



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Curriculum Advisory Committee

October 17, 2011

6:00 p.m. – Training Room D
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Kathleen Cherasia, Connie Dennis, Patti Lochner, Lois Redmond, Ellen Reinig, Richard Ripp, and Karen Wood

Committee Members Absent: Mary Calver, Jacqui Chevalier Hill, Jerilyn Mullen, Mary Beth Pringle, Charles Spire, John Traube, Olivia Hung-Simons (formally withdrawn) & Dr. Judy Wilkerson

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

Guest: Dr. Deedara Hicks, Director, Secondary Operations

Recording Secretary: Mary Reider

Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Patti Lochner at 6:08 p.m.

Review & Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Ms. Lochner suggested everyone take a few minutes to read the agenda. A motion to accept and approve the agenda as presented was made by Richard Ripp and seconded by Karen Wood. Motion carried. Additional minutes were given to read the minutes from the previous CAC meeting. A motion to approve the minutes of September 19, 2011 meeting, with correction, was made by Karen Wood and seconded by Richard Ripp. The motion carried unanimously. Patti Elkin suggested meeting agenda and minutes (draft form) be sent to each member prior to meeting date. All present members felt the information would be helpful and keep the committee to allotted time constraints.

New Business

Presentation by Dr. Deedara Hicks, Director, Secondary Operations – “Building Student Connectedness” Capture, Inspire, Teach

Tackling the achievement gap can be overwhelming. In most cases, students have few choices to make. Most decisions are already made for them. Nothing should be more important in public schools than giving all students an education that prepares them for life. Schools are about rigor, relevance, and relationships. Dr. Hicks discussed ways to Capture, Inspire and Teach students. As a District, collaboration is needed to help schools strengthen relationships with students, increase cultural competence, address challenges, implement and sustain classroom practices, & engage in reflective practice aimed at reaching, guiding, and motivating all students regardless if it's in Elementary, Middle, or High. In order to **Capture**, educators must be willing to recognize the extent of this disconnection as a precondition for involving families in their children's education. Researched based instructional materials, digital classrooms, researched based professional learning/development, communication, daily school schedules and a good school improvement process must be available to students and educators. The Media Center should be the “hub” of each school. Materials used throughout the school should be updated and culturally relevant. All staff should be considered reading specialists. Libraries should be available in all rooms. Schools and parents must work

together. Our goal is to make sure our teacher's first contact with parents is positive. Communicate with parents straightforwardly and simply. Don't use educational "jargon." Parents should have access to clear and readable information about their children's school and classroom. Educators should ask parents to share their concerns and opinions about school and then address those concerns. Accommodate parent's work schedules, language, and cultural differences. Establish regular communication between home and school. Promote parenting skills, encourage active parent participation in student learning, welcome parents as volunteer partners in schools. Invite parents to act as full partners in making decisions that affect their children. Reach out to the community for resources to strengthen our schools. To **Inspire** we must establish a sense of community, set the bar high, teach students and parents the steps to success, create enthusiasm with yearlong themes and treat parents and students with respect. In order to **Teach**, schools can use the Florida Continuous Improvement Model, critical thinking skills, communication and collaboration, Sunshine State Standards/Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, & parent-student led conferences. Other suggestions for schools include weekly professional learning community for all staff, ongoing job-embedded professional learning & development, and in the areas of science-technology-mathematics – parent development and training. Schools must also prepare students for career and workplace readiness by making them aware of their options and to inspire them to dream big. Engage students with career activities to ensure they grow up with a positive outlook regarding their future. Make use of career days, philanthropic and community service, internships and explorations and business partnerships. To **Teach**, parents are a child's first and most important teacher. Ways in which you can encourage parents to help their child and become a better reader include suggest they read in front of their children, make sure their child reads every day, go to the library and get everyone a library card, read aloud to their children, don't stop reading as children get older, set aside some time each day for reading aloud – even if it is just ten minutes, read books you enjoy, use the newspaper to encourage reading, give books as gifts, make reading a privilege, and if a parent is not a good reader suggest they still encourage their children to read.

Suggest Reading Material for Educators:

Why Gender Matters by Leonard Sax, M.D., Ph.D,

Outlines – The story of Success by Malcolm Gladwell

Learning by Doing – A Handbook for Professional Learning Communities at Work by Richard DuFour, Rebecca DuFour, Robert Eaker, & Thomas Many

Differentiated Instructional Strategies in Practice – Training, Implementation, & Supervision by Gayle H. Gregory

Teach Them All to Read – Catching the Kids Who Fall Through the Cracks by Elaine K. McEwan

Board Member Report

Mrs. Jeanne Dozier gave each committee member a handout which included a list of the School Board Members of Lee County and the Southwest Florida Legislative Delegation. The handout also included the following 2012 Legislative Priorities:

- Public Schools Operation Funding
- Class Size Reduction Penalties
- Teacher Performance Pay & Teacher Evaluation Systems
- Alternative Diploma Options
- Efficient and Effective State Budget Reforms
- Charter School Administrative Costs

- Capital Outlay Needs

Good of the Order

Suggestion made to move Board Member Report ahead of New Business for future agendas. All members present agreed.

Agenda topics for the next meeting include:

- Update of FCAT & SAT
- Virtual Schools

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. was made by Kathleen Cherasia and seconded by Richard Ripp.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Advisory Committee is scheduled for: **Monday, November 21, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., at the Lee County Public Education Center, – Training Room D, 2855 Colonial Blvd., Ft. Myers, Florida.**