



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Curriculum Advisory Committee

OCTOBER 20, 2008

6:00 p.m. – Training Room D

Meeting Minutes

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

Committee Members Absent: Kathryn McMichael, Charles Spire

Recording Secretary: Sherry Pearsall

Welcome

Dr. Larry Tihen, Executive Director for Curriculum, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Dr. Tihen conducted the beginning of the meeting prior to the nomination and election of a new committee chairperson this evening. Dr. Tihen welcomed Dr. Jane Kuckel, the new committee Board liaison and new committee members, Roxann Camel and Ellen Reinig. Mrs. Camel has been teaching for 18 years and presently is an elementary science teacher at Gateway Elementary. Ms. Reinig is the parent of students attending Manatee Elementary and Oak Hammock Middle, has a masters degree in computer science and currently working on her doctorate. Incumbent committee members introduced themselves and provided some brief background information.

Review & Approval of Agenda & Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by John Traube and seconded by Kathleen Cherasia. The motion carried.

Board Member's Report

Dr. Kuckel reported on the following:

- ◆ We may be looking at another twenty to thirty million dollars in budget reductions coming. That domino effect will impact all programs as a result of the unexpected decline in the housing market and stock market. Dr. Kuckel recommends taking our message to legislators. The State has the control of student funding.
- ◆ A need for program attractors to keep students in school
- ◆ Focus on improving SAT & ACT scores
- ◆ Teacher Retention – presently we lose about 50% of teachers in the first 5 years. The Board had approved a program to help retain these teachers, but has been cut due to financing.
- ◆ Is very interested to be a part of what this committee is all about

Members discussed ways to possibly save within our district budget including unnecessary land acquisitions and grant writing (alternative funds) for teacher retention. Dr. Kuckel will bring back information on monies that are returned to Tallahassee.

New Business

Ground Rules for Committee Participation- Mission Statement (adopted 1/26/05)-

Dr. Tihen dispersed copies of the Rules of Engagement by Larry Lezotte and the committee's current mission statement explaining that both documents are guidelines for conducting committee business

and may be placed on a future agenda for discussion and/or change.

Committee Curricular Focus/Goals-

Dr. Tihen shared some curricular component areas that the committee may wish to focus on for the upcoming year: curriculum content and skills, instructional materials, new legislation, curriculum supplements, instructional technology, instructional strategies, school restructuring, International Center classes, staff development and assessments. Members were encouraged to bring forward other recommendations.

Nominations/Election – Committee Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson-

Nominations for Committee Chairperson included:

- ◆ Kathleen Cherasia nominated by John Traube. Mrs. Cherasia politely declined the nomination.
- ◆ Sue Jacobse nominated by Kathleen Cherasia also politely declined.
- ◆ Patti Lochner nominated by Patsy Howell, seconded by Donna Butts

Lois Redmond moved that nominations be closed. Committee members voted unanimously for Patti Lochner as Committee Chairperson. Ms. Lochner took over conducting the meeting at this point.

Nominations for Vice-Committee Chairperson included:

- ◆ Ellen Reinig nominated herself
- ◆ Donna Butts nominated by Alicia Reyes
- ◆ Lois Redmond nominated by John Traube – politely withdrew
- ◆ Patsy Howell nominated by John Traube - politely withdrew

Ms. Lochner closed nominations. With 13 voting members and 1 abstained vote, the election resulted in a tie vote. Donna Butts conceded to Ellen Reinig, commending her for her interest in wanting to be an involved new committee member.

Future Meeting Dates-

Following committee discussion the monthly meeting dates were moved to accept as presented by Patsy Howell and seconded by Barbara Chapin: Monday, November 17, January 12, February 9, March 16, and April 20. The committee will not meet in December. The motion carried. Dr. Kuckel will follow up as a result of a recent Board workshop, with the approved months that Board Advisory Committees will meet.

Old Business

District Pre/Post Test Analysis – Dr. Tihen

Dr. Tihen had been asked to share information on assessment. One of the goals was to explore ways to reduce the number of assessments needed and still have the necessary information to identify student's curricular needs. Large teams of teachers were brought in to identify questions relating to the Sunshine State Standards they felt best represented if students understand the standard. Teachers selected the standards showing the greatest variance. Small numbers of questions on assessments have high predictive validity. On standards based assessments, such as the FCAT, with a relatively low number of questions, teachers can focus on the standard(s) that their students need the most assistance with. Students are currently given both a reading and math pre-test at the beginning of the school year and a post-test at the end of the school year. Schools in need of improvement (SINI) are also required to administer an assessment mid-year. Charted analysis information on middle school Language Arts and Social Studies was dispersed to members in addition to score interpretations of pre-tests in the areas of

Math and Science.

Dr. Tihen stated that fluency is necessary, but not sufficient to score well on the FCAT. As our students are seeing an escalation of information overload necessary to prepare them for high level jobs in the very near future, our school system has to increase content to escalate student processing skills.

Ms. Lochner asked for a motion to extend the meeting an additional 15 minutes. No motion followed.

Good of the Order

For the next meeting, members were asked to forward committee goal/priority suggestions for discussion to Sherry. Academic tracking and student grouping were noted as possible topics. The District Academic Plan presentation will be placed on the November meeting agenda as time did not allow for the presentation this evening.

John Traube – Bring the Comprehensive High School concept to Middle School

Adjournment

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

The next meeting of the Curriculum Advisory Committee is scheduled for: **Monday, November 17, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lee County Public Education Center, Board Annex – Training Room D, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Ft. Myers, Florida.**