



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Curriculum Advisory Committee

FEBRUARY 9, 2009

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

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

Committee Members Absent: Donna Butts, Patricia Howell, Charles Spire

Recording Secretary: Sherry Pearsall

Welcome

Ms. Patti Lochner called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Ms. Lochner reminded members that a speaking order would be kept with a two minute time limit and to stay on topic.

Review & Approval of Agenda & Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by John Traube and seconded by Lois Redmond. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Instructional Strategies – Vicki Stockman, Director, Staff Development -

Dr. Jones introduced Ms. Stockman who provided information on instructional strategies training and developing higher level thinking. District wide training is provided for all teachers during preschool week. Each year for the last five years a curriculum focus has been developed.

2004-2005 Research-based Reading Strategies, Reading Across the Curriculum

2005-2006 Research-based Instructional Strategies from Classroom Instruction that Works

2006-2007 Using Data to Improve Student Performance

2007-2008 Best Practices for Supporting Writing Across the Content Areas

2008-2009 Strategies for Identifying, Assessing and Achieving Classroom and Student Goals

Staff Development offers several ongoing instructional strategies trainings to include:

CRISS Training - Creating Independence through Student owned Strategies – a professional development program designed to help all students read, write and learn more effectively. Training is done at the District level, and will be presented at the school level in the near future.

Kagan Cooperative Learning Training - based on a research program where it was discovered that world-wide, children become more cooperative when they were placed in certain types of situations. Dr. Spencer Kagan created simple “structures” that allow teachers to guide the interaction of students.

Choosing Excellence – this year’s focus training, an 18 hour training course that merges the Sterling and Glasser continuous improvement models to the school and classroom level. Emphasis is placed on using data to make informed instructional decisions.

Differentiating Instruction - provides teachers the opportunity to explore ways to differentiate content, process and produce according to student’s readiness and learning profiles.

Technology – Intel “Teach to the Future Program”- Assists teachers to use the power of computer technology to spark student imagination and move them toward greater learning.

Mathematics Training –

Problem-based learning (PBL) is a student centered instructional strategy where students collaboratively solve problems. This is an important strategy for teachers to use as the New Sunshine State Standards in Mathematics are implemented.

Singapore Math – an approach that builds on succeeding levels and assumes that what was taught need not be taught again, has a frequent use of word problems and the strategies towards solving them, and the use of bar models (a form of pre-algebra) in teaching problem solving, rather than trial and error methods.

It was noted that professional development has changed. Two areas that are very strong and continue to be built upon are professional learning communities and action research.

Sue Roshon, Interim Director, Technical & Career Education – Career Academies & 21st Century Skills-

Mrs. Roshon shared information regarding the 16 career clusters, the 16 areas where every occupation can be slotted. Engaging students (motivation) and applied learning happen in career academies and are being promoted to happen more. The intent is to have opportunities for every student to have the opportunity to participate in career academies if they so choose. Six to seven years ago when the planning was being implemented for the academies, the #1 academy promoted by the Workforce Development Board and Economic Development was construction. A handout was distributed listing Lee County Schools current and proposed career academies.

Most middle school administrators are providing two to three tech and career ed exploratories presently. Based on a seven period day, there are twenty-eight opportunities for students to take these courses. Sixteen are core academics and eight are electives. State mandates do prevent some students (intensive reading) from being able to participate in academies. If the eight hour block comes to pass, it will provide more opportunity and flexibility in student schedules. A freshman academy (in some form) is now offered at each high school.

To succeed in today's workplace; students need more than basic reading and math skills. Some of the 21st century skills that employers will be looking for from our students include: substantial technology skills, teaching our students how to be part of a team, be flexible, how to continue to learn, stay employed and how to problem solve. Employers now rank Foreign Language as more important than Science from high school graduates.

Board Member's Report

Dr. Kuckel reported on the following:

- Impressed with the conversation around the table this evening
- Why don't we consider JROTC as an academy?
- Still remains very concerned with next year's budget; how much of the stimulus package will we see? – strings attached?
- Share your feelings regarding the crisis education is facing with your legislators
- Teacher of the Year – Terry Huge, Math & Physics Teacher, Lehigh Senior High
- Support Person of the Year – Gale Burkhead, Media Assistant, Bayshore Elementary
- Golden Apple Recognition coming up in early April
- Quality Advisory Committee Chairperson position

- As a follow up to an inquiry from committee members regarding meeting in months other than Board approved months – Yes, the committee may meet in additional months other than the Board approved meeting months.

Ellen Reinig recently attended FETC Conference and gave high accolades. She would like to see opportunities pursued for sending teachers in the future. Dr. Kuckel noted that District travel is being looked at possibly being cut as a result of our budget crisis. At the school level, training and travel should be tied to the goals of their School Improvement Plan.

Good of the Order

- Ms. Lochner recently briefed Board members on committee activity and focus.
- Suggested topics of discussion for next month’s meeting include:
 - Civics – What are we doing with the teaching of government?
 - Drop-Out Students
 - Dr. Jones will plan for speakers on these subjects.
 - John Traube requested time on next month’s agenda to present information on Civics and Needs in the Courts. Five minutes will be placed on the agenda for Mr. Traube to present his bulleted points.
- Making Schools a Priority Rally – February 21st – 9:30 am – LCPEC
February 28th – UCF in Orlando (busses going)

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. was made by Roxann Camel and seconded by Sue Jacobse.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Advisory Committee is scheduled for: **Monday, March 16, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lee County Public Education Center, – Training Room D (Board Annex), 2855 Colonial Blvd., Ft. Myers, Florida.**