



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Curriculum Advisory Committee

NOVEMBER 17, 2008

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, John Traube

Committee Members Absent: Patsy Howell, Alicia Reyes, Charles Spire, Karen Wood

Recording Secretary: Sherry Pearsall

Welcome

Ms. Patti Lochner called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A motion to amend the agenda with latitude to allow Dr. Browder to present first this evening was made by Donna Butts and seconded by Kathleen Cherasia. The motion carried.

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.

Board Member's Report

Dr. Kuckel reported on the following:

- ◆ Tomorrow evening is the Board structural meeting. This begins the new term for Board members. The Board is composed of five Board members and each represents a different area of the county. New Board members will be sworn in tomorrow evening. Dr. Browder will begin the Board meeting until the officers are elected (Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson). At the Board organizational meeting previously held, it was decided that Dr. Kuckel will be the new Chairperson and Mr. Steven Teuber will be the new Vice-Chairperson.
- ◆ Board Auditor – previously hired by and reported to the Board members. Looking at contracting out for necessary services through Charlie Green's office as opposed to hiring and filling this position as a cost saving measure.
- ◆ Cost Reductions – we have dipped into our contingency funds for staff raises. We have presently less than the recommended 3-5% remaining in the contingency fund. We are looking at about \$12 million more in reductions. Classrooms will be impacted. In January, a Board workshop will be held to discuss further budget reductions. Board members have agreed not to claim any in county travel reimbursements. Consolidating schools will be another topic discussed as a cost savings measure. New school building is on hold. Student growth is down. Dr. Kuckel welcomes your ideas for small and large areas to consider for further cost reduction. One suggestion from a committee member is to look at moving capital budget dollars to operating budget dollars as has been done in Collier County.
- ◆ Board Advisory Committees – Quarterly reports to the Board will continue with a focus on cost reductions. To create consistency among Board Advisory Committees, Board policy now includes monthly meetings to take place in September, October, November, January, February, March and April. A new advisory committee has been organized – Continuous Systemic Improvement (CSI).

New Business

Systemic Approach to Academic Services – Dr. James W. Browder

Dr. Browder presented the initial stages of the development of a systemic approach to do business. He previously met with Board members and teachers groups to gather input and share in the development of the “wheel” as stakeholders to improve the quality of instruction. Students and improved student achievement are at the center of this concept. This is about the science of instruction (the way we do business), so anyone can look at it and understand the standardization towards a quality educational experience. In sharing the “wheel” with committee members, Dr. Browder explained that the spokes on the wheel identify different components.

- ◆ Academic Plans – You will be able to access all subject areas by grade in one click on the web page.
- ◆ Lesson plans by component number will become available in the near future. OnCourse is an example of an electronic lesson plan.
- ◆ Professional Development – District will develop writing prompts
- ◆ Goal Setting - Ideally, every student will understand goal setting (a way of thinking).
- ◆ Data Analysis – a need to identify and make common data available to everyone.
- ◆ Discipline – The county wide discipline plan is presently in the Code of Conduct that all students and parents receive.
- ◆ Assessment – Presently in the development stage, quarterly common assessments across every grade and subject area will be available. Assessment is necessary to take students to the next level.
- ◆ Instruction – Getting smarter instead of working harder! In the next six years Dr. Browder and Board members will be talking about this – quality teaching, the art of instruction and the individuality of teaching will all be included.

Following the group discussion, Dr. Browder asked that you please send your input, ideas and/or comments that you would like to see included to Patti Lochner or Patti Elkin for further development. Dr. Browder would welcome another evening of discussion on this topic in the future.

Old Business

Committee Goals/Priorities Discussion-

Following a group discussion, these items were brought forward as committee priorities for further development:

1. Moving the comprehensive high school concept to the middle school level.
2. 21st Century Skills – website that addresses what students will need to learn to do their life’s work, using critical thinking and entrepreneurial skills.
3. Changes in the Sunshine State Standards – how it impacts student achievement?
4. Civics – further the teaching of government.
5. Science – more teacher support, training, mentoring for using the tools provided (integration).
6. Adult Education – how the courts work and the law affects them? Teach real life skills.
7. Problem Based Instruction – change from teacher directed to more student centered learning.
8. Assessment & grouping of students
9. Drop out students who have reached the age of 16 and choose Fast Track or GED and are not emotionally prepared to leave school– What other options can we provide?
Drop out rate prevention – technology enhancement, academic tracking, life skills
10. Develop subcommittees to delve more deeply into some of these suggested priorities.

11. SAT/ACT – comparison data with other districts and states
12. District Pre/Post Test Assessment analysis
13. Teaching Tolerance
14. Holocaust curriculum

This list will be forwarded to committee members for further prioritization of the committee’s goals at the January meeting.

A suggestion was also made to visit one of our technology schools – Franklin Park, Fort Myers Middle or Dunbar High. Dr. Kuckel suggested possibly bringing in the principals of these schools prior to a visit for a more comprehensive look at the curriculum.

Next month’s agenda topics will include Sunshine State Standards Updates/Changes and the final prioritization of the committee’s goals (sticky notes, dots).

Good of the Order

Kathryn McMichael, a new committee member, was introduced. Ms. McMichael is a former school teacher and former school board member from New Jersey and was a lobbyist for the National School Board Association. She has lived in Lee County for four years.

As the result of a scheduling conflict for Ms. Lochner, a motion was made to change the date of the January meeting from the 12th to the 5th.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. was made by Kathleen Cherasia and seconded by John Traube.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Advisory Committee is scheduled for: **Monday, January 5, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lee County Public Education Center, Board Annex – Training Room D, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Ft. Myers, Florida.**