



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Curriculum Advisory Committee

April 20, 2015

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: Ms. Christine Cartaya, Mrs. Kathleen Cherasia, Dr. Connie Dennis, Ms. Lori Fayhee, Ms. Jacqui Hill, Mr. Thomas Latino, Ms. Kelly Lavis, Ms. Patti Lochner, Mr. John Steakley, Mr. John Traube, Dr. Judy Wilkerson, Dr. Rodney Winkler, and Mrs. Sandra Worth

Committee Members Absent: Ms. Lauren Torres

School Board Liaison: Mrs. Pamela H. LaRiviere

Staff Members Present: Mrs. Melissa Robery - Director Curriculum Services Secondary, Mrs. Soretta Ralph – Director Curriculum Services Elementary, Mr. Dwayne Alton, Director of Information Technology Support

Recording Secretary: Mary Reider

Guests: Mr. Marvin Goetz

Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Chair Thomas Latino at 6:04 pm. Mr. Latino reminded everyone to silence their cell phones. Mr. Latino welcomed all committee members and guest, Mr. Marvin Goetz.

Review /Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes

Mr. Latino asked everyone to review the proposed agenda and previous meeting minutes from March 16, 2015. Motion to accept the proposed agenda made by Dr. Connie Dennis and seconded by Mrs. Kelly Lavis. Motion Carried. Motion to accept the previous meeting minutes with correction made by Mrs. Sandra Worth and seconded by Ms. Patti Lochner. Motion Carried.

Board Member Report

Mrs. LaRiviere confirmed the Curriculum Advisory Committee's recommendation regarding Board Policy 2.18 was presented to the Board. Mrs. LaRiviere will be working with the Mr. Latino to develop the Committee's May agenda.

Mrs. LaRiviere suggested **Committee Comment** be added to future agendas and asked for discussion among committee members. Discussion ensued. A motion was made by Mrs. Kathleen Cherasia to replace the second **Public Comment** with **Committee Comment**. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kelly Lavis. Discussion ensued. Unanimous Vote, motion carried.

Mrs. LaRiviere visited Bonita Springs Middle School and observed students using Chromebooks. Students were able to download the template, write notes/do work and upload their information to the teacher. When students are absent they will be able to access the lesson. Parents will have access to the website and see the lesson taught that day. Every teacher will be at a different level for implementation and will receive inservice training during the summer. Mrs. LaRiviere stated it was cost productive to purchase the Chromebooks than to update current district computers in order to comply with State guidelines. Funding for Chromebooks was supplied through State Capital Funding specifically set aside for technology. Each middle school student will have their own device.

Public Comment – Non CAC Members

Mr. Marvin Goetz, President of the Lee County Professional Substitute Teachers' Association suggested committee members recommend to the Board to include substitute teachers in the District's inservice training for the use of Chromebook technology.

Response to Public Comment

Mr. John Traube made a motion that a recommendation be made to the Board for all Substitutes to receive inservice training in Chromebook technology. Mrs. Lori Fayhee seconded. Discussion ensued. Mr. Steakley suggested committee members delay their vote until the end of the Google Chromebook Presentation.

Use of Google Chromebooks

Mrs. Melissa Robery, Director Curriculum Services-Secondary:

Four teacher leaders in each middle school are being trained in the use of Google Chromebooks . These leaders will be responsible for training teachers within their building. Training will continue through June. In July, teacher tech leaders will come together to plan training for all teachers when they return in August. As teacher tech leaders are going through their training, they are using Chromebook class sets in their classrooms.

Mr. Dwayne Alton, Director of Technology:

Chromebooks were available for Committee Members to examine. A Chromebook is a laptop built around Google's Chrome Browser. In addition to using the Web Browser, you can install Apps that can be pushed down from the District office. The Chromebook will provide an equitable way for students to access our digital content. Factors considered by the District in order to implement a one-to-one program were

- Financial (affordability)
- Security (safe for students to use)
- Durability (device used by K-12)
- Battery Life (need to use device all day)
- Keyboard (in alignment with tools used)
- Can the District Support (Chrome is easily managed)

Chrome devices are ready to go (does not have to be imaged by District) and once they are returned at the end of the year they are easily cleaned to prepare for the next year. Updates to the Google Chromebooks are not disruptive and there is no malware.

