

The School District of Lee County

Curriculum Advisory Committee

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

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: Dr. Kelly Lavis, Linda Lally, Dr. Goldye Meyer, Dr. Larry Tihen, Karen Watson, Ken Weaver, Dr. Judy Wilkerson, Cathleen Morgan, and Sandra Wright

Committee Members Absent: Liliana Guerra-Cannata, Thomas R. Busatta, Joseph Camputaro, Dawn Drello-Thompson, Carolyn Feldmann, Matthew Fredrickson, John Heck, April Ketron, and Stephen Whitener

School Board Liaison Present: Cathleen Morgan

Staff Members Present: Lori Houchin and Dr. Bethany Quisenberry

Recording Secretary: Helen Hernandez

Presenter: Dr. Richard Itzen

Welcome and Introduction of Members

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Kelly Lavis at 6:00 pm welcoming all committee members and guests. Committee members did an informal introduction among themselves. A collaborate link remained open for Dr. Judy Wilkerson who was able to listen into the meeting.

Reading and Approval of Agenda of July 17, 2018 agenda

There was a motion to approve the current agenda by Mr. Ken Weaver which was seconded by Dr. Tihen and all voted to approve.

Reading and Approval of June 19, 2018 minutes

A motion to approve minutes as presented by Mr. Ken Weaver which was seconded by Ms. Karen Watson and approved by all.

Review of Mission Statement and Purpose of Committee

Dr. Lavis reviewed the mission statement. Next topic for discussion, Dr. Larry Tihen will present the process for an effective Advisory Committee for our next meeting.

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Public Comment

None

Board Member Report

Board member, Cathleen Morgan commented on the recent news reports on the District's 2018 School Grades. The district had 52% of its traditional schools earn an "A" or "B" - not including charter schools. The district maintained its B grade for the fifth year in a row.

Sixteen schools improved more than one letter grade. Tice Elementary moved from a "D" to a "B" in one year. It's all about high performance leadership, a common culture and a teacher's commitment to that particular program. Three high schools earned A grades; Fort Myers High, North Fort Myers High, and Estero High. 50 district schools maintained their letter grades and 14 dropped. This year no school received an F grade. Only one school, East Lee County High, received a "D" grade which is being appealed. Last year we had Five "D" Schools that were placed into a differentiated accountability status and this year just one is in DA status. Dr. Adkins said, in four years, we have taken this district from having 23 schools in DA status "differentiated accountability status" down to one and that grade is being appealed. It has been a remarkable achievement for a district this size and with the diverse student population it has. When you look at the top 10 school districts size wise, what you see is that we have made incredible changes over the last couple of years. In my opinion, when Dr. Adkins came in and committed the district to a curriculum that is student driven and then set the time and training to implement that curriculum and resources, we can see that we have started to turn around something that has been a disaster since Larry Tihen's generation of administrators retired. We were an "A" district when Tihen was here. Then we went through five years where the guts of the organization were ripped out academically. Now with quality leadership and good people in the right places, who know what they are doing, who share a vision and commit their respective resources to that vision, we've been able to accomplish real growth. I think that in three years we're realistically seeing that there has been a change and we expect to see something positive.

Power Point Presentation Attached:

Presentation given by Dr. Richard Itzen on "District and School Grade Summary 2018"

Next topic of Discussion:

A presentation by Dr. Larry Tihen on the process for effectively making contributions an "Advisory Committee".

Good of the Order:

Do we know anything about "College/Career Readiness" sub-committee? Mrs. Houchin will ask and send out an email.

Next Advisory Committee Meeting, Monday, August 20th.

Adjourned- 7:21PM.