



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

District Advisory Council

October 11, 2006

Mission Statement: The District Advisory Council in cooperation with the Lee County School Board will gather information and seek input from the schools and the community at large in an effort to advise the Board and develop recommendations for constant improvement of our educational system.

Call to Order/ Minutes

Dr. Cynthia Lott welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Dr. Lott asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the DAC Meeting of September 13, 2006. Ms. Nannette Smith made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Peggy Bos. The motion carried.

Superintendent's Welcome

Dr. Browder welcomed everyone and thanked them for their dedication, as well as, the time they are donating to the District Advisory Council. He said that DAC is an open and honest place for concerns to come out of the schools and that the information that comes out of DAC is critical input for him and the Board. Dr. Browder added that he believes in what the DAC is doing and that it will improve the system for students. He asked for questions. There were none.

Board Member Update

Dr. Elinor Scricca stated that she wanted to echo Dr. Browder's words and thank everyone for their time and energy. She explained that Board Members rotate as Board Liaisons between the different Board Advisory Committees and that she hopes to stay on DAC for a couple of years to have some continuity. Dr. Scricca shared that a Board Workshop is scheduled for Monday, October 23rd to discuss the purpose/ guidelines, etc., for Board Advisory Committees. The public is welcome to attend. Also, everyone is welcome to attend a Legislative Breakfast to be held on November 17th. This will be a continental breakfast and a chance to meet our Legislative representatives. Dr. Scricca said that she will bring the Board's Legislative platform back to the District Advisory Council.

Nominating Committee/ Election of DAC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

The floor was given to the Nominating Committee, Mr. Dan Allen and Ms. Carrie Chase-Robideaux. Mr. Allen presented Ms. Donna Butts as a nominee. She is a math teacher with four years in the District. She has a master's in mathematics from Nova University. She has been a member of DAC since 2003, served as the SAC chairperson for Cape Coral High School, served as Equity Coordinator for the school, served as DAC Vice Chairperson for 2003-04, she is married and has two adult children.

Ms. Carrie Chase-Robideaux presented Ms. Christina Chuderski as another nominee for Chairperson. Ms. Chuderski is a teacher at Michigan International Academy, teaching gifted students in grades two, three, and four. She has been on the District Advisory Council for two years. Ms. Chuderski could not be at tonight's meeting.

Ms. Butts spoke and gave additional information about herself. She came to Lee County from Broward County in 2003. She noted that she has seen the District grow in that time, not only in numbers, but in cultures. Ms. Butts feels that the District needs to set ground rules for themselves or it will lose its identity. She noted that she left the District for two months to work at Southwest Florida College; however, she decided that she wanted to come back to the District and now teaches there at night.

Mr. Andy Erickson spoke on behalf of Ms. Chuderski. He noted that he has worked along side her on the Executive Committee for DAC, she has been the Chairperson of the Subcommittee for Elementary Schools, and has worked to get approval for a DAC brochure. It was noted she is a product of Lee County School District.

The votes were cast with Donna Butts receiving 59 votes and Christina Chuderski receiving 3 votes.

At this time Ms. Butts took over the meeting as Chairperson. She thanked Dr. Lott for her leadership as the DAC Chairperson for the last year.

Ms. Butts noted that the Vice Chairperson substitutes for the Chairperson when they are unavailable. She indicated that Mr. Erickson is the current Vice Chairperson and is very supportive of the Chairperson.

Nominations for Vice Chairperson were as follows: Ms. Kellee Pratt nominated Ms. Christina Chuderski. Mr. Corey Williams nominated Stacia Winfree. Ms. Carrie Chase-Robideaux nominated Mr. Andy Erickson.

Ms. Carlyn Herring moved to close the nominations. Ms. Jennifer Moorhead seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Butts said that she knows that Ms. Chuderski really wanted to be at tonight's meeting. She added that she has been a valuable member to DAC and Executive Committee for DAC. It was asked if Ms. Chuderski has children. It was noted that she does not.

Ms. Stacia Winfree shared that she is a teacher and a parent of two elementary-age children. She has been a member of SAC for six years and this is her second year on DAC.

Mr. Andy Erickson shared that he has been on DAC since it first started and then it

was changed to ZACs (Zone Advisory Committees). He has three sons who went through school in the District. This week he helped deliver dictionaries to third graders through Rotary. He believes in DAC, has been on the Executive Committee for 2-1/2 years, has served as the Vice Chairperson for 1-1/2 years, and is willing to serve again. It was asked if he is a District employee. Mr. Erickson noted that he is not a District employee, but that he serves as the SAC representative for Lee Middle School as a community member.

