



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Continuous Systemic Improvement Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Online

Committee Members Present: Warren Baucom, Ryan McLain, David Montrose, John Miller, Brian Rasnick, William Ribble, Denis Ryan, Amanda Smelker, Dr. Michele Stork

Absent: Anthony Bennie, Lucinda Defreitas,

School Board Liaison: Gwynetta Gittens

Staff Members Present: Cindy McClung, Director, Continuous Improvement

Recording Secretary: Julie Holcomb

Guests: Adam Molloy, Coordinator, Community Engagement

Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Michele Stork at 6:01 p.m.

Review and Approval of Agenda and Previous Month's Meeting Minutes

The February 10, 2021 meeting agenda was unanimously approved.

The January 13, 2021 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Proximity Plan, Elementary

Cindy McClung introduced Adam Molloy, Coordinator, Community Engagement. Mr. Molloy will be presenting a session regarding the Elementary Proximity Plan.

Mr. Molloy noted that this project is currently in the information stage.

The guiding questions of the project were discussed including why we need a new elementary school student assignment plan, what are the benefits, and how can the district collaborate with the community prior to implementation.

The Current Issues were discussed:

- *Community Disconnect and Transportation* - a map and bus route examples were shared, including an example of the data being reviewed as a part of this project.
- The Promise of the Blalock Case and Equity – a brief overview of the Lee desegregation case and current data related to this issue was discussed.

New Plan

The purpose of the new plan is to offer stronger community choices, and prioritizing equity through smaller zones to strengthen diversity, build community schools, improve transportation efficiency, and maintain choice.

The Process

The process for this plan is data-driven including policy and program reviews.

Project Timeline

The draft plans (4) are currently available for review on the District website.

In March/April 2021, the final boundary plans will be presented to the public.

During July 2021 the final boundary plan/policies will be presented to the School Board, with an anticipated implementation of the new student assignment plan for elementary schools targeted for Fall 2022-2023.

The associated improvements of this plan were discussed.

The plans and maps for review are available at www.leeschools.net/proximityplan.

Dr. Stork – What makes this plan equitable? Mr. Molloy noted that the current plan has goals for student demographics, allowing a better grasp on this data in the student data pools. The goal is prevent further isolation in schools currently isolated by demographics, and to ensure sure this isolation doesn't continue in the future. Dr. Stork noted that District resources also need to be reviewed as part of this process.

Mr. Ryan – Are individual schools rated? Mr. Molloy stated that there are school performance ratings, but there are a lot of perception ratings that may not be connected with the reality. The new plan has the ability to remake the school perceptions in these new, tighter zones. Ms. Gittens added that socioeconomics plays a part in parent decisions for their school choice, reviewing after school programs, etc.

Mr. Rasnick stated that the District is making a major improvement with this project, and is available to assist as needed.

Mr. McLain - How transparent is the lottery going to be compared to the current system? Mr. Molloy confirmed that the new process does need to be transparent and straightforward. The current 2-mile walk and sibling preference from the current plan may need to be carried over into the new plan.

Ms. McClung noted there will be a committee put into place to review all of the policies and make sure they are clear.

Ms. Gittens commented that the inclusion of stakeholders is very important in this process, and the roll-out of the plan is allowing that to take place. She encouraged members to make their questions, comments and concerns known, as that type of feedback assists with a plan where we can best serve all stakeholders going forward.

Mr. McLain - Will jobs be impacted by reduction of busses as a part of this project? Mr. Molloy stated that Roger Lloyd, Director of Transportation, has been a district stakeholder through the entire process, and there has not been a concern related to employment.

Ms. Smelker commented on the school perception and how that has impacted where we are currently, and this will need to be part of the considerations when rolling out this new plan.

Mr. Baucom – How do you factor in for growth in the county? What about families that move into the area with a student that is in another grade beyond Kindergarten? Mr. Molloy explained that forecasting is being addressed through the consultant group assisting with the data review, with an ultimate goal of revisiting zones with small changes reflected in the plan over the next 10 years. The formula for forecasting was able to be adjusted recently related to COVID, and the plan will be sustainable. A phased-in approach has been reviewed and will be addressed.

Dr. Stork noted the District does not currently have a culture of neighborhood schools, and promoting that will be important. A recommendation was made to let people know why this is important to them, as many do not understand what a “proximity plan” is.

