed the seven goals to assist committee members with developing areas of interest. Drop-out Prevention rates generated much interest. Some questions that arose during the discussion were:

- When reporting statistics, does DOE track students that move from school to school? County to County? State to State?
- Where do we begin and end with tracking these students?
- The number of students that drop out that have not been in Lee County for a minimum of 2 years – How are they reported?
- Minority Students (black males)
- Curriculum offered – Is this having an effect on the drop out rates?

Highly Qualified Teachers-

- Should substitute teachers be trained to become highly qualified?
- What is being done to mentor and retain current highly qualified teachers?
- Retired Teachers

Bullying-

- Impact on student achievement

Reading-

- Exploring other test options
- De-emphasizing the FCAT
- Pursuing Vocational-Technical training in middle school (hands on)

Volunteering/Mentoring Programs

- Ask Dr. Sheryl Clarke to return and present an overview of programs that stand alone and also overlap
- Parental Involvement – Awareness and how to improve on the number of participants participating in schools
- PTA's and SAC (School Advisory Committee)

Testing Issues

- Increasing SAT and ACT Scores – earlier preparation

After reviewing the list of suggestions, the areas that were determined that this committee could address and initiate an effective change were: Dropout Prevention, Highly Qualified Teachers and Bullying. In past years, subcommittees were formed to address these areas of interest. A motion was made by John Traube to postpone creating subcommittees at this time and to set aside time at each monthly meeting for the next 3 months to make each of these areas a focus topic for discussion. If necessary to complete the work, subcommittees may be formed at a later date. Mrs. Cherasia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The focus topic of discussion for the January meeting will be Dropout Prevention. In preparation for the meeting, it was asked if drop out statistics could be provided by District administrators in relation to school, ethnicity, grade, and zone and how the rate is calculated for Florida and how is it different from other states. At what age and grade level do students begin to drop out?

SAT Scores – Dr. Connie Jones

Dr. Jones distributed a handout of an SAT Analysis for Improvement presentation that was shared with Board Members recently. Dr. Jones stated that in trying to tackle the challenge of improving SAT scores, we first looked at our performance in Lee County and tried to make sense of the scores. The SAT (Scholastic Achievement Test) has been renamed to the SAT Reasoning Test and is a national standardized test. It is considered one of the best predictors of college success for individual students. Students are tested in Critical Reading (Verbal), Math and recently, Writing. Lee County's Mean SAT scores in Reading and Math were shared with members. It is important for as many students as possible to participate. This report is based on college bound seniors for 2006-2007 who gave a graduating date of 2007 in the self reporting registration process and also any student who self reported a Lee County Public School Code. Seventy-eight percent of SAT test takers with multiple scores reported their highest score on their most recent test taken. One of the motivations for taking the SAT is to be able to offer this as alternative to graduate from high school. You can get a passing score on the FCAT in reading and math or you can get the concordant scores in reading (410) and math. Mr. Chilmonik asked how many states require a test to graduate. Half of the students taking the SAT are Level I and Level II FCAT students. All students are encouraged to take the SAT or ACT. Multiple testing opportunities are offered. Following the presentation, members asked questions and offered suggestions for future feedback:

- Because there is a fee associated with taking these tests, it was suggested to investigate ways (scholarships) to make this available to all students, regardless of ability to pay.

- What is tested on the ACT and SAT tests as opposed to the FCAT test?
- Encourage students to begin preparing earlier by taking the opportunity to test earlier

Good of the Order

Committee Representation on the Reading Textbook Adoption Committee –
If anyone is interested, please contact Dr. Tihen.

Public Comment

Dr. Judy Piasco, former Director of Civil Service Testing in New York City, did not agree with the information provided in the testing analysis presented this evening regarding lower level test takers and our diverse population. Dr. Jones stated that other districts do not collect data in the same format. At a recent State meeting, several districts offered to begin collecting in the same format and begin comparing data.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:36 was made by Patsy Howell and seconded by John Traube.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Advisory Committee is scheduled for: **Tuesday, January 15, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lee County Public Education Center, Board Annex – Training Room D, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Ft. Myers, Florida.**