



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

District Advisory Council

November 8, 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

Ms. Donna Butts welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Butts asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the DAC Meeting of October 11, 2006. Ms. Carrie Chase-Robideaux made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Christina Chuderski. The motion carried.

Public Comment (Agenda Items)

None

Board Member Update

Dr. Elinor Scricca shared from the last Board Meeting that:

- Dr. Ruthie Lohmeyer was appointed as the Administrator-on-Assignment for Elementary Operations.
- Three new schools were named. One in the West Zone and two in the East Zone - which is indicative of the serious growth in the East Zone.

Dr. Scricca reported from the October 23rd workshop that the School Board had on Board Advisory Committees that the District Advisory Council will probably undergo more transformation than the other committees just because of its size.

Dr. Scricca noted that the District is looking into selling off some of its ancillary buildings, including the Dr. James A. Adams Public Education Center. Starting in the summer of 2007, departments will move in stages into The Lee County Public Education Center at Metro Parkway and Colonial Blvd.

The Board, through T.V. and the District website, is asking for input on having 3-4 Board Meetings in the different zones, instead of here in the Board Room.

Dr. Scricca reminded everyone of the November 17th Legislative Breakfast. At that time the District's Legislative platform will be shared and the District's Annual

Report. Dr. Scricca had members pass out The School District of Lee County Facts brochure. She indicated that she would like input as to the value of this brochure for additional printing to distribute to all schools. Also, a draft of the District's 2007 Legislative platform was distributed.

Also, everyone is welcome to attend the Pride and Patriotism Program scheduled for tomorrow night (November 9th) at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. Winners will be announced from the children's visual arts contest. There will be bands and orchestras honoring our veterans. Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased at the door or from Denise Mangus in the Board Office.

Call Center

Ms. Linda Boyle gave a Power Point presentation on the Call Center. She showed the poster that was distributed to schools and noted that principals could call her for more.

Highlights from Call Center Presentation:

- To reach the Call Center call 1-800-299-6012.
- Callers may remain anonymous. Callers will receive an ID number if they wish to remain anonymous so that they can call back to find out the response to their call.
- Callers speak to a trained operator.
- Callers are advised to speak directly with Personnel if they have a personnel-related issue.
- Was established in April 2006, based upon a request by the Board.
- Contracted to a third-party company (National Hotline Service, Arlington, VA).
- Open 24/7.
- Since starting the Call Center there have been 145 through October; 122 informational calls, 27 complaint calls, and 5 callback calls.
- Call Center report comes to the District.
- Response comes directly from appropriate District offices to caller or in written form to the Call Center for anonymous call-backs.
- Most responses are made within one business day.

Ms. Boyle noted that for the most part, the Call Center is not used properly. The cost of the center is about \$1,900 quarterly – approximately \$8,000 yearly.

Dr. Scricca stated that the project was to keep lines of communication open and that is why DAC members need to know of its existence and purpose. She stated that the Call Center needs a lot of work and the Board is looking for input. The Board will probably evaluate the project for cost effectiveness after a year's time.

Suggestions:

- Integrative chat e-mail with website. (Ms. Boyle reported that this is part of the service contract with National Hotline Service, but the District is starting small.)
- Advertise in yellow pages.
- Reach out to business people.

- Publicity blitz.
- Call Center have list of frequently used numbers (Student, Assignment, etc.) to share with callers.
- Work with city/ government agencies to advertise on community boards.
- Put a plan in place to advertise for the Call Center.
- Information could be published with school calendar.
- Publish with other numbers like Student Assignment.
- Posters are hard to read – top right-hand especially. “Call Center” too large.
- Do a mail-out to businesses, various Chambers of Commerce, City Biz, etc.
- Ms. Boyle will send the Power Point presentation to Ms. Johnson and she will send it out to the membership.
- Translate information.
- Print number on report cards. It was suggested that this would probably not be a good idea, since parents upset about grades would probably call that number.

Security Issues

Handouts were: “LCSD Security Overview/ Fact Sheet: Talking to Kids About School Safety” and “Cyber Safety Workshop.” Mr. Richard Shafer shared that the District is trying to be proactive in its approach to keeping students safe. Now the District has allocated funds for a Security Specialist and a Security Coordinator.

Ms. Sharon Tassoni noted that the Emergency Response Plan is shared electronically with schools. Schools fill out the Individual School Emergency Plan (pages 5-9) and send them to the Safety and Security Department. The Emergency Response Plan has been put under a new format and four copies will be provided for each school. New sections include: Infectious Disease, Crisis Response Team, Hurricane Procedures, Pandemic Influenza, and Lock Down. The Emergency Response Plan will be posted on the District’s intra website. This document is protected under Florida Statutes that it does not have to be released as a public document because of security issues.

