



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Curriculum Advisory Committee

March 18, 2008

6:00 p.m. – Training Room D

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Barbara Chapin, Kathleen Cherasia, Connie Dennis, Patsy Howell, Susan Jacobse, Patti Lochner, Lois Redmond, Alicia Reyes, Charles Spire, John Traube, Karen Wood

Committee Members Absent: Faezeh Andrews, Donna Butts

Recording Secretary: Sherry Pearsall

Welcome

Dr. Connie Dennis called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone. A motion to accept the agenda as presented was made by John Traube and seconded by Pat Lochner. The motion carried unanimously.

Reading/Approval of Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes from the February 19th, 2008 meeting was made by John Traube and seconded by Kathleen Cherasia. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Member's Report

Mr. Chilmonik reported on the following items:

- Recognized Mr. Teuber's attendance this evening as a guest Board Member
- Distributed a guest opinion to members, not yet published
- Will follow-up on the inquiry asking if Lee Memorial Hospital pays a rental fee to hold their meetings here in our building.
- Changes to the tax structure (25% tax reduction on homes, sales tax) – How will this impact be made up?
- Maintaining high educational standards with significantly less funding
- Required Local Effort (RLE) – amount mandated by state to levy on local taxpayers, was explained by Mr. Teuber
- Upcoming Board decisions regarding budget funding shortfall
- Keeping the public informed
- Student funding and teacher salaries
- How school districts receive their funding by category

New Business

State/District Data – Mr.Chilmonik

Due to an unavailable internet connection, Mr. Chilmonik was unable to share some of his report. Members were informed that the DOE website has recently been revamped and that school district's report key data differently, specifically, ratio percents on the available RLI reports, (teacher to administrator ratio, teacher to support person ratio). Mr. Chilmonik completed an analysis comparing Lee County to other high growth counties. He looked at teacher salaries, drop out and graduation rates, PhD's, and graduates' degrees. As a result of the data reviewed among these high growth counties, Mr. Chilmonik sees a need for high intensity programs to meet the needs of minorities and the disabled to bring them up to meeting the standards. Lee County has a high mobility rate. Forty-six percent of

our minority students are not graduating and that number has not significantly changed since 2003. Only fifty-three percent of our Hispanic students are currently graduating. SAT & ACT scores have shown little or no improvement since 2001. Lee County is number four in the State for English Language Learning (ELL) students (8,100).

John Traube motioned to table the bullying discussion to the next meeting and continue the discussion of State/District Data. Kathleen Cherasia seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Steve Teuber suggested looking at the top 10% of students scoring on the ACT and SAT across the country and doing a comparison analysis.

Highlights of a math discussion were:

- By statute, every middle school must offer an advanced math class
- New math standards begin next year
- Suggested researching why girls score lower in math than boys
- Strategies for improving girls scores
- Single gender education
- Set Game.com
- Gender Differences/Brain Development – future agenda topic
- Students are not registering for higher level math classes, partially due to the dual enrollment incentive

Good of the Order

Gay/Straight Alliance Club at Ida Baker High School –

A support group that aligns to the bullying issue and brings about more awareness and education

Textbooks vs. Hand Held Devices -

Cost compared to student achievement did not reflect a return on the investment

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. was made by Kathleen Cherasia and seconded by John Traube.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Advisory Committee is scheduled for: **Tuesday, April 29, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lee County Public Education Center, Board Annex – Training Room D, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Ft. Myers, Florida.**