

**BREVARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
BREVARD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING**

March 9, 2005  
4:40 p.m.

Board Room, Educational Facility  
Viera

**THOSE PRESENT:**

**BCC:** Mr. C. R. "Rick" McCotter III, Chairman; Mrs. Alberta K. Wilson, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Miriam Martinez; Mr. James Theriac; Mr. Joe D. Matheny, Attorney; Dr. Thomas E. Gamble, Secretary (Mr. James W. Handley – absent)

**SCHOOL BOARD:** Mr. Larry E. Hughes, Chairman; Mr. Robert Jordan, Vice Chairman; Ms. Bea Fowler; Ms. Amy Kneessy; Ms. Janice Kershaw; Mr. Harold Bistline, Attorney; Dr. Richard A. DiPatri, Superintendent

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Larry Hughes, Brevard County School Board Chairman, called the meeting to order.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Richard DiPatri, Superintendent, opened the meeting with the "Pledge of Allegiance," and welcomed the Brevard Community College Board and Dr. Gamble. Dr. DiPatri reported that he and Dr. Gamble have been working this past year on many joint projects, and are excited to hear progress reports.

**2. COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM**

Ms. Brenda Blackburn, Associate Superintendent, ESF-Curriculum and Instruction, reported the Collegiate High School is an excellent example of a partnership between Brevard Public Schools and Brevard Community College (BCC) that benefits the students and community.

The program is an accelerated and students must have attained a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) by the end of their first semester of their ninth grade year to qualify. In addition, parents are well informed and must sign a Participation Agreement along with their child as a demonstration of commitment to the program ideals.

Ms. Blackburn reported that this is the third year of a pilot program partnership with Cocoa High School and BCC. Of the 30 students in the first cohort group, 20 will graduate from Cocoa High School earning their AA degree in May 2005. This is significant as last year only 22 students in the entire school district obtained their AA degrees upon graduation from high school.

Ms. Blackburn shared program demographics which represented great diversity of participants.

Dr. Brenda Fettrow, Provost, Cocoa Campus, reported on the history and strengths of the program, which provides a great benefit to give more students access to higher education at no cost to them or their families. She reported that Ms. Lori Backus, Cocoa High School Principal, and she worked hard when creating the program to ensure that students would have access to extracurricular and work activities, as desired. In addition, the course completion guide is structured to ensure completion of all required courses, while coordinating with ongoing high school coursework requirements and allowing for flexibility in choosing electives.

Ms. Blackburn reported that due to the success of the pilot program in Cocoa, Dr. DiPatri and Dr. Gamble have authorized expansion to the other three BCC Campuses and neighboring high schools in the near future. The long-term goal is to make this program available to all qualified high school students in the county. The geography of Brevard County creates transportation challenges, but Dr. DiPatri has committed to providing bus transportation if schedules can be successfully coordinated.

Dr. DiPatri summarized saying that the success of this program is due to the dedication and hard work of Dr. Fettrow and Ms. Backus, and he is hopeful that this enthusiasm and success will be replicated at the proposed future sites for the program expansion, as that is the key to the program's success.

### **3. FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE: The Century Program Scholars**

Dr. Brenda Fettrow, Provost, Cocoa Campus, reported that BCC and Cocoa High School have the opportunity to oversee another, equally exciting pilot program, "The Century Program (TCP)." The Foundation of Excellent Schools awarded the grant, which is funded by the Kellogg Foundation.

Ms. Lori Backus, Principal, Cocoa High School, reported that this program focuses on students that would not typically be identified as on the "college track." The 105 TCP Scholars are identified as "At Promise" students as they are first generation college graduates in their families with GPA's of 1.9 to 2.4. The TCP Scholars are provided with essential steps to educational success, i.e., early college awareness (visits to various institutions), mentoring (they are trained and become mentors to elementary students, as well as being mentored by others within cohort groups), community service (interacting with Cocoa Rotary) and goal setting (workshops provided by the Foundation of Excellent

Schools). She also reported that students are carefully tracked for behavior, attendance and grades to ensure goals are being met. Ms. Backus further reported that Jet Blue is a major sponsor of the program and they have provided tickets to allow select students visitations and conferences out of state, thereby providing exposure to valuable experiences.

Dr. Fettrow reported that TCP Pledge cards have been distributed for sponsorship by community leaders to assist financially or as mentors.

Dr. Gamble reported that the success of the students in this program requires close monitoring, and cohort group support. He stated that he is evaluating ways to utilize cohort groups in traditional academic programs due to the value to student success.

#### **4. EDUCATOR PREPARATION INSTITUTE**

Dr. Gamble reported that a joint effort has been launched to increase teacher availability, via the Educator Preparation Institute Agreements.

