

The School District of Lee County

Curriculum Advisory Committee

January 11, 2016

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: Elizabeth Blundo, Joseph Camputaro, Deanna Evans, Patricia Givens, April Ketron, Kelly Lavis, Patti Lochner, Robert Mahone, Evelyn Murphy, John Steakley, Stephen Whitener, Judy Wilkerson

Committee Members Absent: David Adorno, Kathleen Cherasia, Connie Dennis, Tammy LaBelle, Sandra Worth, Pam LaRiviere

School Board Liaison Present: none

Staff Members Present: Brandy Macchia and Melissa Robery

Recording Secretary: Jamie Fowler

Welcome and Introduction of Members

The meeting was called to order by Patti Lochner at 6:03 welcoming all returning committee members and new members.

Review of Mission Statement and Purpose of Committee

Patti asked everyone to review the mission statement and reminded everyone of the purpose of the committee.

Reading and Approval of October 19, 2015 agenda

There was a motion to approve the agenda as it was presented by Stephen Whitener, Deanna Evans seconded and all voted to approve.

Reading and Approval of October 19, 2015 minutes

There was a motion to approve the minutes as presented by Elizabeth Blundo, seconded by Stephen Whitener and all voted to approve.

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2016 Agenda Topics

Committee members reviewed items that have been placed on the *parking lot* from previous meetings. Groupings were identified by the committee indicating the manner in which the items will be addressed at future meetings. Each of the items were divided into one of 4 categories: discuss, update, presentation, other as indicated below.

Discuss

- Substitute Teachers

Update

- The Importance of knowing what curriculum expectations are and the process for implementing our suggestions.
 - Does the School Board meet with CAC to discuss guidelines for curriculum?
- Consistency in curriculum communication
 - How is curriculum communicated to the teachers?
 - Pacing of student plans
 - Process for the communication flow
- Look at cursive writing being used/taught in Elementary – Is it in the Standards? If so, which grade level?
- Inclusion & meeting the recommendation needs of ESE students with ESE staff limited
- Chromebook review for new members – how is it going?

Presentation

- The importance of mastery of basic skills in elementary
 - Spelling
 - Math
 - Sentence creation
 - Phonics
 - Basic science
- What kind of tools are we providing for students who aren't at mastery? What resources are available to address weaknesses and what resources for those who need enrichment?
 - What are schools doing for intervention?
 - Intervention Specialist position/roles
 - Update results of schools that are successful with struggling students. What are they doing?
 - Assessing the standards and student ability
 - Consistency in presenting standards & assessing students across the district
 - The importance developing and implementing critical thinking skills Socratic reasoning.
- Extra-Curricular areas (specifically the Arts) – where are we with these at all grade levels?

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Items the committee listed as other to address at a later time or that have already been addressed.

- Whispering in ears, no side conversations
- Can parents share questions prior to meetings? Will responses be posted for public viewing?
- Does the district host a parent/community night to introduce what each committee is responsible for? Spaghetti dinner?
- Would like more information on Whole Brain Teaching
- Document based inquiry – look at KIPP – knowledge is power – education model
- Subject matter the students have to choose from uniformity
- What can we do to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity to speak during a meeting?

Some updates were provided by Melissa Robery about previous parking lot questions:

- Per State Statute 1006.40 beginning with the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year, each district school board shall use at least 50% of the annual allocation for the purchase of digital or electronic instructional materials that align with state standards included on the state-adopted list.
 - Most Publishers now provide electronic resources that support the print resources.

Instructional staff for Media Centers:

- Elementary Schools
 - 44 sites
 - 22 media specialist/ instructional staff
 - 22 paraprofessionals
 - A few sites have both
 - Middle Schools – including K-8 schools
 - 22 sites
 - 12 media specialist / instructional staff
 - 10 paraprofessionals (with one school in the process of hiring a Media Specialist their para just left)
 - High Schools
 - 13 sites
 - 3 media specialists/ instructional staff
 - 10 paraprofessionals
 - Total District
 - 37 media specialists/ instructional staff
 - 42 paraprofessionals
- None the school sites in the district are staffed only with volunteers. Many do have volunteers that assist in the Media Center.
- High school media centers are open all day and some include before and after school hours.

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Public Comment

None

Good of the Order

This year's State Textbook Adoption is for Elementary Art, Elementary Music and High School Digital Information Technology. On January 28th, 4:00pm – 7:00pm, at the District office in the Caloosahatchee Room there will be a Publisher's Showcase. Publishers will be displaying resources for teachers and community members to review. There will be an opportunity to interact directly with representatives and see the materials.

Materials will also be available to review by the committee members at either the February or March Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting.

The textbook adoption committee is opened up to anyone who is interested in being a part of this process. There is a link on the right side of the main School District web site (www.leeschools.net) to volunteer to be a part of this committee. District staff will communicate with those who have indicated an interest in participating to provide additional information.

Motion to end the meeting at 7:30 made by April Ketron seconded by Robert Mahone and all voted to adjourn.