Mr. Shafer showed the procedure chart for Code Red/ Code Yellow Program. He noted that Code Red could be an immediate lockdown for an intense situation. For Code Yellow, students stay in class, no passes are written; however, you can let students into the classroom that were not previously there. Schools are now providing two Code Red drills a year. He noted that these drills provide a learning situation.

Mr. Shafer shared that a long-term Security Plan has been drafted, with Mr. McNerney as the point person. Mr. McNerney will be taking this draft Security Plan to the Superintendent’s Cabinet and then it will be briefed with the School Board.

Mr. Shafer stated that the goal is for elementary schools to have a minimum of 4 surveillance cameras, middle schools a minimum of 16, and high schools a minimum of 24. He noted that the District is looking to have all schools with a perimeter fence that has one entrance. Schools are supposed to greet visitors

appropriately, have them sign in and give them a name badge. The various fire departments have access to all school buildings through each school's Knox Box.

There will be a Cyber Workshop "for adults only" on Monday, December 4th at South Fort Myers High School from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This workshop is for adults to learn tips on what to look for when children log on and how to work with children to make their online visits safer.

There is a Security Task Force that meets quarterly. This task force consists of: Lee County School District personnel, heads of the four local law enforcement agencies, U.S. Marshall, Secret Service, and F.B.I. There is a Regional Task Force that met today. The Regional Task Force serves students K-20. Mr. Shafer stated that after comparing notes, it is apparent that Lee County is ahead of other counties by leaps and bounds.

Ms. Carrie Chase-Robideaux asked if school staff are told in advance of drills. Mr. Shafer responded that the one early in the year is supposed to be announced, while the one towards the end of the year is supposed to be unannounced. Mr. Vetter shared that at his school they are both unannounced.

There was discussion about how schools handle lockdowns with substitute teachers. Some schools administer the substitute teachers keys to the classrooms. Some schools have neighboring teachers that lock up for the substitutes.

Mr. McNerney shared that each school has a plan in place for designating who does what and what designated area to go in different emergency situations.

There was discussion about the Code Yellow/ Code Red system. It was indicated that the Code Yellow/ Code Red poster is located in every classroom. It was noted that Parent Link is used to get information out to parents. Ms. Sandy Eisenga noted that industry is trained that red means fire. Mr. Shafer stated that this Code Yellow/ Code Red system is used statewide in the public schools. It was indicated that schools are supposed to use a coded message (previously agreed upon) for the "all clear" sign.

There was discussion about fencing for schools that have historical designation. Mr. McNerney noted that sometimes special permissions have to be granted. He indicated that Bonita Elementary School had just gone through getting a fence that was aesthetically pleasing to the school's setting/ architecture. Mr. McNerney said that the District paid the amount allowed for a fence and then groups like the school's PTO, etc., paid extra to have the fence that they desired.

Mr. McNerney noted that the District works closely with law enforcement when there are emergency situations. He added that this is the seventh year that the District has had an Emergency Response Plan. Mr. McNerney shared that there was a First Responder Training for school-based administrators prior to the beginning of

this school year. This training gave a new level of awareness to staff and made them think of the “what ifs.”

Volunteers for Committees

Ms. Butts indicated that three volunteers are needed for the Transportation Review Committee (one from each zone); an elementary representative for the Executive Committee for DAC; and a representative for the Site Selection Committee.

The Transportation Review Committee is new and will meet on an “as needed” basis. At this time, the details have not been clarified.

The Elementary Subcommittee will come back with a representative for Executive DAC after their breakout session.

Mr. Figueroa shared that the Site Selection Committee needs a representative from the South Zone. He noted that this committee meets every two or three months. The District’s Planner finds a location and after the negotiations have started, the Site Selection Committee goes out to the sites to give input and make recommendations. Members were directed to e-mail Ms. Johnson if they are interested.

Breakout Group Discussions

Ms. Butts said that from the Workshop that the Board had on Board Advisory Committees it was noted that the DAC members like the information sessions and also like the subcommittee breakout group discussions. What the Board is thinking of is having an informational session one month and then the next two months having just the breakout group discussions. Ms. Butts said that Dr. Browder’s mission to the Advisory Committees is that they look, listen, report, give input/advice and support the School Board and that they, in turn, will use the information the best way they know how.

The charge that Ms. Butts gave for the subcommittees was to review their agendas and have discussion from the speakers’ presentations.

Breakout Group Reports

Elementary Report: Christina Chuderski reported that they have safety concerns with relation to the substitute teachers. They would like to recommend safety training for the substitutes during substitute training so that they have a consistent explanation of procedures. Another issue is that the evacuation plan is not consistently displayed in classrooms. The Elementary Subcommittee would like Dr. Connie Jones and Dr. Larry Tihen to come and speak to them on curriculum consistency. Mr. Richard Tanner will be the new elementary representative for Executive DAC.