Ms. JoeAnn Thomas-Joseph stated that she objects to an employee being nominated. Ms. Butts noted that the nominations were already closed, but that the membership could take that under advisement as they vote.

The nominees left the room and the votes were cast with Christina Chuderski receiving 8 votes, Stacia Winfree receiving 16 votes, and Andy Erickson receiving 42 votes. Mr. Andy Erickson was re-elected as Vice Chairperson of DAC.

Mr. Keith Martin, Board Attorney, noted that the actual vote count needs to be reflected in the minutes of this meeting.

Establishing Rules for Public Comment

It was noted that every Board Advisory Committee needs to set their rules for public comment for the year at their first meeting after Board appointments. Ms. Butts explained how the opportunity for public comment is currently set up on the agenda - where there is time allotted for public comment near the beginning of the meeting for agenda items and near the end of the meeting for non-agenda items. The question of translation being offered was brought up. Ms. Butts said that it would be brought up at the next Executive Committee meeting. She said that if anyone has a language barrier or brings someone that has one to let her know immediately.

Mr. Martin noted that DAC now needs to establish if they want public comment at the beginning of the meeting, end, or at both places.

Mr. Hunter Wynne proposed moving the non-agenda public comment to the beginning of the meeting so that if someone outside of DAC comes to the meeting, they do not have to listen to the whole meeting to make their comment. Ms. Butts added that would be beneficial for the breakout sessions to take on those topics. It was noted that "Good of the Order" is for DAC members to speak. Ms. Joy Sneddon noted that non-agenda public comment was originally put at the end of the meeting so that DAC gets through their agenda. Mr. Erickson made the motion to leave the public comment for the DAC meetings as it is, with opportunity near the beginning of the meeting for agenda items and near the end of the meeting for non-agenda items. Mr. Joe Vetter seconded the motion. Ms. Thomas-Joseph stated that she feels the format should be the same as the School Board Meetings. Mr. Wynne moved to amend the motion to leave both public comment times, one near the beginning of the meeting and one at the end, but allow for agenda and non-agenda items. Mr. Chris Lyons seconded the motion. The votes were cast 15 in favor of the

amendment and 45 opposing the amendment to the motion. The motion did not carry.

The votes were cast for the motion to leave the public comment for the DAC meetings as it is, with opportunity near the beginning of the meeting for agenda items and near the end of the meeting for non-agenda items. The motion carried.

Mr. Martin noted that DAC needs to decide on how long each person can speak during public comment. It was noted that it is currently three minutes per person. Mr. Corey Williams made the motion to leave the time per speaker for public comment at three minutes. Ms. Jennifer Moorhead seconded the motion. The motion carried. It was noted that the time limit should be put on the agenda.

Public Comment (Agenda Items)

None

Establishing Rules for Filling Seats on Executive DAC

Ms. Butts explained that the Executive Committee for DAC meets monthly to set the agenda for the DAC meetings. The Executive Committee consists of ten members, the Board Liaison and Staff Liaison. Ms. Butts indicated that three seats need to be filled at this time - an elementary representative, a middle school representative, and a Board-appointed representative. She noted that the subcommittees can come up with the needed representative in their breakout session. Ms. Butts asked the Executive Committee members present to stand and introduce themselves. There was discussion about how someone becomes a Board-appointed member. It was noted that the Executive Committee meetings are public meetings that are advertised and anyone is welcome to attend.

Ms. Thomas-Joseph brought up the point of knowing if persons voting are DAC members. Ms. Butts explained that every school should have one representative and an alternate and only one person from each school should have voting rights for that school for that meeting, as well as, the Board-appointed members.

Information to New Members

Mr. Erickson gave an overview of DAC and shared that the breakout sessions came about because it was hard to work with such a large group. He explained that the subcommittees then report back to the DAC. Mr. Erickson noted that there are different ways to submit issues to DAC: SAC members can bring it up to the subcommittee; the Board Liaison can bring the issue up at DAC; there is a DAC Review/Request Form that can be filled out on the DAC webpage that goes to the Executive DAC. Sometimes staff addresses the issue or the issue goes directly to Dr. Browder; or the issue goes back to the principal (through Dr. Browder).

Breakout Group Discussions

Ms. Butts gave the following charges to the breakout groups: select a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, and a Secretary and set the agenda (this will keep the group on target). Also, the elementary, middle and District issues groups need to select a person for Executive Committee. The elementary group meets in the Board Room, the high school group meets in the Board Kitchen, the middle school group meets in the Snack Bar, and tonight the District issues group will meet in the Superintendent's Conference Room on the third floor.

