

The School District of Lee County

Curriculum Advisory Committee

March 26, 2018

6:00 p.m. – Training Room D

Meeting Minutes

Mission Statement:

To advise the School Board by recommending approaches to obtaining improved student achievement for all students through a coherent, rigorous academic course of study that provides the tools necessary to succeed in today's society. Emphasis will be placed on the dynamic development of a K-12 curriculum within a safe environment leading to both career and technical majors, the methods of instruction used to implement it, and the assessments of its effectiveness, together with a complementary professional development program to support it.

Committee Members Present: April Ketron, Joseph Camputaro, Thomas R. Busatta, Carolyn Feldmann, Dr. Kelly Lavis, Goldye Meyer, Ken Weaver, Stephen Whitener, Judy Wilkerson, Cathleen Morgan

Committee Members Absent: Dawn Drello-Thompson, Matthew Fredrickson, Sandra Wright, John Heck, and Liliana Guerra-Cannata

School Board Liaison Present: Cathleen Morgan

Staff Members Present: Lori Houchin, Dr. Wanda Creel

Recording Secretary: Jazzmin Cruz

Presenters: Art Castellanos, Rick McCormick, Ryan Richards, Tyler Patak, Rob Stratton, Chris Patricca, Rob Dodig

Welcome and Introduction of Members

The meeting was called to order by April Ketron at 6:02pm welcoming all committee members and guests.

Reading and Approval of Agenda of April 16, 2018 agenda

There was a motion to approve the current agenda by Ken Weaver second by Dr. Kelly Lavis and all approved.

Reading and Approval of March 26, 2018 Minutes

There was a motion made to approve the minutes as presented by Dr. Kelly Lavis, which was seconded by Dr. Judy Wilkerson and all voted to approve.

Review of Mission Statement and Purpose of Committee

April Ketron reviewed the mission statement and reminded everyone of the purpose of the committee.

Public Comment

None.

Board Member Report

Cathleen Morgan indicated that a major focus of the board is the ½ Cent Sales Tax initiative. The presentation on the Change for Change initiative will provide more information.

½ Cent Sales Taxes (Change for Change) Presentation

Chris Patricca, Board member, stated that overall funding from the State of Florida is decreasing and the student population of The Lee County School District is increasing. The Change for Change initiative is a proposal to increase sales tax by a half cent to fund school capital projects. The half cent tax burden on tax payers is low. Sales taxes raise more revenue than other options.

The increase in capital will support children by:

- Building new schools
- Rebuilding/Renovating Schools
- Supporting facility improvements
- Refreshing and adding Technology
- Enhancement for progress
- Enhancing Safety and Security
- Providing Fiscal through a Responsibly Balanced Budget

Rob Dodig, Staff Attorney, states the School District has 94,000 students, which includes charter schools. Lee County has the highest graduation rate in the State of Florida. Lee County is the 9th largest school district in Florida, and 32nd largest school district in the country. We have students that speak 158 different languages. 40% of students live in homes where English is not their first language. The student growth rate is 1800 students a year. The District will need to build seven new schools, rebuild two schools, and build one High School addition to add capacity to Lehigh Senior. Our High Schools are overcrowded. Dr. Judy Wilkerson stated that the Change for Change flyer is too detailed. She stated when you give people too much detail, sometimes they pick at it.

Architecture in Education Program Presentation

S.T.E.A.M. stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Architecture, and Mathematics. Rick McCormick stated that he would like to introduce architecture into the curriculum. This course is already in place in several different cities in Florida. He went on to explain that Architecture is art, engineering, math, problem solving, and human relations. It is also an introduction to the visualization of art and engineering of architecture. Ryan Richards stated he would like to have at least two architects available per school, to review the materials and the lesson plans of the program. This is an 8 week program. Thomas Busatta questioned the cost of the program. Mr. Castellanos stated Castellanos & Tramonte Architects has set aside a budget to cover all costs. The S.T.E.A.M. program will not take away from the curriculum it will enhance it. The S.T.E.A.M. program was put in place to inspire students through architecture. The program is only being offered to 4th and 5th graders.

Collaborate-Online Meeting Platform

Rob Stratton introduced Black Board Collaborate, which allows committee members to participate in the meetings from remote locations, when they are unable to attend. Before the session begins, members will be emailed this log in information, or call in the District. The session will be open ten minutes before the meeting begins. This is to ensure video/audio are in working condition, Mr. Stratton stated it is recommended to mute the session. There are too many distractions in the back ground. When the participants are asked to speak they can click to unmute the session. Dr. Judy Wilkerson stated the platform is a good way to communicate for the summer and missed meetings.

Actions and Next Step

Mrs. Morgan will excuse anyone from the summer meetings who are unable to attend or have no access to communication tools.

Good of Order

None.

Motion to end the meeting at 7:35 p.m. by Dr. Kelly Lavis, and all voted to adjourn.