



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Finance Advisory Committee

March 26, 2008

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Thomas Busatta, Wayne Dean, David Hall, Richard Hart, Thomas McNulty, Susanne Quattro, Steven Riggs, Carmelo Santos,

Committee Members Absent: Marshall Bower, Larry Bush, Michael McNally, Chuck Reynolds, Carl Snipes

Lee County School Personnel Present: Ami Desamours

Guests: Susan Jacobse

Board Member Present: Steven Teuber

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Sheila Stancel

Welcome

Chairman David Hall called the meeting to order at 5: 10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hall asked for a recommendation to approve the minutes as presented. Motion made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Ms. Susan Jacobse introduced herself and her daughter as guests.

Board Member's Report

None

FY0809 Budget Update

Ms. Desamours shared with the committee the FY1996 Budget Reduction Plan that Dr. Browder shared with the Board at the last meeting for a starting off point for budget reduction discussions. She also handed out a packet that included: General Fund Revenues and Expenses estimated as of February 29, 2008 based on the Governor's Proposed Budget compared with reductions at 2%, 5% with taxes at 3% and a reduction of 5% for all areas, 2008-09 Budget Process, list of department positions, budget development forms and the 2008-09 School Allocation process. Ms. Desamours explained that the Budget Committee has been meeting for several weeks' reviewing the information as it comes in from Tallahassee. The Budget Committee consists of the Superintendent, four division chiefs (Academic, Administrative, Business and Human Resources), Executive Directors for Curriculum and Staff Development, School Support, Transportation, ESE, Grants Coordinator, Intervention Director, one principal representative from each school level and representatives from the Budget Department. The Committee thus far has been working with projected shortfalls of up to \$26 million and this week the House

ran a projected a \$30 million shortfall. We are now awaiting the Senate run. Discussion and questions followed about the use of contingency funds; the reduction of \$20 million in this year's budget and the use of contingency funds in order to reduce the disruption in the classrooms in mid-year. The Budget Committee is doing all it can to reduce the impact to the schools, but if the reduction is at the \$30 million level, that will not be possible. All recommendations for budget cuts are on the table and in the process of being prioritized. The District is required to have a balanced budget. Discussion and questions about the use of Capital Funds, Capital Projects, and the delay in construction on the G. Weaver Higgs Elementary in the East Zone. Ms. Desamours reported the Board's attorney is reviewing the Statute on Capital Funds for interpretation which would allow the District to use the revenue in any other areas. Ms. Desamours shared that the School district's web site has been updated to include information on the FY2008-09 Budget process and includes legislative links so that citizens can make their voices heard. Ms. Desamours asked the committee members as a group what type of actions they might want to move forward with regarding the budget shortages. She also asked the committee for their recommendations as a group regarding budget cuts for the District. After considerable discussion the Committee requested to learn more about elimination in the future of the School Choice program. Discussion continued regarding the Governor's proposed budget vs. the Senate and House proposals. A motion was made, that the Finance Advisory Committee recommends the Lee County School District and the Lee County public fully supports the Governor's Budget as opposed to the House and the Senate versions. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Good of the Order

None

Meeting adjourned 6:30 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2008 at 5:00 p.m., in the
Lee County Public Education Center
Student Services Conference Room #01-0002**

Follow-Up Action List

| Topic/Description | Action By | Action | Due Date |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------|
| Budget Cuts | Ami Desamours | Schedule on future agenda School Choice budget cut ramifications | August 2008 |
| Notification of media | Steven Teuber | Contact the media regarding the position taken by Finance Advisory Committee related to the Governor's Budget | 03/27/08 |
| Update the Web | Ami Desamours | Contact Joe Donzelli in Communications to update the FY2008-09 Budget Update page with the recommendation of the committee | 03/28/08 |
| Prepare minutes and update web | Sheila Stancel | Draft the minutes of the meeting, send to communications office for update to the web. | 04/15/08 |