Dr. Astrab reported that Brevard County, through Dr. DiPatri's leadership has an alternative certification program currently in place. However, Brevard County Public Schools and BCC have opted to participate in a state initiative to form a Educator Preparation Institute in order to maintain the edge in excellence. The agreement has been sent to the State and is expected to receive approval in May 2005. Upon approval, an Advisory Committee will be formed to identify goals and problems, and create activities to facilitate and coordinate the initiatives of the Educator Preparation Institute via a modular competency-based Alternative Certification Program (ACP), which will be available to those who are currently teaching, as well as others seeking employment in the teaching profession, either full time or as substitutes. Brevard County Schools will mentor participants and recruit for employment, while BCC will provide the training and ombudsman support. The program will be designed to enable module completion within one year. The ACP candidates will receive a Certificate of Completion and will be qualified to sit for the State certification test. Paraprofessional and Substitute Teacher training will also be provided. Dr. Astrab reported that participants will be advised that employment will not be guaranteed by completion of this program, but the individual will be positioned to have the opportunity for employment.

Dr. Astrab reported that the Substitute Training is expected to begin in July 2005 and will be provided on an ongoing basis throughout the year. The first ACP cohort group is expected to begin in January 2006,

Dr. Gamble reported that this program is not intended to compete with the existing School System program, but is a complementary program involving individuals who have a Baccalaureate Degree, but no teaching background. Participants will pay for the program to enable them to receive teacher certification, which will be beneficial to fill the numerous teaching openings each year, which is one of the State's priorities.

Ms. Fowler requested Mr. Lee Berry's, Deputy Superintendent, clarification regarding the extent of the current teacher shortage. Mr. Berry confirmed that while Science, Math and exceptional education teachers are in demand, Brevard County is fortunate to have many qualified teaching candidates. However, he stated certification candidates bring a different perspective to the county to include varied work experiences and technical skills, which are valuable.

Dr. Astrab reported that 60-80 students are expected to participate each year in the two programs. He also reported that the fee to the student to complete the certification program will be approximately \$1,200.00. Dr. Gamble reported that Indian River Community College (IRCC) was the pilot for this type program, and IRCC received over 2000 expressions of interest; far above the expectation.

## **5. SECONDARY CAREER TECHNICAL OPPORTUNITIES IN BREVARD COUNTY**

Dr. Gamble reported that the question has been raised regarding the need for a technical high school in Brevard County, and what role the community college should play in providing career technical training.

Ms. Margaret Lewis, Director of Applied Technology, Brevard Public Schools, and Dr. Don Astrab, Executive Vice President, Academic Services, BCC, reported on secondary career technical opportunities available in Brevard County.

Ms. Lewis reported that in this day and age, academic skills and experience are equally essential for success in today's marketplace. She reported that the State of Florida has a very comprehensive student information system and a longitudinal study has been conducted of 80,000 students who graduated in 1991 in relation to their educational attainment level ten years later in 2001. The study revealed that 61% of those individuals had received no further education post high school graduation, thus the need for career and technical education opportunities for all individuals. Ms. Lewis discussed the wide array of high school program offerings available in Brevard by location. She stated that students may enroll in another high school on a part time or full time basis, if their area of interest is not offered at their local high school.

Dr. Astrab, reported that the Apprenticeship Programs have been very successful, and the end results to students and the community are very rewarding. He distributed information on current Career Technical Program offered at BCC and discussed the requirements for each. Dr. Astrab reported that curriculum and program changes are made according to the projected needs of the industry. He further reported that the formation of cohort groups is being discussed as a possible motivator for more students to continue general education requirements to attain their AS degree. Dr. Astrab also acknowledged Ms. Mildred Coyne's, Director, Transfer and Special Programs, part in providing an invaluable link between high school and higher education, with such offerings as Career Shadowing and Project Get Ready.

Ms. Lewis reported that financial funding avenues are being challenged requiring increased accountability and outcome measures. She stated that there is a concern that Perkins Grant money will be eliminated, which represents \$1.5 million to the Brevard School System. Ms. Lewis discussed historical state cost factors, which also present a challenge as funding has dropped for many programs despite the increasing cost of keeping technology and equipment up to date.

Dr. Astrab reported that partnerships with community business sources in light of financial challenges, will be vital to providing and improving the programs. He cited the example of the area hospitals' involvement in the critical expansion of the nursing programs.

Dr. Astrab also discussed initiatives to improve minority recruitment and retention, saying that improved development and remediation efforts, cohort groups and mentoring are being studied in an effort to make a difference. He reported that minority enrollment is increasing, while overall enrollment is relatively flat, but the challenge is finding methods to retain students to program completion. Dr. Gamble also stated that contact with students and parents, as early as grade school, is vital so that they know all of the educational opportunities available to them in order to identify opportunities, areas of interests and goals at an earlier age. In addition, efforts should be made to contact students who fail to return to determine why.

6. **INTERINSTITUTIONAL ARTICULATION AGREEMENT: RESPONSIBILITY AND COSTS**

Dr. Gamble reported that the Articulation Agreement between the public schools and BCC has been a positive guide for attaining and maintaining successful relationships between the two.

Dr. Walt Christy, Director, Secondary Programs, reported the objectives: to discuss the status of dual enrollment, highlight the Articulation Agreement responsibilities and discuss the next steps. He reported-the partnership benefits the students and he discussed the positive outcome data which is a result of the partnership.

