



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

Continuous Systemic Improvement (CSI) Advisory Committee

October 12, 2015

6:00 p.m. – Training Room “D” – Board Annex

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present: Cheryl Ammon-Kunkle, Tony Beougher, Larry Byrnes, Adam Hall, Christopher Lightfoot, Monica Morfis, Chris Quackenbush, Brian Rist, Susan Shin-Harris, Kally Shiner-Nunes, Tammy Traiger, Gery Treichler

Committee Members Absent: Victor Castro, Shelly Hampton (excused), Samantha Leroy

School Board Liaison: Ms. Mary Fischer

Staff Members Present: Dr. Richard J. Itzen, Director Research and Assessment, Mrs. Patti Elkin, Director Accountability, Ms. Cindy McClung, Coordinator Quality

Recording Secretary: Terri Saarinen

Guests: Ms. Marci Giebels-Birchenough

Welcome

The meeting was called to order by CSI Chairman Mr. Brian Rist at 6:02 P.M. Round robin introductions followed. One guest present this evening for public comment. Chairman Rist suggested following Roberts Rules of Order by raising hands to participate in discussion. He also suggested CSI members provide input to the meeting agenda in advance of the meeting by replying to the recording secretary draft agenda with topics and questions to be added. Ms. Fischer reminded the group about email messaging, “replying to all” and Sunshine law. She added that additional topics can be added to draft agenda in the Good of the Order section.

Review /Approval of Minutes and Meeting Agenda

Motion to approve the September minutes was made by Dr. Byrnes, seconded by Ms. Fischer. Discussion followed. Feedback given that the discussion regarding Gallup survey results was lengthier than noted. Additional discussion ensued regarding Board schedule for review of advisory committee recommendations and time certain for providing feedback. Ms. Fischer said advisory committees provide reports quarterly to the Board and recommendations are reviewed. Vote taken. All ayes. Motion to approve September minutes carried.

Motion to approve this evening’s agenda made by Mr. Beougher, seconded by Ms. Fischer. Discussion ensued regarding placing topics on the agenda relevant to discussion, time allotted for each topic, if agenda is restricted, and how it is members are able generate specific questions prior to meeting so Focus area lead/guest can address those questions and concerns. Chairman Rist reiterated he would like committee members to have input to the agenda and explained meeting focus would be aided if agenda items were captured in advance of the meeting. Ms. Shiner-Nunes asked if subcommittee speaker had agenda ahead of time. Ms. McClung said she had the agenda, explained her plan for strategic plan review and Focus Area 1 and said she also met with Dr. Itzen last week in preparation for this meeting. Ms. Shiner-Nunes commented she wants questions to be answered by subcommittee speakers in attendance. Additional comments ensued. It was requested that Recording Secretary sends future meeting agenda out within one week of previous meeting to solicit and collect member input to topics and agenda items.

Board Member Report

Ms. Fischer said there is an advisory committee chairs meeting with Superintendent Adkins beginning at 7:30 AM on October 27th. She added that what happens legislatively impacts the Strategic Plan. Ms. Fischer shared information regarding an upcoming meeting on October 14th at FCGU, followed by a meeting with the Florida School Board delegation at St. Petersburg College the following day. She said the District Advisory Committee (DAC) is hosting a legislative Town

Hall meeting on November 9th (at the same time as scheduled November CSI meeting), with local delegations attending. She said this may be a fruitful meeting and it may be useful for the CSI committee to attend. Discussion ensued. Chairman Rist asked if there is agreement CSI attend DAC town hall on November 9th. Dr. Itzen shared that representatives include Matt Caldwell and Heather Fitzenhagen. Motion to attend DAC town hall meeting made by Dr. Byrnes, seconded by Ms. Morfis. Discussion ensued. Ms. Quackenbush spoke about going to Tallahassee October 19 – 21 to meet with representatives, looking for 25 appointments to be scheduled and invited CSI members to participate. She said there would be lots of information exchanged and said it is an important learning process. Chairman Rist asked for additional discussion on using scheduled November CSI meeting. Ms. Shiner-Nunes asked to meet and prepare questions prior to attending. Discussion ensued. Dr. Byrnes reminded the group to remember that the strategic plan is driven by legislature and money. Vote taken. All in favor – ayes. No opposition. CSI committee will meet at 5:45 PM in Training Room D on November 9th and attend the DAC hosted Town Hall Meeting at 6:00 PM in the Board Room.

