



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Curriculum Advisory Committee

October 16, 2007

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

Committee Members Present: Faezeh Andrews, Donna Butts, Barbara Chapin, Kathleen Cherasia, Susan Cook, Connie Dennis, Patsy Howell, Susan Jacobse, Patti Lochner, Dieter Philippi, Lois Redmond, Alicia Reyes, Charles Spire, John Traube, Karen Wood

Committee Members Absent: none

Recording Secretary: Sherry Pearsall

Welcome & Introduction of New Members

Dr. Connie Jones called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and welcomed new committee members: Dr. Faezeh Andrews, Mrs. Donna Butts, Mrs. Kathleen Cherasia, Ms. Patti Lochner, Mr. Dieter Phillippi and Ms. Karen Wood. Members (new and continuing) were introduced and provided a brief background as to their curricular interests and/or connection to the committee.

New Business

Election of Committee Chairperson & Vice Chairperson- Dr. Connie Jones

Nominations were opened for Committee Chairperson. Charles Spire nominated Connie Dennis and John Traube seconded the motion. Dr. Lois Redmond motioned to accept and the vote carried unanimously. Nominations for Vice-Chairperson were Donna Butts, made by Susan Jacobse, seconded by Dr. Andrews. John Traube was nominated by Connie Dennis, seconded by Susan Cook. A motion to accept the unanimous vote of Donna Butts was made by Ms. Lochner and seconded by Susan Jacobse.

Dr. Jones shared a handout entitled “Rules of Engagement” (guidelines or standards for behavior) with the committee to assist in determining committee focus and recommendations to the Board.

Dr. Connie Dennis then presided over the meeting as the new committee chairperson.

Future Meeting Dates-

A motion to continue meeting on the third Tuesday of each month was made by Mr. Phillippi and seconded by Dr. Andrews with the exceptions of April May and June (as noted below). The Curriculum Advisory Committee will meet as follows: November 13th, December 18th, January 15th, February 19th, March 18th, April 29th, May 13th, June 10th, and August 19th. The committee will not meet in July. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Topic – Increasing Volunteerism & Mentoring to Improve Student Achievement-

Key points of discussion on this topic included:

- ✓ The need for parent volunteers to be made to feel welcome in a classroom to increase and sustain volunteerism at all levels
- ✓ Teachers need to work through their own issues to make parents feel welcome, parents comply more when welcomed

- ✓ Encourage parents to participate in after school programs
- ✓ Beyond the Bake Sale – recommended reading
- ✓ Educate the educators on creating a partnership
- ✓ Elementary schools have a higher percentage of parent volunteers, charter school parents are required to volunteer a set number of hours
- ✓ Are there rules and/or parameters as to what a volunteer can/cannot do? What are the expectations? A suggestion was made to create a handbook for volunteers and mentors on policies and procedures
- ✓ The need for more bi-lingual parent volunteers
- ✓ Encourage ESE parents to volunteer
- ✓ Some see necessary background checks as a deterrent to volunteering and student mentoring
- ✓ Big Brothers/Big Sisters – a one on one mentoring program
- ✓ Lee County Foundation mentoring program begins in the ninth grade, training is provided, students are seen by mentors during the school day, not during the summer
- ✓ FGCU offers a teacher mentoring program, beginning teachers must have a peer teacher
- ✓ Students mentoring students, several schools in our District have these programs currently in place
- ✓ Possible formation of sub-committees to research more on this subject
- ✓ Ask Marie Dinon and Sharon Lemstrom to next meeting to present more information on volunteers and mentoring

Reading/Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 18th meeting were read and a motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mrs. Cherasia and seconded by Mrs. Jacobse. The motion carried.

Board Member's Report

Mr. Chilmonik reported on the following:

- ✓ The new computer system that will be going to the Board for approval has a \$40 million expense total, at this time \$6 million has been spent so far on SIS system. This system will interface systems used by Finance, Budget, Payroll and Student Services.
- ✓ Estimates an \$8 million FTE shortfall
- ✓ The student population of the Lee County School District has now surpassed 82,000 students
- ✓ Will be publishing an editorial in the near future on ways parents may interact in our school system
- ✓ Will provide committee members with copies of the 2006-2007 Annual Report at next meeting
- ✓ Invitation for Saturday, October 20th, 7 p.m. to view photo presentation of his family's trip to Mongolia where his daughter is working with the Peace Corp. Call or e-mail for directions.

Good of the Order

Susan Jacobse – Is it possible for each committee member to receive a power point presentation that was viewed by the Board of the new computer system being purchased?

Patti Lochner – Tallahassee is determined to cut taxes. We need to aggressively contact our legislative platform to make education held harmless and include teacher and community input.

John Traube- 1) Shared a newspaper paper article raising thought provoking questions as to whether with all the testing being done and scores reflecting improvement, is student learning achievement really improving?; 2) The high school career tech ed concept transitioned to middle school.

Kathleen Cherasia – Regarding the bullying issue – Where are we with implementing ways to address this issue in the student code of conduct? Possible presentation at future meeting?

Patsy Howell- Would like further research on how dropout rates are reported to the State, look at state statutes

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Traube at 7:40 p.m. The motion carried.

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

**Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lee County Public Education Center,
Academic Services Conference Room, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Ft. Myers, Florida.**