Middle School Report: Dan Pontius reported that Mr. Brian Mangan gave out a survey for members to complete regarding agenda topics. Members were to indicate on the survey: middle school specific, District issue, or both; and if a guest speaker is requested. The Middle School Subcommittee will focus on the results of the survey at the next meeting. A suggestion was that an announcement be made when a school is under Code Red as to why it is under Code Red.

High School Report: Ava Roeder reported that the High School Subcommittee went through their topics from last month:

- Gangs – Possibly Mr. Shafer could coordinate with the different law enforcement agencies and go into the classrooms to get through to students the consequences of committing a crime.
- Surveys – Share safety surveys.
- Dropout rate – Get copy of Dropout Prevention Report
- A++ Initiative – Possibility of getting information for all.

District Issues Report: Ms. Butts reported that Mr. Dieter Philippi was the only participant for the District Issues Subcommittee so there is nothing to report.

Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

None

Good of the Order

Volunteers for committees:

- Site Selection Committee – Vicki Little (Cypress Lake Middle Representative)
- Transportation Review Committee –
 - West Zone - Dan Pontius (Challenger Middle Representative)
 - South Zone - Adrienne Graeber (Fort Myers Beach Elem. Representative)
 - East Zone - Grace Carver (Lee Elem. Representative)

Ms. Butts announced that Mr. Figueroa has kindly offered to be a translator for Spanish, if needed. If anyone has the ability to translate for another language, please let Ms. Johnson know.

Ms. Peggy Bos noted that the Calendar Committee hopes to finalize next year's calendar by November 15th. The way it is right now school will be starting on August 20th for students and end on June 6th. This means that exams will be after the Winter break. Please contact Ms. Bos with concerns. She will e-mail the Calendar Committee Meeting minutes to anyone who wants them.

Ms. Chase-Robideaux noted that she had filled out a report for her SAC on the Credit Retrieval Program, but was not given any direction after that. Ms. Johnson stated that she would have Dr. Connie Jones call Ms. Chase-Robideaux to give her direction.

Ms. Gayle Mullins brought up the "I Pledge Florida" campaign from the Florida Education Association that says that Florida is 49th in spending. Ms. Butts said that she has heard that is not a true representation and that maybe we could get a speaker on that subject at a future meeting.

Ms. Christina Chuderski suggested that the minutes from the subcommittee breakout groups be distributed with the regular DAC minutes, as well as Power Point presentations and handouts.

Adjournment

Ms. Bos made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Chuderski. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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

Elementary Schools: Allen Park, Alva, Buckingham ESC, Caloosa, Cape, Colonial, Diplomat, Edgewood, Edison Park, Ft. Myers Beach, Franklin Park, Gateway, Gulf, Hancock Creek, Heights, Lehigh, Littleton, Mirror Lakes, Orange River, Pelican, Pine Island, River Hall, San Carlos Park, Sanibel School, Tanglewood/ Riverside, Tice Trafalgar, Tropic Isles, Villas. **Middle Schools:** Alva, Bonita Springs, Caloosa, Challenger, Cypress Lake, Diplomat, Dunbar, Lee, Lexington, Michigan International, Varsity Lakes, Veterans Park Academy for the Arts. **High Schools:** ALC-West, Cape Coral, Cypress Lake, Dunbar, Estero, Ft. Myers, High Tech Central, High Tech North, Ida S. Baker, Mariner, N. Ft. Myers, South Fort Myers, Juvenile Justice Sites. **Principal Representatives:** Elementary, Middle, and High: Marie Vetter, Brian Mangan, and Joe Vetter. **Board Appointees:** Donna Butts, Margaret Haugh, Dieter Philippi, JoeAnn Thomas-Joseph, Karen Wood. **Board Liaison:** Elinor Scricca. **Staff Liaison:** Mike McNerney. **Guests:** Linda Boyle, Richard Shafer, Cathy Reese, Sharon Tassoni, and Anne Oakes.

Schools not represented at this DAC meeting were:

Elementary Schools: Bayshore, Bonita Springs, Harns Marsh, Hector A. Cafferata, Jr., J. Colin English, Orangewood, Pinewoods (excused), Rayma C. Page, Ray V. Pottorf, Skyline, Spring Creek, Sunshine, Three Oaks. **Middle Schools:** Fort Myers, Gulf, Lehigh, Mariner, N. Ft. Myers Academy, Royal Palm Exceptional, Three Oaks, Trafalgar. **High Schools:** ALC-Central/ LAMP/ Academy High, East Lee County, Lehigh Senior, Riverdale.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee for District Advisory Council has been scheduled for: Monday, November 13, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. in the Human Resources Conference Room, first 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, December 13, 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