

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

August 29, 2003  
1:00 p.m.

Board Room, Educational Services  
Facility, Viera

**ATTENDANCE:**

**BCC:** Mr. James W. Handley, Chair; Dr. Alexandra Penn Williams, Vice-Chair; Mr. C.R. "Rick" McCotter III; Mr. Joe D. Matheny, Attorney; and Dr. Thomas E. Gamble, Secretary

**ABSENT:** Mrs. Miriam E. Martinez, Mrs. Alberta K. Wilson

**SCHOOL BOARD:** Ms. Janice Kershaw, Chair; Ms. Bea Fowler, Mr. Robert Jordan, Mr. Harold T. Bistline, Attorney; and Dr. Richard A. DiPatri, Superintendent

**OTHERS:** Representative Mitch Needelman, Chairman, Brevard Legislative Delegation and Representative Thad Altman

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The District Board of Trustees of Brevard Community College met in special session on Friday, August 29, 2003, at 1:25 p.m., at the Educational Services Facility, 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, Florida, with the School Board of Brevard County and Brevard Legislative Delegation representatives.

Ms. Janice Kershaw, Chair, School Board, called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m. and welcomed all participants.

**2. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATIVE ISSUES - REPRESENTATIVE NEEDELMAN**

The meeting was turned over to Representative Needelman who stated that this meeting was an informational meeting on legislative action during the past session and as such, no agenda was provided. He then turned the meeting over to the BCC Board of Trustees.

Mr. James Handley, Chair, Brevard Community College District Board of Trustees, turned the meeting over to Dr. Thomas Gamble, District President, Brevard Community College, who discussed problems facing community colleges. State appropriations per FTE, based on 2000/01 base year calculations, have declined by \$548 per FTE. When fees are included, the funding for FTE declines to \$367 per FTE. This becomes a major financing problem for

community colleges. The major issue for the 2003/04 year is to deal with the current unfunded enrollments. Community colleges are post funded and are therefore funded based on students already served. They are operating one to two years behind and are currently turning students away at several institutions around the state. They feel it particularly important that the Legislature understand the differences of how the community colleges are funded and look at ways to more properly fund them. Mr. Handley added that BCC is doing well and they have been able to make necessary cuts to keep the education system going and appreciates what the Legislative Delegation has done for them in terms of getting community colleges funded as best they can.

Representative Needelman questioned Dr. Gamble concerning session year 2001/02 where a formula used to calculate for community colleges was agreed to. He asked if they were finding that this formula was at fault, does not meet the needs, or other things that needed adjusting. Dr. Gamble responded he felt the formula was good and that it not only looks at fair distribution of funds but also preserves some of the smaller community colleges that would close if they did not follow this funding. He stated there has not been a consistent year-to-year approach of distribution. The formula is a critical component and needs to be adhered to consistently instead of changing each year.

Representative Needelman recognized Dr. Alexandra Penn Williams, Vice Chairman of BCC, who spoke to community colleges being instrumental over the next several years with regard to the class size amendment. With the reduction of high school credits, community colleges will be asked to provide more and asked the Legislature to look at bills that will help the K-12 school district and community colleges work together creatively. Dr. Gamble stated the area where this could be identified is dual enrollment. They have three groups now, in the Governor's office, the Board of Education, and the Council of Presidents of the Florida Association of Community Colleges, that are looking at the costs related to dual enrollment. Both the school board and community colleges are losing money in the dual enrollment programs but this is one avenue that would facilitate the accelerated process through education in the state. However, the funding mechanisms are not in place that cover the cost of running the program.

Representative Needelman stated the delegation is preparing to start Committee Week and requests any type information as soon as possible. The next delegation meeting will probably be held in November when they will pick a new chair. He thanked the BCC Board for sharing their concerns.

Representative Thad Altman asked Dr. Gamble if he had noticed any drop in enrollment because of tuition increases. Dr. Gamble responded no, that they were in fact up 7%. Part of the reason for this is the federal financial aid available.

Representative Needelman thanked the BCC Board for their comments and stated the delegation was looking forward to their report and findings in November.

Representative Needelman again stated this was only a workshop and no agenda had been prepared. He reminded the group of some of the discussions held in previous meetings on issues of interest and reported on each.

One of the issues brought up was the state treatment program through Juvenile Justice. Representative Needelman reported that the proposal was to cut some of those programs and shift them to the local school boards but that the delegation was able to keep this from occurring by cutting ineffective programs and moving dollars to the programs that were successful. One successful program in Brevard County is the AMI's program, which is fully funded this year.

Representative Needelman reported another issue was H.B. 443 on insurance to allow county school boards to be a part of the state program. The dollars could not allow a program to continue at this time but it is being explored as a possibility. This would be voluntary, not mandated by the State. There are some cost factors involved with this and the delegation will keep current on this. Two issues were brought up by the School Board and the group from Parents of Classrooms in Crisis:

1. Flexibility: Brevard is ahead of the game and once they have exceeded or met those goals, the dollars will become available for their use as prescribed by law.
2. Categoricals: There are six categoricals. This was defeated in the House but was not defeated in the Senate and passed. One of the categoricals deals with teacher retention and recruitment and is still there.