Breakout Group Reports

Elementary Report: Chairperson – Christina Chuderski; Vice Chairperson - Stacia Winfree; Secretary – Susan Cook; Executive DAC Representative – Carrie Chase-Robideaux. Agenda topics will include: safety, curriculum consistency, ESE, Transportation, and safety issues/ bullying.

Middle School Report: Chairperson – Brian Mangan; Vice Chairperson – Dan Pontius; Secretary – Carolyn Baar; Executive DAC Representative – Samantha Jeter. Agenda topics will include: parent involvement, Transportation; block scheduling, enrollment (over-crowdedness/ FTE), Parent Link; technology on site, campus use, safety, S.T.A.R., A++, and teaching of reading in middle school.

High School Report: Chairperson – Ava Roeder; Vice Chairperson – Margie Haugh; Secretary – Cathy Fowler. Agenda topics will include: dropout prevention, scheduling concerns, inclusion ESE, high school majors, security, and athletics/ NCAA.

District Issues Report: Chairperson – Jennifer Moorhead; Vice Chairperson – JoeAnn Thomas-Joseph; Secretary – Dieter Philippi; Executive DAC Representative – Jennifer Moorhead. Agenda topics will include: translators, Transportation, health and safety issues, Parent Link and technology.

Dr. Scricca noted that the agenda for tonight was already lengthy; therefore the issue of the Call Center will be placed on the November DAC agenda.

Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

None

Good of the Order

Ms. Sneddon suggested since most of the subcommittees mentioned safety as an issue that there be a speaker regarding safety to the full DAC.

Ms. Nannette Smith congratulated the new officers and the council for the progress they have made.

Ms. Peggy Bos noted that she is one of the DAC representatives that is serving on the Calendar Committee. If anyone has issues or concerns that they would like her to bring up to the committee, feel free to e-mail her at PeggyCB@leeschools.net. Please note that the Calendar Committee is looking at school starting two weeks later next year. Ms. Bos will be glad to forward the minutes from the Calendar Committee Meetings to anyone if they will notify her.

Adjournment

Mr. Joe Vetter made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Moorhead. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Thanks to the following schools for representation at this DAC meeting:

Elementary Schools: Alva, Bonita Springs, Caloosa, Cape, Colonial, Edgewood, Edison Park, Ft. Myers Beach, Franklin Park, Gateway, Gulf, Hancock Creek, Harns

Approved 11/8/06

Marsh, Hector A. Cafferata, Heights, J. Colin English, Lehigh, Littleton, Mirror Lakes, Orange River, Orangewood, Pelican, Pine Island, Pinewoods, Rayma C. Page, Ray V. Pottorf, Sanibel School, Skyline, Spring Creek, Tanglewood/Riverside, Trafalgar, Tropic Isles, Villas. **Middle Schools:** Alva, Bonita Springs, Caloosa, Challenger, Cypress Lake, Diplomat, Dunbar, Gulf, Lee, Lexington, Mariner, Michigan International, N. Ft. Myers Academy, Three Oaks, Trafalgar, Varsity Lakes, Veterans Park Academy for the Arts. **High Schools:** ALC Central/Lamp/Academy High, ALC-West, Cape Coral, Cypress Lake, Dunbar, East Lee County, Estero, Ft. Myers, High Tech Central, High Tech North, Ida S. Baker, Mariner, N. Ft. Myers, Riverdale, South Fort Myers, Juvenile Justice Sites. **Principal Representatives:** Elementary, Middle, and High: Marie Vetter, Brian Mangan, and Joe Vetter. **Board Appointees:** Christine Austin, Donna Butts, Margaret Haugh, Liz McGrath, Jennifer Moorhead, Dieter Philippi, Rocio Restrepo, Nannette Smith, JoeAnn Thomas-Joseph, Karen Wood. **Board Liaison:** Elinor Scricca. **Staff Liaison:** Mike McNerney. **Guests:** James Browder and Keith Martin.

Schools not represented at this DAC meeting were:

Elementary Schools: Allen Park, Bayshore, Buckingham ESC, Diplomat, River Hall (excused), San Carlos Park, Sunshine, Three Oaks, Tice. **Middle Schools:** Fort Myers, Lehigh, Royal Palm Exceptional. **High Schools:** Lehigh Senior.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee for District Advisory Council has been scheduled for: Monday, October 23, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's Conference Room, third floor of the Dr. James A. Adams Public Education Center, 2055 Central Avenue, Ft. Myers, Florida.

The next meeting of the District Advisory Council has been scheduled for: Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room, first floor of the Dr. James A. Adams Public Education Center, 2055 Central Avenue, Ft. Myers, Florida.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan M. Johnson