The District tested 27 models of Chromebooks (real life battery testing, performance, 4 foot drop testing). The sleeve chosen for the device is easily carried in a book bag and the student will not have to remove the sleeve in order to get the device out of the book bag. The agreement made with the manufacturer of the devices include: regular warranty and accidental damage protection. Additional software allows teachers to see screenshots of what their students are doing and tools for student response and adequate power supplies. The package cost per device is \$300.75 and schools will be stocked with spares in case a student has a failed device. Students will not need the internet at home to operate their devices. Students who use their internet at home will have all information funneled back to the District. If a device is lost or stolen, it has zero value (bricking the device). The devices are mandatory and are the responsibility of the student and parent. Processes for Chromebooks are the same as they would be for textbooks.

Questions posed by Committee Members:

Q. Why do the devices need to be returned at the end of the year?

A. For inventory purposes

Q. Will headphones be available?

A. Yes

Q. How will the impact the visually impaired or hearing impaired?

A. All tools we have are AVA compliant.

Q. Will Substitute Teachers be trained?

A. Suggestion will be taken back to District as feedback from meeting.

Q. Is there training for parents?

A. Not at this point – but still working on Parent Communication.

Q. Is there a set plan for teachers as to how they use this?

A. Content adoptions are by subject. Training is underway and transitional. The District's goal is to show teachers how to infuse their classrooms with technology.

Q. Does this support Microsoft Office, WORD, EXCEL, PowerPoint?

A. It supports those file formats but we will not use Microsoft Office. We will use Google Docs.

Q. Does this device have a hard drive? Do you have to be able to go on-line?

A. Yes, it has local storage. All of the applications that are on the device by default work off-line.

Q. Will they be using these for testing next year? Will it be secure?

A. Yes, in middle school. Yes it will be secure.

Q. When will this device be implemented in High School?

A. 2016-2017 SY

Q. Are there plans for the District to work with the colleges of education to get them involved in what the District is doing?

A. We are working with the Education Alliance (group of leaders from local communities – Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, Collier, FSW, FGCU, Barry, Hodges) they have quarterly meetings where they come together to discuss how to better prepare teachers to enter the classroom. The District is working with FSW and FGCU to develop Professional Development Schools in order to bring in Interns to develop those relationships.

The Committee thanked Mr. Alton for his presentation.

Committee Comments

Vice Chair Patti Lochner suggested committee members research Google Chromebooks in the classroom for additional information.

Mr. John Traube suggested FGCU and FSW should be using this technology for their students in order to prepare them for teaching in the classroom.

Dr. Rodney Winkler concurred as to the importance of teaching with devices.

- Motion made by Dr. Connie Dennis for the Curriculum Advisory Committee to recommend to the Board that the District coordinate technology training with post-secondary schools. Motion seconded by Mr. John Traube. Discussion ensued. Amended motion made by Dr. Judy Wilkerson that the Curriculum Advisory Committee recommend to the Board that the District will share information regarding all new initiatives including technology with post-secondary schools in the area. Motion seconded by Mrs. Kathleen Cherasia. Discussion ensued. All Ayes - Motion carried.

- Motion made by Mr. John Traube for the Curriculum Advisory Committee to recommend to the Board that the District provide training in all new initiatives to all substitute teachers. Seconded by Patti Lochner. Discussion ensued. 12 Ayes, 1 Nay

Good of the Order

None

Closing Remarks

Topics for Next Curriculum Advisory Committee Meeting – *How Does Testing Affect the Psychology of the Student?*

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. John Steakley, seconded by Dr. Connie Dennis. The motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

The next meeting of the Curriculum Advisory Committee is scheduled for **Monday, May 18, 2015 at 6:00 PM**. Curriculum Advisory Committee meetings are held at the Lee County Public Education Center, 2855 Colonial Blvd. Fort Myers, Florida – Training Room D.