



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Finance Advisory Committee

April 23, 2008

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Thomas Busatta, Larry Bush, Wayne Dean, Richard Hart, Thomas McNulty, Chuck Reynolds, Steven Riggs, Carl Snipes

Committee Members Absent: Marshall Bower, David Hall, Michael McNally, Susanne Quattro, Carmelo Santos

Lee County School Personnel Present: Lee Legutko

Guests: Susan Jacobse

Board Member Present: Steven Teuber

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Sheila Stancel

Welcome

Vice Chairman Carl Snipes called the meeting to order at 5: 10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

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

Board Member's Report

Mr. Tueber reported on the "Take a Stand" petition going to Tallahassee from the FEA Union. We don't know what results we will get, but hope to see more "flex" in Capital funding. If we have improved our media coverage and raised awareness about our budget crisis we are on the right track. At the recent Board meeting the option of diversified funding was discussed, SBA vs. other financial institutions.

FY0809 Legislation and Budget Update

Mr. Legutko share information regarding our current issues: class size amendment, No Child Left Behind, term limits on our legislative body, political pressures on lobbyists resulting in more restrictions to our schools and less flexibility. Recent reports from Tallahassee show that .25 of our levied \$2 mill capital funds has been pulled by the State and transferred to the District in the FEFP program after it was equalized. The resulting difference is that \$22 million was moved from Capital Outlay and approximately \$13 to 15 million returned to the District in FEFP (operating) funds. The House is moving in line with the Senate's proposed budget. The very worst budget scenario is occurring and next year it is projected to be worst. There is talk of relaxed implementation of the Class Size Amendment for next year which would relieve some stress on school districts. Another item proposed from the Governor is the 65% Solution which will impact school district budgets with more restrictions. The general definition of this proposal stating 65 cents of every

dollar would be spent in the classroom. A request was made to the Commissioner of Education to repay the \$23 million adjusted FTE over a period of three years due to the issues with SBA and the holding of our funds. The Commissioner responded that he would be more than willing to work with us but the law would not allow them to loan the district money. The cuts during next year's budget are projected to continue to deepen and it would be hopeful that the Governor will authorize release of funds from the State's Rainey Day fund to shore up the budget. The budget woes are sure to last for two years but more likely to be a three year issue.

Suggestions discussed were year round schools, sales tax referendum, cutting programs, high school 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. choice of classes, reduce or eliminate School Choice/Student Assignment.

Public Comment

Mr. Snipes invited guest, Ms. Susan Jacobse, to speak under public comment since she arrived after the time scheduled on the Agenda. Ms. Jacobse introduced herself as a parent, frequent speaker in support of the Superintendent, School District and School Board, and as a member of the Curriculum Advisory Committee and the Superintendent's ESE Advisory Committee. Ms. Jacobse voiced her concerns at the discussion where the legislature plans to move our money as if it is a shell game causing the district to lose more funds. She emphasized to the group she felt it that it is our responsibility as voters and tax payers to provide a balanced education to all children in the District.

Good of the Order

None

Meeting adjourned 6:30 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2008 at 5:00 p.m., in the
Lee County Public Education Center
Community Resources Training Room (South Wing)**

Follow-Up Action List

Topic/Description	Action By	Action	Due Date
Budget Cuts	Ami Desamours	Schedule on future agenda School Choice budget cut ramifications – <i>(carryover)</i>	August 2008