

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

May 27, 2003
12:30 p.m.

Board Room, Educational Facility
Viera

THOSE PRESENT:

BCC: James W. Handley, Chair; Eugene C. Johnson; Miriam E. Martinez; C.R. "Rick" McCotter III; Joe D. Matheny, Attorney; Thomas E. Gamble, Secretary (Dr. Penn Williams – absent)

SCHOOL BOARD: Janice Kershaw, Chair; Bea Fowler, Vice Chair; Rich Wilson; Larry E. Hughes; Robert Jordan; Harold T. Bistline, Attorney; Richard A. DiPatri, Superintendent

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. DiPatri and Dr. Gamble called roll of the respective Board members. Ms. Sarah Stern, Director of the Office of District Communications for the School System, led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

2. CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER (VIDEO AND DISCUSSION):

Ms. Marjorie Ebersbach, School System Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, reported on a proposed project, the Challenger Learning Center. The Challenger Learning Center encourages students in the sciences and math and provides an opportunity to observe first-hand areas of science and engineering.

Ms. Ebersbach reported representatives from Brevard County visited a center established by Duval County School System. There is an interest in establishing such a center locally in Brevard County. Mr. Jim Handley, BCC Board Chair, reported on a visit to San Antonio's Challenger Learning Center. The program is geared primarily for 5th-8th graders. He reported the families of the Challenger astronauts established this program after the accident. Mr. Handley supported the establishment of a Challenger Learning Center in Brevard County due to the proximity of the Space Center and felt the Planetarium would be a feasible location for the center.

Ms. Ebersbach reported the students are in the center one-day; however, have materials and a review prior to and afterwards and the opportunity is tied into the students' curriculum.

Dr. DiPatri reported next year, for the first time, all sixth graders in partnership will be visiting the Space Center for one day. Curriculum will be completed in advance of the trip as part of the learning experience. The trip will be in conjunction with Space Week. Dr. DiPatri indicated the curriculum for the 6th grade would be a good fit with the Challenger Learning Center program. He reported on the initiative taking place to enhance the Brevard County K-12 science education program.

Mr. Handley indicated funds in the amount of approximately \$1 million would have to be raised for a simulator and first year's operating expenses.

Ms. Ebersbach reported there are several plans available for the Challenger Learning Center. The next step would be to invite civic leaders in regarding the project and to reach out into industry in the area for funds.

Responses were provided to questions asked by the members of both Boards.

It was the consensus of the Boards to move forward in this effort. Dr. Gamble, Dr. DiPatri and Mr. Handley will be meeting on the next steps for the project. Ms. Fowler requested information as it pertained to improvements with middle school children.

Mr. Jordan volunteered to assist with the project.

3. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

Ms. Kershaw felt it would be beneficial to have the legislative delegation memberships educate the Board members on the budget process. Mr. Handley concurred. Dr. DiPatri agreed to work with Dr. Gamble to prepare a list of issues for the delegation to address.

Dr. DiPatri confirmed the Secretary to the School Board would move forward with scheduling a meeting in either June or July. The dates will be provided to Dr. Gamble's office so that the BCC Board members and staff may be invited.

Discussion was conducted on possible discussion topics, including the impact of the reduction in elective credits for graduation from high school and a three-year college diploma.

4. DUAL ENROLLMENT:

Ms. Ebersbach distributed statistics from a survey prepared by the Department of Education providing information on students who are dual enrolled in the state by district. Brevard County is first in the state with the number of dual enrollments.

Dr. Gamble reported Brevard Community College does not receive revenue from the dual enrollment program. He reported on several proposals presented during the legislative session dealing with dual enrollment funding, which were not implemented. Dual enrollment courses are offered both at the college and high schools. BCC shares the cost with the high school for the instructors for dual enrollment courses at the high schools. For courses offered at BCC, BCC pays for the instructor. The School System pays for the cost of textbooks for the students who are dual enrolled. Ms. Ebersbach reported currently the cost is approximately \$220,000 for textbooks, which is paid by the School System.

Issues regarding the expense for textbooks were discussed. Mr. Little reported the Barnes and Noble Bookstore currently provides a discount at the campuses to students and employees for textbooks. Ms. Ebersbach reported Barnes and Noble does not provide a discount to the School System for textbook purchases. Ms. Ebersbach requested if a decision is made to close down a class, the School System be provided with sufficient advanced notice to reduce the textbook expense.

Ms. Ebersbach commented on the positive relationship between the School System and BCC through the years and expressed appreciation for the smooth process for students.

5. NEXT MEETING:

Dr. DiPatri confirmed the next joint meeting will take place in June or July with a legislative delegation meeting. October 9, BCC will be hosting a legislative delegation meeting as well.

6. **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Chairman, District Board of Trustees

ATTESTED: _____
Secretary, District Board of Trustees