Ms. Lynn Demetriades, Academic Program Coordinator, reported that on the challenge for BCC to maintain the #1 position for dual enrollment participation, as it is being threatened by Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. She said the Articulation Agreement is in place due to statutory requirements to provide a framework for ensuring student opportunities made available by partnership between the Public Schools and Community College and it defines the areas of responsibility for each. Ms. Demetriades further discussed the various programs and their differences and criteria. She further reported on future objectives and goals, to include close review of remediation needs and developing strategies for program growth.

Mr. Al Little, Vice President, BCC Finance and Administration Services, briefly discussed the differences between K-12 and community college funding and how these differences affect FTE and the budget process.

7. **BREVARD “BLAST” (Challenger Learning Center)**

Dr. DiPatri reported that the “BLAST” concept is an outgrowth of discussion from the previous Joint Meeting in which Mr. James Handley, BCC Board member, reported on the Challenger Learning Center opportunity. At that time, Mr. Handley and Mr. Robert Jordon, School Board Member, volunteered to pursue the idea of a Challenger Learning Center in Brevard County. As a result, an alternate program has been identified, which will provide equal or greater exposure at far less cost.

Ms. Brenda Blackburn, Associate Superintendent, ESF-Curriculum and Instruction, reported she had the opportunity to visit the Challenger Learning Center in Jacksonville with Mr. Handley. She also visited the Delaware North and NASA operation with Mr. Handley and Mr. Jordon. She reported that there had been a successful partnership with NASA and Delaware North in the past for the “Space Week” program, which allowed every sixth grade student in Brevard County to visit the Space Center used in conjunction with classroom studies regarding the space program. She introduced Mr. Steve Dutczak, and Ms. Pam Bierget, from NASA as well as Mr. Billy Specht and Ms. Diana Nelson, from Delaware North Park Service, who have been involved in the Space Week partnership. She also reported that Brevard Schools are blessed to have two great scientific minds working for them, namely: Ms. Ginger Davis, Secondary Resource Teacher and Mr. Ed Short, Elementary Resource Teacher.

Ms. Davis reported on the opportunity to change students’ lives at substantial cost savings. She said the Challenger Learning Centers are wonderful programs, but the existing partnership with NASA and Delaware North, plus the resource of Kennedy Space Center presents an opportunity to provide students with the space experience. The new program partnership concept has been nicknamed “BLAST” for Brevard Learns About Science & Technology, and provides enhanced educational considerations over the Challenger System with a cost savings of more than \$9 million. In summary, students could experience a full-day space experience for \$39.00 each, including transportation. In addition, there is no long-term commitment required and the timeline for implementation is negligible compared to three to six years of planning for implementing the Challenger Center program.

Ms. Davis reported a pilot program of 48 seventh grade students from McNair and Stone Middle Schools was conducted in December 2004. She shared photos and testimonies of the children who participated. Ms. Davis reported that determination of commitment, allocation of funding and approval by the Administration and Board are all that is required to start scheduling students for this program, as early as August 2005.

Dr. DiPatri reported that although there would be benefits to having a limited partnership with the Challenger Learning Center, it is not possible as they have stated they will not entertain the idea of a partial partnership, but does not view that as a liability due to the talented staff and resources available in this county. Dr. DiPatri further stated that the BLAST opportunity could be offered to other students and that a calendar is being

coordinated to provide the opportunity to all Brevard County students rather than only 7<sup>th</sup> graders. He stated that although Brevard Public Schools would take the lead in the program, Delaware North would be the provider as they would provide the instruction location and transportation. Use of their luxury buses is a major advantage due to the limitations of county school bus scheduling. Dr. DiPatri also confirmed that the cost would be borne by the school district rather than the students.

Mr. Jordon asked if the school system could be recognized as a partner on Delaware North signage. This idea will be explored further.

Ms. Davis confirmed that this program would be built into the existing 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. She stated that it is an interdisciplinary program providing math, teamwork and critical thinking skills. She also confirmed that the facility is handicapped accessible, with some assistance required to access simulators.

Ms. Kneessy expressed concern regarding using a day of curriculum time for this program that might conflict with academic requirements. Ms. Davis expressed that it would be an important, life changing experience for the students which cannot be discounted.

Ms. Davis reported that existing materials must be gathered and coordinated with NASA prior to program implementation, which could be done in two to three weeks this summer. Mr. Dutczak, NASA, also suggested that perhaps Florida Summer Industrial Fellowships for Teachers (SIFT) opportunities might be available during the summer for other parties to help offset curriculum development costs. Ms. Bierget, also reported that NASA has many curriculum support materials, which meet national standards and that in the past Ms. Davis has coordinated meetings with teachers from school system and NASA to develop specific curriculum materials for the classroom review prior to the visit as well as post-visit. This coordination has worked well in the past, and should be successful in these efforts as well.

Mr. Steve Dutczak said that although the Challenger Centers and others offer great learning opportunities, this program is unique in its flexibility and ability to incorporate target needs for the benefit of specific students and classes. In addition, the space center offers “real toys” which are an invaluable learning tool.

Mr. Jordon requested that the Board further discuss this opportunity and make a decision at the next School Board meeting regarding approval to proceed.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chair, District Board of Trustees**

**ATTESTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary, District Board of Trustees**