Mr. Miller – Is there a target goal for the reduction in the number of choices with the new zones? Mr. Molloy noted that three to four choices on average is the target, but depending on school density, demographics, and other data, this may be different in some zones.

Mr. Miller - Has an evaluation on transportation savings been completed? Mr. Molloy stated that this data is being reviewed, and will be presented.

Mr. Miller - What is the best resource to share with people? The District website www.leeschools.net/proximityplan contains information, a place to ask questions, etc.

Mr. Montrose – Is there a plan to talk with the schools regarding competing with each other? Mr. Molloy noted that meetings will be held with each school to discuss the plan, and the appropriate teams are engaged with the schools to address these types of issues.

Committee Feedback

Communication should define what the proximity plan is, and this information needs to be provided to all employees so they have the details to share/explain in simple terms.

Make sure the community knows that the feedback and suggestions are being reviewed and addressed.

At the March meeting, the Committee will prepare formal recommendation(s) concerning the Proximity Plan.

Public Comment

N/A

Board Member Report

Mrs. Gittens reminded Committee Members about the importance of watching the Board Briefings, Workshops, and Meetings.

The Public Information Request process is being revised, will be automated, and available on the District website.

The textbook adoption for ELA was discussed.

This month is Black History and Career Tech Ed Month, and student participation is part of the Board recognition.

The District is in need of teachers, and in light of the class-size amendment compliance, there may be findings during this time.

The religious expression policy was recently discussed.

A policy on Guest Teachers has been reviewed and approved.

Board Members will be having a Board Workshop to review the timing of the Proximity Plan implementation. The process can then be used for other projects so that community members, stakeholders, etc. know how and when they can get involved and provided feedback.

If Committee Members have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Gittens, or any other Board Member.

Topics for Remaining Meetings

Communication of the District Strategic Plan – Protocol for what Committee Members would like to hear about from the Board, and what do Committee Members want the Board to know.

Cindy will provide the link to the Proximity Plan and Adam Molloy's e-mail address to submit comments, questions, etc. if the timeline to discuss at the March meeting will be too late to meet the needed input timeline.

Good of the Order

N/A

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

2020-2021 Meeting Schedule

September 16, 2020 (Online via Zoom)

October 14, 2020 (Online via Zoom)

November 11, 2020 (Online via Zoom) – CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER

December 9, 2020 (Online via Zoom) – Make-up

January 13, 2021 (Online via Zoom)

February 10, 2021(Online via Zoom)

March 10, 2021 (Online via Zoom)

April 14, 2021(Online via Zoom)

All meetings are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

CSI Advisory Committee Website

The CSI Advisory Committee website provides meeting dates, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes.

https://www.leeschools.net/leadership/school_board/advisory_committee_information/csi_advisory_committee

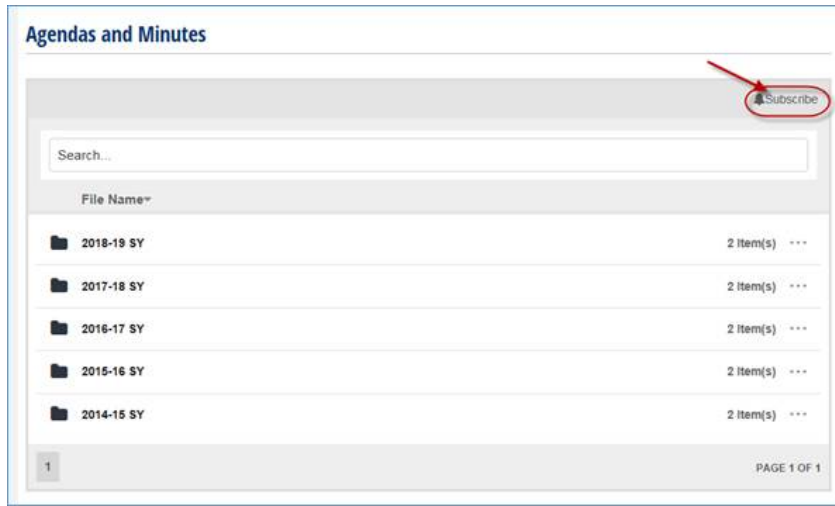
Instructions for Subscribing to CSI Advisory Committee Website

In order to receive automated alerts as new documents are posted to the CSI Advisory Committee website, you can subscribe to the site following the steps below.

- Access the website at:

https://www.leeschools.net/leadership/school_board/advisory_committee_information/csi_advisory_committee

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