



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

*Finance Advisory Committee*

*September 27, 2006*

Meeting Minutes

**Committee Members Present:** Marshall Bower, Larry Bush, Cheryl Diamond, David Carleton Hall, Richard Hart, Thomas Hodson, Thomas McNulty, Susanne Quattro; Steven Riggs, Carmelo Santos, Carl Snipes; Fred Whitehouse

**Committee Members Absent:** Richard Cauble, Michael McNally, John Murphy

**Lee County School Personnel Present:** Mrs. Desamours, Lee Legutko

**Board Member Present:** Steven Teuber

**Recording Secretary:** Mrs. Sheila Stancel

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**Welcome**

Mr. Hall called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. welcoming the newly appointed committee members and asked for introductions around the room with a brief description about themselves.

**Committee Organization**

Mr. Hall reviewed the formal organization of advisory committees and asked for nominations from the committee for the position of Chair. Mr. McNulty nominated David Hall, seconded by Ms. Diamond and unanimously approved. Mr. Hall asked for nominations from the committee for the position of Vice Chair. Mr. McNulty nominated Carl Snipes for Vice Chair, seconded by Ms. Quattro and unanimously approved. The previous monthly calendar schedule for Finance Advisory Committee meeting dates was reviewed. The recommendation to continue meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, except for changing November to the 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday and excluding the months of December, June and July was recommended by Mr. Snipes, seconded by Ms. Quattro, and carried unanimously. Mr. Hall referenced our current practice to place public comment at the beginning of the agenda with a three minute time limit per person based on the agenda topics scheduled at the meeting. Mr. Hall asked for a recommendation from the committee. Recommendation to continue with current procedure was made by Mr. Santos, seconded by Mr. Riggs and unanimously carried.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Hall asked for a recommendation to approve the minutes. Mr. McNulty asked for clarification of the number of students enrolled that was discussed from the meeting but did not request a change to the minutes. Mr. Snipes made the motion

to approve the minutes of August 23, 2006, seconded by Mr. Santos and unanimously approved.

#### **Public Comment**

None

#### **Board Member's Report**

Mr. Teuber welcomed the new and returning advisory committee members to a new year and thanked them for their service. He stressed the feedback from the advisory committees to the Board and from the Board to the advisory committee is very important.

#### **Unfunded Mandates**

Mr. Legutko handed out a list of unfunded mandates that he has recorded through the years and described the effects of the state legislative sessions when new laws affecting the public school systems are passed each year without the necessary funding creating an increased burden to the school systems.

#### **Final Budget Document**

Ms. Desamours passed a copy of the final budget document to each committee member, reviewed the four major sections and responded to questions. Mr. Teuber encouraged the committee to read it with their coffee in the morning and share it with the community, look at key pages and use the comprehensive tool to help people understand how the budget system works.

Mr. Riggs asked how often the committee receives an update of performance versus the prepared budget. Ms. Desamours indicated board members receive a monthly budget summary report and Ms. Desamours and her team is in the process of developing an improved user friendly monthly financial report. Mr. Hall asked Ms. Desamours to share the reports with the committee for possible input and suggestions.

#### **Good of the Order**

Ms. Quattro asked when the school system would be done with the school choice system of operating. Mr. Teuber reported that the mandatory court ordered school choice period has expired and that Lee County has opted to continue with the program with improved divided zones to reduce the transportation costs and addition sub zone divisions that further reduces transportation cost. The school choice program makes the schools market themselves requiring continued improvement to keep enrollment high. Programs are being duplicated in each zone, i.e., IB program at Cape Coral High School (West Zone) and at Riverdale High School (East Zone) and will further duplicate programs into sub zones.

Mr. Hall commented on the report in the news that 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were now required to declare a major before entering high school. Mr. Teuber explained that it is now a state law and students will explore in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade the course major options.

Mr. Hall asked the committee to bring back to the October meeting they would like to focus on for this year. Mr. Santos made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Riggs. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. Committee members were reminded

DRAFT pending approval October 25, 2006

to adjourn to the Advisory Committee Orientation being held at 6:30 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room.

**The next meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2006, at 5:00 p.m., in the Human Resources Conference Room on the first floor of the Dr. James A. Adams Public Education Center.**