



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Curriculum Advisory Committee

November 13, 2007

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

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

Committee Members Absent: Barbara Chapin, Susan Cook, Alicia Reyes

Recording Secretary: Sherry Pearsall

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by chairperson, Dr. Connie Dennis. She welcomed Dr. Browder as a guest this evening.

New Business

Increasing Volunteerism & Mentoring to Improve Student Achievement - Dr. Marie Dinon

Dr. Sheryl Clarke, Director for District Intervention Programs introduced Dr. Marie Dinon. Dr. Dinon is the District Coordinator for Parent Involvement and Volunteer Programs. Volunteers work in many areas of our schools other than classrooms. Volunteers and mentors donate their time and expertise to sporting events, booster clubs, fundraising, chaperoning group events, etc. Volunteers are not fingerprinted, but an FDLE background check is required. Training is provided for all mentors and volunteers. Dr. Dinon shared information on some of the current mentoring services being offered:

- Media Center Volunteers (Book Fairs and classroom check-out)
- Reading Mentors
- Teen Trendsetters Program (high school students are paired up with 2nd or 3rd grade students in intensive reading classes, supported through grants funds)
- Computer Lab Assistants
- ESOL Translators (language assistance)
- Adult Literacy Tutors
- Music Assistance Volunteers
- School Office Assistance
- Family Game Night (created gamed boards to help develop lagging skill areas)
- Families Building Better Readers (10 strategies that assist parents in teaching their children to become fluent readers in both English and Spanish)
- COW (Classroom on Wheels)

Many of these programs are pull-out programs conducted during the school day and volunteers coordinate their time with the classroom teacher. Dr. Dinon is asking for your help in recognizing and promoting volunteerism and business partners and looking for talent in the community. Please send her your ideas by completing the form that was handed out and help spread the word.

Board Priority Goals - Dr. Sheryl Clarke

Dr. Clarke presented on the seven priorities established by the Board with results and targets through 2012. They include graduation and dropout rates, the academics of reading, math and science, highly qualified teachers, and non-English speaking students. The Board priorities are linked to the District Strategic Plan and the Superintendent's goals, which, in turn, departments and schools develop their improvement plans. Teachers develop professional development plans (PDP's). Some schools have students develop their goals for improving academic achievement.

International Centers were implemented this year for English language learners. In each zone there is a program at each level: elementary, middle and high. This is a voluntary program for one year to immerse students into the English language, while receiving services in the regular classroom.

Highly qualified teachers are constantly being recruited.

Dr. Tihen has led the initiative for district wide consistency of curriculum and textbooks used. One of the outcomes of the SAT data presentation was the need to begin prep classes earlier. Of the 2100 students who took the SAT last year, 49% were level 1 and 2 FCAT test performers.

Comments and questions from committee members after the presentation included:

Are the goals realistic? Are we teaching to the test? Is the measuring device we're using working? Standards are taught, not the test. A request for information on mentoring to maintain highly qualified teachers, the possibility of receiving grant funds to support this initiative

For next month's meeting, committee members were asked to bring back 3 topics to develop goals and objectives and form subcommittees to research. These could also be e-mailed to Dr. Jones.

Subcommittee Formation –

Suggested subcommittees included:

- Bullying
- Testing/FCAT
- Mentoring

More discussion will follow next month.

Reading/Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October 16th meeting were read and a motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Patti Lochner and seconded by Mrs. Cherasia. The motion carried.

Board Member's Report

Mr. Chilmonik reported on the following:

- At the next meeting he will be providing a presentation on academics and recap SAT scores
- Will be focusing on SAT, ACT and Reading test scores
- Distributed Calendar/Annual Report that provides test scores, District financial information, holidays, Board Meetings, accomplishments, etc- a great resource!
- Will provide an update on the progress being made for Dr. Doug Whittaker's visit from Charlotte County
- Dropout Factories - Are kids being pushed out of the system to increase test scores? How are they being tracked? More concrete data is needed for interpretation purposes.

A discussion followed regarding the amount of time allotted for the Board Members report and what role Board Members play in directing meeting agendas. A motion was made by Susan Jacobse asking the committee chairperson to contact Mr. Martin, School Board Attorney, to attend the next meeting and clarify the role of the committee Board Liaison. The motion was seconded. More discussion ensued. A call for a vote was made – 2 in favor, 10 against. Pat Lochner called the question and a vote to close debate followed – the motion carried unanimously. A new motion was made by Susan Jacobse for the committee chairperson to contact Mr. Martin for written clarification of the role of the committee Board Liaison to be presented at the next meeting. The vote carried 11 in favor to 1 opposed.

Good of the Order

As committee chairperson, Connie Dennis was recently invited to Brevard County with other District leaders to attend the Sterling Showcase. Dr. Dennis would like to share the highlights at another meeting.

A request was made by John Traube to change the order of the agenda items (minutes and Board Members' report) back to earlier in the agenda.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

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

Tuesday, December 18, 2007, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lee County Public Education Center, Academic Services Conference Room, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Ft. Myers, Florida.