



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Finance Advisory Committee

December 14, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Nicholas Alexander, BJ Brundage, Thomas Busatta, Patrick Darga, Richard Hart, Charles Massie, Cathleen Morgan, Chuck Reynolds, Daniel Therrien

Committee Members Absent: James Beaudin, Frank Bove, David Deetscreek, Bill Genter, Susan Quattro, Tamisen Traiger

Lee County School Personnel Present: Kelly Letcher, Joe Donzelli

Board Members Present: Dr. Jane Kuckel

Recording Secretary: Sarah Cox

Welcome

Cathleen Morgan called the meeting to order at 4:37p.m. and introduced Kelly Letcher who is sitting in for Ami Desamours.

Approval of Minutes (November 16, 2011)

Cathleen called for approval of the minutes. Daniel Therrien noted two corrections and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

n/a

Board Member Report

Dr. Kuckel provided a press release that will be in the Thursday or Friday edition of the newspaper. She discussed two big topics on the horizon.

1. District health clinic. This was brought up at the December 6, 2011 Board meeting. Due to increasing insurance costs, this is being considered. However, it is in the beginning stages. The clinic(s) would be for routine check-ups and employees would not have a co-pay. Clinics would be strategically placed, possibly within each zone. There is consideration of two pilot clinics. A request for Information (RFI) has been put out to gather more information. Dr. Kuckel stated right now District staff are researching the potential benefits and cost savings.
2. Moving instructional pay from the current salary schedule, where pay is based on type of degree and increased each year, to a State mandated performance based salary. Under the State mandate, fifty percent of salary will be based on student performance and the other fifty percent will be based

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on leadership, such as participation within the School District and the community.

Thomas Busatta asked how student achievement is currently measured. Dr. Kuckel responded by FCAT scores. However, under the new compensation model, there will be end of year exams. Thomas also asked what this means for ESE teachers. Dr. Kuckel stated District staff is working on the details closely with employee groups. All teachers will most likely have three to five year contracts.

Nicholas Alexander asked if the health clinics are in the District's budget, including the pilot program. Dr. Kuckel stated she raised the same question at the Board meeting. She reiterated that this is all in the information gathering stages. Discussion ensued about a mass clinic for all county employees and the possibility of sharing existing clinics with Lee Memorial or the Sherriff's Office.

Advisory Chair Meeting

Cathleen provided a handout that broke down the Committee's goals and scheduled staff presentations. She stated she provided a report to the Board on December 6, 2011. She attended an advisory committee chair meeting with the Superintendent. She has also met with other Committee Chair's to see what their groups are discussing. She noted topics other committees are discussing and the possibility of having the chair from each committee explore the financial impacts of each topic.

- Curriculum Advisory – transition to ebooks and the significant cost of doing so.
- Construction Advisory – reviewing the guidelines for allocating funds for new construction, renovations, and maintenance. Also, reviewing the decision making process of renovating versus building a new school.

Lengthy discussion took place about what advisory committees are empowered to do and the committee's role. Dr. Kuckel suggested narrowing to one or two topics that members are passionate about and focus on them.

Cathleen resumed her discussion of potential topics to include:

- HR – proposed teacher evaluation process
- Technology investment
- Sales tax initiative

Dr. Kuckel suggested the Committee stick with their own topics and not veer into topics ongoing in other committees.

Public Relations

Joe Donzelli apologized for being late. He noted his credentials in communication and the fact that he has been the District's Communications Director for over six years. His responsibilities include internal and external communication. He mentioned Cathleen had asked him what the Committee can do to help these communication efforts. Joe responded sharing with others what they learn from the Committee by being an extension of the District's efforts. Cathleen asked what the Committee needs from Joe to be comfortable in talking to the community. Responses included data and snippets of information. Cathleen then asked how

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would the Committee get the information and how would they present it. Joe responded it could be formal or informal. He stated Cathleen could tell him what information the Committee would like and he could provide it.

Joe discussed the communication effort regarding the new teacher evaluation system. Lengthy discussion took place on teacher pay under the new system and if it would be equal (i.e. teachers at low income or low parent involvement schools).

Dr. Kuckel stated she had to leave. She recommended the Committee focus on a topic we have already discussed or something new, then drill down and research. She noted the health clinic and ebooks are both good topics and she could have a speaker talk to the Committee about either one. Nicholas suggested the Committee decide on a topic. He suggested the health clinic and many agreed. The second topic will be ebooks.

FY12 Budget Update

N/A (ran out of time)

Good of the Order

N/A

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2012 at 4:30 p.m., in the HR Community Training Room located at 2855 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, Florida.