



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Curriculum Advisory Committee

JANUARY 5, 2009

6:00 p.m. – Training Room D

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Donna Butts, Roxann Camel, Kathleen Cherasia, Connie Dennis, Patsy Howell, Susan Jacobse, Patti Lochner, Kathryn McMichael, Lois Redmond, Ellen Reinig, Alicia Reyes, John Traube, Karen Wood

Committee Members Absent: Barbara Chapin, Charles Spire

Guest(s): Nick Kellen, Chairperson for Continuous Systemic Improvement Advisory Committee

Recording Secretary: Sherry Pearsall

Welcome

Ms. Patti Lochner called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. On December 7th, Ellen Reinig presented a synopsis of the committees' goals at the Advisory Board Chairpersons meeting in Ms. Lochner's absence. Ms. Lochner asked for this update to be added to the agenda. A motion to approve an addition to the agenda was made by John Traube and seconded by Connie Dennis. The motion carried. Ms. Lochner asked to keep a speaking order – two minutes per person.

Review & Approval of Agenda & Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Kathryn McMichael and seconded by Sue Jacobse. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Member's Report

Dr. Kuckel reported on the following:

- ◆ The need to reduce an additional \$40 million from the budget for next year, 2009-2010. Board Members are being forced to consider reducing salaries for all personnel, closing existing schools, possibly reducing an already devastated workforce and reorganizing the District level administrative structure.
- ◆ Legislators are asking for a reprieve on the Class Size Amendment. The cost to date for this amendment is \$314 million.
- ◆ The expectation that every school district in the State have a Virtual school offering.
- ◆ Sales Tax Exemption – review these exemptions for additional revenue. Trudy Williams and Dave Arronberg are expected to initiate legislation to sunset all of those sales tax exemptions except for utilities, food, prescription drugs, etc. (necessities).
- ◆ Allowing the District flexibility with operational and capital funding dollars. Presently, this requires a referendum. Board Members are asking the State to allow them this flexibility.
- ◆ Asking for your support for these initiatives by contacting your legislators.
- ◆ Brainstorm and send your ideas for cost saving measures to your Board Members and Dr. Browder.
- ◆ Penny Sales Tax – language would need to be specific, no supplanting.

Committee member comments and questions followed this report to include:

- ◆ Excessive land purchases not being used, the lack of an internal auditor, extreme raises for the Superintendent

- ◆ Has the School Board been judicious on how district dollars are spent?
- ◆ Transportation funding/efficiency – We no longer have neighborhood schools. The School Choice plan has been tweaked as much as possible. Students are only being bussed within a subzone.
- ◆ The paper costs of the District Elementary Math Assessments – these may become available online next year and would be more cost effective.
- ◆ Class and a half for art and music to address class size and not lose any student funding. Strategies are presently being looked at.
- ◆ Lobbying to make the class size amendment remain at the school average level, not the classroom by classroom average level.
- ◆ Paper (triplicate) discipline referrals – a cost saving measure by making these available online, Dr. Jones will check on the status of this item.
- ◆ How much is being spent on criterion referenced FCAT testing?
- ◆ Teachers who are willing to give up planning time rather than take a salary cut

Old Business

Committee Goals/Priorities Discussion -

At last month's meeting, fourteen items were brought forward for discussion to prioritize committee focus and goals. At tonight's meeting each committee member voted on three of the fourteen suggested committee goals/priorities. As a result of this vote, the following items were voted as this committee's priority goals:

#7 Problem Based Instruction (tying in #2 and #5)

#4 Civics (tying in #6)

#9 Drop-Out Prevention

At the next meeting, Dr. Jones will bring a resource person(s) to speak briefly addressing more in depth, and allowing for committee discussion time. She suggested bringing someone from Staff Development to address Instructional Strategies and Sue Roshon from Technical and Career Education to address 21st Century Skills and Career Academies.

A concern was raised that due to only having three more Board approved meeting months, would there be ample time to devote to the committee's goals. Dr. Kuckel will check with Mr. Martin to see that if the committee chooses to meet in June, if this could be considered a committee workshop.

New Business

Sunshine State Standards Updates (Language Arts, Math & Science)-

Dr. Carolyn Egana, Coordinator for Language Arts –

K-5 Academic Plans for Language Arts and Writing are currently being aligned to the newly adopted Macmillan elementary reading series. The State is planning for revised "World Class SSS to be called the "Next Generation SSS". The biggest change will be that it will be more content specific. The 6-12 Language Arts textbook adoption is on hold due to changing Sunshine State Standards. FCAT Writing tests for 2008 will be essay only. District tests in grades 6-12 indicate strengths in reading/literature and the writing process; improvement is needed in grammar, usage and mechanics.

Sharon Vandeventer, Coordinator for Mathematics –

Ms. Vandeventer met previously with this committee providing an in depth look at changes to the SSS in Math. A power point of that presentation is available on the District website. Tonight she provided a handout laying out the most recent updates. The majority/minority gap has decreased over the years as student achievement has increased for all students. A significant number of new students enrolling in Lee County schools enter below grade level and require intensive intervention. Florida's new

standards for mathematics have changed significantly. Specific grade level standards in each grade level are to be mastered at that grade level, emphasizing automatic recall of basic facts. This year the standards are being implemented in grades K, 1, 2, 3 & 6. Third grade and sixth grade are also addressing the old benchmarks that are still being tested. In 2010-2011 we will be going to the new FCAT at all grade levels. Textbook adoption is scheduled for next year. Websites were provided for anyone wishing more in depth research.

Rick Tully, Coordinator for Science & Environmental Education-

The Next Generation SSS for Science were adopted in February 2008. The new standards have been organized into four Bodies of Knowledge and eighteen Big Ideas with 288 benchmarks in grades K-8. The Science course descriptions are presently in draft status. A new textbook adoption for Science instructional materials is scheduled for 2010-2011. Science FCAT is also changing based on the Next Generation Science standards in 2011-2012. At this time, the Science Academic Plans are based on the 1996 SSS. They are presently changing KG – Grade 2 plans to align to the new SSS. All remaining grade levels are scheduled for transition between 2009 and 2012. Websites were included with the handout for further information.

It was noted that committee members felt communication between the District and local colleges be maintained to provide prospective new teachers with current information/updates on the Sunshine State Standards and SAT preparation. We are working closely with Edison College and Florida Gulf Coast University.

Good of the Order

Dr. Kuckel suggested placing guest speakers at the beginning of the meeting agenda so they do not have to sit through our business meetings.

Ellen Reinig asked to have meeting minutes available on the website a day in advance of meetings.

Donna Butts apologized for her drop out comments at the last meeting.

Any questions or comments you have regarding the presentations by the District coordinators this evening, please forward to Sherry.

Public Comment

Nick Kellen, Chairperson for the Continuous Systemic Improvement Advisory Committee, thanked Ellen Reinig for the invitation to attend this evening's meeting.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. was made by Kathleen Cherasia and seconded by John Traube.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Advisory Committee is scheduled for: **Monday, February 9, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lee County Public Education Center, – Academic Services Conference Room, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Ft. Myers, Florida.**