



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Curriculum Advisory Committee

September 19, 2011

6:00 p.m. – Training Room D

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Kathleen Cherasia, Connie Dennis, Jacqui Chevalier Hill, Patti Lochner, Jerilyn Mullen, Lois Redmond, John Traube, Judy Wilkerson, & Karen Wood

Committee Members Absent: Mary Calver, Olivia Hung-Simons, Mary Beth Pringle, Ellen Reinig, Richard Ripp, & Charles Spire

Staff Members: Jeanne Dozier, Board Liaison and Patti Elkin, Director

Recording Secretary: Mary Reider

Welcome

The first meeting of the new school year was called to order by Patti Elkin at 6:07 p.m. Patti Elkin welcomed new and returning committee members. Each member gave a brief background introduction of themselves. Patti Elkin and Mrs. Dozier thanked everyone for their service to the committee.

Review & Approval of Agenda & Minutes

A motion to accept the agenda as presented was made by John Traube and seconded by Jacqui Chevalier Hill. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2011 meeting was made by John Traube and seconded by Dr. Judy Wilkerson. The motion carried unanimously.

Election of Officers –

John Traube nominated Patti Lochner as committee chairperson. Lois Redmond seconded the motion. Lois Redmond moved to close the nominations and was seconded by Connie Dennis. The motion to name Patti Lochner as committee chairperson carried unanimously.

Patti Lochner opened the nominations for vice-chairperson. Jacqui Chevalier Hill nominated Kathleen Cherasia. John Traube seconded the motion. There were no other nominations for vice-chairperson. Motion carried...The motion to name Kathleen Cherasia as committee vice-chairperson carried unanimously.

New Business

Dr. Joseph Burke, Superintendent and Dr. Deedara Hicks, Director, Secondary Operations arrived to welcome the committee members and to introduce themselves. Dr. Burke reported the District will be eliminating FCAT for Math and Science on the high school level and implementing end of course exams. Algebra I was administered to high school students for the first time last year. This spring all of the districts in Florida will administer the Geometry and Biology I end of course exams. Florida will be adding more end of course exams in math and science. FCAT fade away for all of our students is about four years away. Florida is moving towards a new set of assessments (Common Core Curriculum) to be used as baseline. This set of assessments has already been adopted by 26 states. It is intended to be the next generation of content expectations for students in those 26 states. The idea is to get a more unified sense of what students in the United States need to master in the content areas in order to be competitive in the international market place. U.S. students are not measuring up to peers

in other countries particularly in the areas of Math, Science and Reading. As we begin to move towards the Common Core Standards reading is becoming very important. Student reading levels and reading mastery are going to increase. A step that the State took a couple of years ago was to introduce the Reading 2.0 FCAT which is the next generation of reading demands. Our students took it for the first time last year. The particular mathematical computation that was used to equate student's scores to the previous tests statewide did not see any reduction overall in how students performed in reading. However, for next year, the Reading 2.0 will be very challenging for our students.

Dr. Hicks has been working with all the high schools. Each high school has submitted a plan for reading in how they are going to increase the reading proficiency of their students. Some schools, because they had declines in their reading proficiency last year, are being targeted for additional supplemental support. This is very important for the students and for high school accountability. This year science/biology scores will be included. There is a possibility Algebra I will be moved down to grade 8 as the basic mathematics course for 8th grade students. Our goal as a District is to have our teachers and students better prepared for the Common Core Standards when they come on line in a few years.

Dr. Hicks and Patti Elkin are working together with the schools that have had the least amount of gains as well as with schools who have the potential to move toward proficiency in order to determine what works and what does not. Schools are trying alternative strategies and Principals want the support from District offices as well as the Advisory Committees.

Committee members expressed concern regarding motivating students to want to read. How do we motivate? How do we get parents involved? Ideas were discussed and Committee members asked if Dr. Hicks could come to the next meeting and share her thoughts and ideas.

Dr. Burke also introduced Dr. Alberto Rodriguez, the Chief Operations Officer who is in charge of all the areas that keep the District running (facilities, construction, transportation etc.).

Dates for Future Meetings (tentative) were set as follows:

October 17, 2011; November 21, 2011; (no meeting in December); January 23, 2012; February 21, 2012; March 26, 2012; April 16, 2012, and May 21, 2011.

Patti Elkin provided committee members with a copy of legislative updates (student assessments, reading remediation, middle school civics end of course test, middle school career and professional academy courses, local instructional improvement system, graduation requirements and end of course exams, & Florida Virtual School). Additional topics that may be of interested to the Committee include: update on 2010-11 FCAT & SAT Data, Next Generation Content Area Reading Professional Development, AVID Program, Cambridge International Diploma Program and International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, TAH Grant, Elementary Science Grant (5th grade students specifically working with ELLs, Common Core Standards (shift in thinking), & Algebra I – moving math to the 8th grade level.

Board Member Report

Mrs. Dozier reported the District had a successful start of the new school year. School Board has approved the legislative platform. School Districts are asking the legislature to restore funding to the 2006 level. Push for FSBA. Districts are looking to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot forbidding the legislature to pass mandates without appropriate funding in place. Restore PECO funding (construction) to all public schools. The Board has asked Dr. Rodriguez to get together a

survey to send out to our customers regarding busing and School Choice.

Good of the Order

Future Agenda Topics suggested: Presentation by Dr. Hicks regarding Secondary Reading and Motivating Students, Virtual School Presentation (Al Shilling), Update regarding FCAT scores (Dr. Itzen), and Common Core Curriculum. Where are we with Race to the Top? Does all the testing really measure what a student has learned? Why Algebra I? Where are we with E-Books? Report from Dr. Atkins regarding teacher evaluation system?

Patti wanted everyone to know that Debbie Tihen completed her surgeries and treatment. She is doing very well.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. was made by Kathleen Cherasia and seconded by John Traube.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Advisory Committee is scheduled for: **Monday, October 17, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lee County Public Education Center, – Training Room D, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Ft. Myers, Florida.**