Public Comment

Ms. Marci Giebels-Birchenough is attending to talk about changes to the gifted program at Allen Park Elementary this year. She read prepared comments which focused on two issues: use of performance placement to group students and reduction this year to only one enrichment class per grade. She said she is attending CSI meeting to get help, learn who made this decision, and said she worries how homogenizing will lower the standard as teacher will teach to the lowest level learner since performance placement was abandoned without notice or warning. Ms. Quackenbush asked for a copy of Ms. Giebels-Birchenough comments.

Discussion ensued. Vice Chair Treichler talked about inclusion and how all means all. He added that Inclusion denies students with IEPs of the services they deserve, and programs for gifted students are taken away. He said there is a meeting Thursday to hear more about inclusion and said the District went into inclusion must faster than it should have.

Ms. Shin-Harris said she invited Ms. Giebels-Birchenough to attend CSI meeting this evening. She added she has 40 other friends in the same situation. Ms. Giebels-Birchenough added the administration will not tell her what will happen this year or next year. She has called other schools, and doesn't know where the directive came from and said policies are being made without informing parents. Ms. Shiner-Nunes talked about violations of IDEA law and disabled students are not being provided with what those students need, how they are not evaluated emotionally, and how information is not provided to parent. Additional comments and suggestions ensued regarding how each school is being run by individual principal's philosophy, the lack of transparency to which schools are ability grouping and which are not, and possible next steps.

Strategic Plan Overview

Cindy McClung, Coordinator Quality talked about the document shared with the Board last spring and explained how document provides process history, steering committee detail, and focus group information providing input to the seven focus areas and developing action plans. Document looks at what had been accomplished within the timeframe available.

For Focus Area 1 (Inspire Students to Think and Learn) – she said they are finding there isn't much of the data available yet. School grades and FSA results mentioned as example. Dr. Itzen said that some scores received are in the form of T scores and percentile ranks because achievement levels have not yet been approved by the State Board of Education. Ms. McClung added that graduation rates from last year are also not yet available. She provided additional information about backwards design – which starts with the end in mind. Additional comments ensued. Ms. McClung spoke about training during pre-school, school level, and professional development opportunities targeted to schools in need and how the TIF grant was expanded to all Title One schools. She added that data is showing those students are doing well. And Ms. McClung also recognized there are challenges of meeting needs of all students. She provided CSI members with a paper-based tool for generating questions related to the focus areas. Ms. Fisher asked this be shared electronically and items captured be sent to the Recording Secretary (terrils@leeschools.net).

Mr. Beougher asked the discussion be moved to inspiring students to learn. He also asked that additional outcome goals that don't rely on state data be added. He asked Ms. McClung how technology is being used to drive student education. Ms. McClung said outcomes are approved by the Board annual, but yes, can be reviewed at any time. She said the Digital Classroom plan was just approved by the Board, and Chromebooks have been provided to middle school students. She shared that feedback thus far is positive, students are loving it, content can be individualized, and progress is being made.

Ms. McClung was asked questions about inclusion, specific details of this federal law, and if middle schools are doing away with advanced placement classes. Additional discussion and comments ensued. As a district, Ms. Elkin said the Board recently approved the program of studies, and that program includes advanced studies for middle schools.

Additional comments and discussion ensued regarding Edgenuity, books vs. ebooks, how technology is used, how students are grouped into class, and how providing every option to every student is not possible. Chairman Rist asked for a motion to recommend to Board that each principal control school. Additional comments ensued.

Motion that the School Board create outcomes for each Strategic Plan Focus Area with at least one outcome not reliant on state data made by Mr. Beougher and seconded by Ms. Quackenbush. Further discussion ensued. Vote taken, majority ayes. One opposed. Motion carried.

Additional comments and discussion regarding lack of transparency, no consistency in the District, and no one knows who is making decisions. For the January meeting, Mr. Beougher suggested discussion continue with focus area one, Inspiring Students to Think and Learn. Motion made and vote taken. All in favor, no opposition. It was also suggested Board attorney, Mr. Martin, be invited to attend CSI in January.

Good of the Order

Adjournment

Meeting ended at 7:45 PM.

The next meeting of the CSI Advisory Committee is scheduled for **Monday, November 9 at 5:45 PM in Training Room D**. At 6:00 PM, CSI members will relocate to the Board Room to participate in the Town Hall meeting sponsored by DAC.

CSI meetings are held at the Lee County Public Education Center, 2855 Colonial Blvd. Fort Myers, Florida