Representative Needelman then opened the floor for questions and discussion.

Dr. DiPatri thanked the delegation for allowing flexibility in the class size reduction portion of the budget and for pushing to allow local school districts to use some portion of their 2 mill levy for capital purposes for property and casualty insurance. He also spoke to the initiative to reward districts for FCAT performance and encouraged the delegation to continue pursuing the categorical flexibility. He urged the delegation to support the sales tax increase and will send the facilities project list to the delegation after Board approval. He asked the delegation to look at an amendment in the class size reduction plan concerning disruptive students. He feels the law is anti-student and anti-parent and ties the hands of the principal because it allows a teacher to remove a student from the classroom. Dr. DiPatri stated that Brevard is an active applicant for the \$25 million set aside for the BEST program and asked for the delegations support for Gardendale Elementary Magnet and Hoover Middle Schools who are eligible.

Representative Needelman asked that other members of the delegation review Section 34 dealing with disruptive students and make recommendations.

Ms. Bea Fowler asked if there would be a funding penalty for Brevard if they did not have a local effort and the sales tax did not pass. Dr. DiPatri stated he did not think the district would be penalized. Mr. Larry Hughes explained the district recognition program, which is a reward system to districts that increase their sales revenues. He is unclear of the Legislative position but feels they show their support since they passed the recognition program. Representative Needelman stated they are waiting to see what the school board will be putting on the table. The Legislature is saying that if the district has not maxed out their capabilities they should not look to them yet.

Mr. Rick McCotter, BCC Board, stated he had no other issues other than what Dr. Gamble spoke to concerning the unfunded enrollment issue.

Mr. Robert Jordan stated his concerns include the needs for housing students, the 18 credit hours, class size, salary upgrades for employees and insurance rates.

Representative Thad Altman stated he was excited about being on the delegation and working with the school board, BCC and UCF. He touched on two bills, which will have an impact. One is on the student military parent bill, which will help military children matriculate into the system. The other one is a pedestrian/transportation/safety issue. He also commended the school district and the county commission for having the foresight and courage to bring the sales tax referendum to light. He stated that the Legislature's desire in giving rewards to those schools who pursue additional funding mechanisms is similar to what they do in other programs. He felt they should not dictate to the public as to what to support but should provide public with the information to make the right decision.

Representative Needelman and School Board Chairman Kershaw expressed appreciation to Mr. Altman for stepping in to finish out the Legislative session.

Ms. Kershaw stated she felt they should let the voters decide the sales tax issue but feels that if they turn it down, the disparity widens for quality and equality of education. She touched on some of positives that came out of the session:

1. Providing funds for studying DCD
2. Providing flexibility with teacher certification
3. Exemptions provided on FCAT for students with disabilities
4. Providing seed funding for those who wished to apply to be early implementers of the career ladder program

Some future topics for discussion:

1. Student growth
2. High school requirement - 18 credits – monitor closely

Representative Needelman addressed the projections of FTE and the disparity in the numbers they hear at home and the numbers they hear in Tallahassee. DOE states there is .43% (71,800 students) but the local papers say there are 73,000 students. He would like to sit down and come up with correct number of students.

Representative Needelman pointed out that the document they are working from is not in concrete and can be revised.

Mr. Larry Hughes addressed two issues on DCD and sparsity. The Legislature commissioned the University of Florida to do a study on differentials and sparsity, which is due January 2004. The issue is that out of 67 districts, 65 have a multiplier from those formulas that is less than one, which means five counties get more money and 62 contribute. Brevard is a contributor. If the formula were normalized, it would mean \$8 million to the district each year. Another issue he would like to have looked at is the school recognition dollars. There are 72 schools receiving about \$6.2 million in school recognition and he would like the schools to be able to use those dollars for any lawful purpose. Also, new language takes affect this year distributing these dollars to teachers if agreement is not reached on their use. He indicated high performing districts should be recognized and it would be helpful if the district could take some of this money and apply toward low performing schools.

Representative Altman agreed on the school recognition program comments but felt this is a starting point. The delegation is looking to further this program and increase funding. Concerning the DCD and sparsity issue, the delegation did freeze the DCD program, which saved some money. There was an effort to raise sparsity, which they were able to defeat to help the rural counties.

Representative Needelman, as the Chairman, thanked everyone for his or her participation and stated that a new chairman would be chosen at the next meeting.

Ms. Kershaw announced that Rich Wilson had sent a note apologizing for his absence.

Dr. Gamble made closing comments concerning cooperative efforts between BCC and the School Board.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the attendees, the joint meeting was adjourned by School Board Chairman Kershaw at 2:50 p.m.

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman, District Board of Trustees**

**ATTESTED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Secretary, District Board of Trustees**