



## THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

### *Curriculum Advisory Committee*

*APRIL 20, 2009*

*6:00 p.m. – Training Room D*

**Meeting Minutes**

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

Committee Members Absent: Patricia Howell, Karen Wood

Recording Secretary: Sherry Pearsall

#### **Welcome**

Ms. Patti Lochner called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

#### **Review & Approval of Agenda & Minutes**

A motion to accept the agenda was made by John Traube and seconded by Barb Chapin.

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

#### **New Business**

##### **Civics – Course Syllabus for American Government Class-**

The American Government course syllabus, academic plan and student workbooks were dispersed among committee members. Following last month's very informative presentation by Tamara Hagen, the committee followed up with a discussion period. Highlights of that discussion included:

- Sunshine State Standards identified in the curriculum framework
- We are a government of laws
- Patriotic songs – played during announcements at many elementary schools
- Social Studies and Music standards both reference patriotic songs
- As teachers, we must be sensitive to students culture and heritage
- Current economic status of our country – topic of conversation in class, individual student situations require sensitivity
- Concentrate on the curriculum surrounding these topics
- Members were very pleased with textbooks dispersed and curriculum being used – technology suggestions/links included at end of chapter reviews
- Civics is being taught – a common assessment is given addressing the Sunshine State Standards

##### **Summarization of Final Committee Recommendations-**

The following items were discussed as possible committee recommendations that will be taken to the Board Briefing on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

- Move more from teacher directed instruction to student centered learning emphasizing more teacher training and teaching student study strategies (motivating students)
- Continue working to improve dropout prevention rates through our systemic processes
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills – working towards increased use of these skills in Lee County.

- Emphasize more teacher training/skill building
- Motivating students, teaching study strategies
- Making students aware of the importance of reading
- Problem Solving Skills – Many of our students graduate with limited problem solving skills. We need to incorporate more of these skills into other subject areas.
- In addition to being able to read and write, developing critical thinking skills is equally important.
- Reading is necessary to compete in the workplace

Dr. Jones stated that we are looking at developing a similar year-long course to the Freshman Success Program. We are working on negotiations towards an alternating block schedule where we can offer students eight options at both middle and high school. It will combine personal finance with career exploration and technology skills for careers and college. A program of studies will be developed with the student and their parent(s).

In conclusion, a motion was made by John Traube to take the following recommendation to the Board: *“Recommend that reading, writing, the development of critical thinking skills (problem solving), and the use of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills be emphasized on equal levels across the curriculum as instructional strategies by the District.”* Kathleen Cherasia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Board Members’ Report**

Dr. Kuckel –

- Thanked members for this evening’s discussion and cooperation
- Stay tuned for further budget figures from the State – could be \$25-\$50 million in reductions
- Looking at setting aside money for next year’s reductions. If not needed, funds will go into classrooms.

#### **Good of the Order**

Patti Lochner – Requested technology training for substitute teachers and would like to see music be placed back into our schools.

A motion was made by John Traube that we as a committee recommend to the Board the importance of music and art for our students and that these are reinstated back in our schools. Motion carried.

August 17<sup>th</sup> was decided as the next committee meeting date.

#### **Public Comment**

None

#### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. was made by Kathleen Cherasia.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Advisory Committee is scheduled for: **Monday, August 17, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lee County Public Education Center, – Training Room D (Board Annex), 2855 Colonial Blvd., Ft. Myers, Florida.**