



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Curriculum Advisory Committee

September 18, 2007

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

Committee Members Present: Barbara Chapin, Susan Cook, Patsy Howell, Susan Jacobse, Lois Redmond, Alicia Reyes, Charles Spire, John Traube

Committee Members Absent: Connie Dennis, Linda Houston

Guest: Donna Butts, Dr. Richard Itzen

Recording Secretary: Sherry Pearsall

Reading/Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chairperson, John Traube, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

The minutes from the August 21st meeting were read and a motion to approve the minutes as amended to include a question that was brought forth discussing student achievement data comparing currently enrolled K-12 students to incoming students to our District was made by Dr. Lois Redmond. The motion carried.

Board Members' Report

Mr. Chilmonik reported on the following:

- A letter is being written by Mr. Chilmonik to the School Board of Charlotte County acknowledging their District's outstanding academic achievement (FCAT scores) and requesting a visit from Dr. Doug Whittaker and team on October 16th to share successful strategies currently being used in Charlotte County with this committee. Following committee discussion regarding the content of the letter, a motion was made by Patsy Howell to invite Dr. Doug Whittaker to any future CAC meeting to discuss academic student progress. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Chilmonik will rewrite the letter and e-mail committee members a copy in advance of mailing the request to Charlotte County.
- SAT Scores – Any student, whether a minority male or a minority female have an opportunity to succeed as long as they are given the correct tools.
- Reading – An interesting statement was made regarding students not reading on grade level. In Lee County, all graduating students read on grade level. The State does make provisions for alternative assessments. 71% of our students complete and graduate in four years. We don't get credit for students who graduate in 5 or 6 years which creates the disconnect between graduation and dropout rates.
- Will be inviting committee members along with other community members to his home to view slide shows from his daughter's year and a half Peace Corp tour in Mongolia.
- Willing to answer any questions regarding ESE parents coming forward regarding IEP services and how students are being served. To increase everyone's knowledge on ESE services, the following agenda topics were suggested for a future meeting:

New Business

Intensive Reading & LANGUAGE! Implementation – Dr. Larry Tihen

Dr. Tihen addressed causes and effects of data and why it is the way it is. Data presented this evening was the first years' implementation data from Cambium Learning, creators of the LANGUAGE! Program. The average gain in reading across the state was 108 points on the DSS for students moving from 5th to 6th grade. While in Lee County, the average gain for Level I 6th grade students in the LANGUAGE! Program was 195 points. This same pattern of scores also occurred in 7th and 8th grade. We have the expectation that lower functioning students have the possibility of improving. Any group can be affected by poverty. In 6th to 8th grade, the gains were substantial for all student groups.

As regards students new to our District, only one-third of 8th grade students, new to the District, last year (standard curriculum students) could pass the FCAT. In 9th grade, 68% of new students cannot pass the FCAT. In 10th grade, 84% of new students we receive from other school districts cannot pass the FCAT. We have experienced dramatic growth and the student population has changed. Last year, 18,000 new students came to the district. We are changing to an intervention district. International Classes have been implemented this year to meet student needs with language disabilities.

A question was raised - Are we identifying and really dealing with incoming students academic and social problems?? The real danger is that we have programs that work that people think is not working – looking at the wrong data. New intervention programs are much needed.

The data is complex and difficult to understand. The public needs more education on understanding how FCAT scores are compiled. We demand much more of our students academically now than in the past. We need to make a long-term commitment to new students coming into our District that is academically performing far behind.

Requests

Mr. Chilmonik requested comparison data to be provided on how students perform on the SAT

John Traube - Can we compare incoming 9th & 10th grade students with social implications, what problems they are bringing with them and how does this affect the dropout rate?

Good of the Order

1. Susan Jacobse noted the upcoming recognition ceremony of Lee County Schools Technical and Career Education Program by Ford Motor Company on September 28th.
2. Dr. Richard Itzen will look at SAT scores data as a comparison measure.
3. Susan Jacobse requested a copy for each committee member of the 10th grade FCAT reading test both with and without a key.
4. Reminder - Orientation Meeting for Board Advisory Committee Members on Sept. 26th on 6:30 p.m. for all current and new members.

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

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

Tuesday, October 16, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. in the new Lee County Public Education Center, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Ft. Myers, Florida