



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

*Finance Advisory Committee*

*August 22, 2007*

Meeting Minutes

**Committee Members Present:** Thomas Busatta, Larry Bush, David Hall, Richard Hart, Thomas McNulty, Susanne Quattro, Steven Riggs

**Committee Members Absent:** Marshall Bower, Richard Cauble, Thomas Hodson, Michael McNally, Jack Murphy, Carmelo Santos, Carl Snipes

**Lee County School Personnel Present:** Dr. Jim Browder, Ami Desamours, Lee Legutko

**Board Member Present:** Steven Teuber

**Recording Secretary:** Mrs. Sheila Stancel

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**Welcome**

Mr. 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. Motion made and seconded, unanimously approved.

**Public Comment**

None

**Board Member's Report**

Mr. Teuber opened the discussion with positive reports on the first week of school.

Questions were asked about the count of students from the first day and the process involved in reporting FTE to DOE. Ami explained the state's process for estimating district projections and what our expectations are for this fiscal year. Questions were asked about the free and reduced breakfast/lunch program. Mr. Teuber and Dr. Browder reported on the process and number of students served in the program. Our Food and Nutrition Services department is self-sufficient within the district budget. Questions about the population of ESE students in the Lee County School District were asked relating to the percentage of students and additional funding from the state for ESE students. Mr. Teuber and Dr. Browder reported Lee County is slightly above the national average and our district serves the most severe handicapped student. The gifted program is also considered part of the ESE program. Weighted FTE is approximately 25-30% per student more than a non-ESE student. Question was asked about the teacher/staff (5,000/11,000) ratio related to the budget. Ami Desamours reported the 11,000 staff includes full and part-time personnel in all areas (bus drivers, paraprofessionals, food service

workers, maintenance, and support staff) and uses approximately 10,100 FTE positions.

### **FY2007-08 Budget Update**

Ami passed out a copy of the FY200708 Superintendent's Proposed Tentative Budget giving a report on the process to date including the Board approval on July 31, 2007. Ms. Desamours and Dr. Browder reviewed and answered questions related to FEFP, millage, local effort vs. state funded, transportation budget, choice program, school zone and sub zones, contingency funds, restricted funds, construction of new schools, 5-year plan, impact fees, and the class size amendment. A question was asked regarding the SAT/ACT scores for Lee County and Florida vs. the nation. Dr. Browder and Mr. Teuber responded regarding Florida's complex diversity with approximately 20% or more of its students with English as a second language and that every kid is allowed to take the exam without restriction. This year every zone will have an evening SAT prep course for high school kids at the cost of \$30 per student. We are continuously striving to understand and improve the outcomes. The Ford Foundation award was discussed and the addition of comprehensive high schools, providing hands on learning in high school, in each of our three zones. The Ford Foundation searches the nation for communities who are improving the workforce; Lee County is being recognized and awarded approximately \$50,000 for what our Career Education program and the comprehensive schools are achieving. Ms. Desamours completed the review of the 2007-08 Superintendent's Proposed Tentative Budget.

### **Good of the Order**

Steve Riggs voiced concern about the conflict between the current mission distributed through Mr. Legutko's office and the purpose of the committee as stated on the District web site quoting Board Policy 3.31. Mr. Teuber indicated an acceptable goal of this committee would be to look at the budget documents and make suggestions for presentation of the most understandable budget at three levels; 1) for parents to understand, 2) interested individuals who have some knowledge such as Finance Advisory Committee members, and 3) experts in budget preparation. Dr. Browder recommended a budget timeline be developed for the committee coinciding with the board budget timeline which begins in October on the next year's budget. Mr. Hall recommended we place on the September agenda a review of the committee's purpose and mission in order to make a recommendation to the Board for approval prior to the October meeting. A request was made by Steve Riggs for the committee to receive a copy of the budget book prior to a scheduled meeting to allow time to review for discussion at the meeting. Ms. Desamours agreed to mail in advance of the meeting in the future.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2007 at 5:00 p.m., in the  
Lee County Public Education Center  
Community Resource Training Room.**

### Follow-Up Action List

<b>Topic/Description</b>	<b>Action By</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
FAC Mission / Purpose	Legutko/Desamours	Handouts and agenda item on 9/26/07	09/17/07
Budget Timeline	Desamours	Handouts and agenda item on 9/26/07	09/17/07
FY 2007-08 Final Budget Book	Desamours/Stancel	Mail Final Budget document to committee members prior to meeting	09/17/07