



## THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

### *Curriculum Advisory Committee*

*August 21, 2007*

**6:00 p.m. – Academic Services Conference Room  
Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members Present: Barbara Chapin, Susan Cook, Constance Dennis, Susan Jacobse, Lois Redmond, John Traube

Committee Members Absent: Linda Houston, Patsy Howell, Alicia Reyes, Charles Spire

Recording Secretary: Sherry Pearsall

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

Chairperson, Connie Dennis, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Members were welcomed back after summer break.

The minutes from the June 12th meeting were read and a motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by John Traube. The motion carried.

#### **Board Members' Report**

Mr. Chilmonik reported on the following:

- The move to the new Lee County Public Education Center is now complete and all are settling in nicely.
- Has visited approximately 10-12 schools in the last couple of days and reports on a very smooth opening to the start of the new school year
- Will look into the details of an incident (prank) that took place on the opening day of school at Ft. Myers High School
- While reviewing recent FCAT data, Mr. Chilmonik questioned whether the District was making significant academic progress, due in part to the difficulty of deciphering some of the data available. Mr. Chilmonik suggested asking Dr. Doug Whittaker, from Charlotte County, to come to our next meeting and discuss Charlotte County's FCAT progress and share ideas for improving student performance. Mr. Chilmonik will make the contact.
- Noted that Lee County ACT and SAT scores are significantly below state and national levels

#### **New Business**

##### **FCAT Data Presentation – Dr. Connie Jones, Dr. Richard Itzen, Dr. Larry Tihen-**

Handouts on FCAT student achievement data were shared with committee members. Dr. Itzen stated that FCAT testing began in the 1997-1998 school year. Currently, students in grades 3 to 10 are being tested in reading and math. In grades 4, 8, and 10, students are being tested in writing. Science is being tested in grades 5, 8 and 11. Social Studies may be tested in the future. Students must pass FCAT Reading and Math, in addition to Writing (10<sup>th</sup> grade), to meet graduation criteria. Students do have the option of retaking the areas they do not pass the first time. Dr. Itzen's department, Evaluation, Research & Testing, are obligated to report data that reflects both progress and/or lack of student achievement in each area. The school grading system is based on FCAT results. One of the challenges to the FCAT testing program today is the old way of assessment was a norm referenced test; the new

way is a standards based test like the FCAT. Florida established the Sunshine State Standards and FCAT was later designed and implemented to assess those standards. One of the District's challenges in terms of academic achievement is our 45% mobility rate. We saw enormous growth with 18,000 new students last year. The new International Centers Program that began just this school year will address non-English speaking student needs with language and performance deficiencies. Dr. Tihen addressed the cumulative effect of these challenges noting that with so many new students we need to be careful in considering what programs work and do not work. When comparing reading and math data, good progress has been made at the high school reading level in the last two years as a result of classroom placement. Math has been taught at every grade level historically, but reading has only occurred District-wide at the secondary level for the past two years. With our growth and changes in student population, we are essentially looking at a dramatic increase in our need for intervention programs.

Due to time constraints, it was suggested that the FCAT data presentation by Dr. Itzen, Dr. Tihen and Dr. Jones be placed on next month's agenda as a continuation item.

#### **Old Business**

A motion to accept future monthly committee meeting dates as: August 21<sup>st</sup>, September 18<sup>th</sup>, October 16<sup>th</sup> and November 13<sup>th</sup> was made by John Traube. The motion carried unanimously .

#### **Good of the Order**

A motion was made to invite Dr. Doug Whittaker to next month's meeting to discuss FCAT student progress by John Traube. The motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Traube at 7:38 p.m. The motion carried.

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

**Tuesday, September 18, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. in the new Lee County Public Education Center, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Ft. Myers, Florida**