

01 09 2018 Work Session 9 00 AM

NEW BUSINESS

1. [9:00 - 9:15 AM School Board Member Comments](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Wilson opened the work session by wishing the Superintendent a Happy Birthday.

Mr. Townsend reported that Brandy Blanchard has been rehired and placed at a middle school. He commented on other complaints either issued by or against both Jason and/or Laquita Looney. He didn't feel it was appropriate that during the investigation one of the Looney children provided the pledge of allegiance at a School Board meeting.

He voiced concern in cases of conflicts of interest. Referencing the Acceleration Academy contract implemented by former Superintendent Kathryn Leroy. He suggested that with any contract or agenda item, if there is a personal relationship with staff or board member, it should be disclosed. He stated he discloses his family relationship with Lake Wales attorney Robin Gibson every time an issue arises with the Lake Wales Charter system.

Mr. Wilson stated that, in general, he also has a concern on how consistent we are in implementing policies and procedures. How would we find a way to be as consistent as possible? Wes Bridges, School Board Attorney, responded that it requires a staff that is well qualified and trained and then you allow them to do their job. Mr. Wilson asked if a policy is needed on how we handle initial allegations. Do we move the person to another site until the investigation is complete? Mr. Bridges stated it depends on the allegation.

Mrs. Fields commented that if the Board is doubtful that policies are not being followed, it should be brought to the attention of the Superintendent. It is her responsibility to address that with her staff; not the Board.

Teddra Porteous, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, clarified that policies and procedures were followed in the Looney investigations. Law enforcement was called due to type of allegation; and, after their investigation was completed, we followed procedures with an in-house investigation of our own. We moved both the victim and the aggressor. And according to the process, she receives weekly updates on all investigations.

Mrs. Fields clarified, for the record, that she did not have a role in child/school selected to give the pledge. That is a role of the Public Relations department.

Ms. Reynolds provided information on topics that were discussed at the Central Florida Public School Boards Coalition :

- HB 795: requiring CPR (hour training) as a graduation requirement. The Coalition would like districts to

support as a proclamation. Mrs. Fields stated this should be a decision of the Superintendent and her staff. Mrs. Byrd would like to discuss with staff before going forward. There may be some concerns to be addressed first.

- HB 4 and HB 1: Bright futures expansion and bullying bill (respectively) will be the train bills this year
- Term limits for school board members
- Require charter schools to open up during emergency situations
- HB 427 - Optional Performance Pay- returns teacher evaluations back to districts
- SB 1772 - Discretionary Millage
- HB 1776 - Accountability of McKay
- SB1684 - Redefines low performing schools

One of the presenters discussed EKGs being provided to students at no or low costs to the student. Ms. Reynolds would be highly interested in revisiting athletic trainers but understands that it could be costly. Mrs. Byrd responded that Dan Talbot, Senior Coordinator of Athletics, will be attending a February conference to see how this can be possible.

Mrs. Sellers commented that the FSBA Legislative Committee is encouraging School Board members to visit their representatives in Tallahassee during session. She will be going next week for one day. She will provide updates throughout the session.

Mr. Townsend asked if any of the Schools of Hope operators have reached out to us. Mrs. Byrd stated that she has been in discussion with several AMOs. However, they do not want to return the schools back to us once they improve their grade to a 'C' and they want 5 year contracts on each school. Our current AMO is willing to negotiate at a lesser scale as schools improve.

Mrs. Sellers asked how many students have we received from Puerto Rico. Mrs. Byrd said approximately 800; we are the 4th highest in receiving students in the state district students and most of them located in the NE area of the county.

Mr. Wilson received a phone call with Representative Soto requesting a roundtable discussion on how we are assisting these students. He told him the District will and is doing everything possible do to assist the new arrivals but we need additional resources from the State.

Mr. Wilson spoke of a Facebook post from one of our teachers, Shannon Mullis. He finds it perplexing that one of our State leaders would suggest we are bloated on our administrative costs. This same leader stated they are going to 'kick down the doors of public education' when they are the ones that built the building. He believes the public will recognize and understand these many unfunded mandates placed on up by the State and hold the legislative leaders accountable.

Mrs. Fields asked if the Board is doing anything in memory of Dick Mullenax. The services are planned for this Saturday in Winter Haven. The family had requested donations be made to the Polk Education Foundation in his name.

OLD BUSINESS

2. [9:15 - 9:40 AM School Board Services' Direct Employees Contracts](#)

Attachment: [School Board Services Attachment \(2\).pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Wilson asked that contracts from other districts of comparable size be collected. Mrs. Fields noted that some Internal Auditors report to the Superintendent rather than the School Board. But it would be good to see how other districts. Mr. Townsend suggested several central Florida counties: Osceola, Lee, Orange, Lake.

Mr. Bridges will reach out to the Legal Association to identify other districts and provide the contracts to the

Board.

BOARD AGENDA REVIEW

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item 3

3. [9:40 - 10:20 AM Safe School Annual Report and GRIP Report](#)

Attachment: [Safe Schools Annual PP 12.17 Rev F december 21.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Captain Wiggins, Safe Schools presented an overview of the program and gang activities.

Mr. Townsend would like a follow up report on the Prevention Web program which allows juvenile offenders who commit crimes, admit their guilt and consent to participate in the program not have a criminal record. How many enter the program and complete it so that no record is on file?

Mrs. Fields suggested Captain Wiggins meet with the PEACE group since this is one of their major concerns. It was made known that the group has met with PEACE and, in fact, this Prevention web program is better than the Civil Citation that PEACE would like to see implemented.

Mrs. Cunningham asked how the public can request a crossing guard. Capt. Wiggins stated that they can email him and he'll submit it to the Crossing Guard Committee. Mrs. Byrd noted, for the record, that the decision to place or remove a crossing guard is not made by the School Board but the County's Crossing Guard Committee.

Mrs. Sellers commented that crossing guards are only provided for elementary schools.

Item 4

4. [10:20 - 10:45 AM Annual Approval of the District Master Inservice Plan](#)

Attachment: [MIP - Agenda Item Details 2017.pdf](#)

Attachment: [NetConnect New Home Page.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Michael Akes provided an overview on the Master Inservice Plan.

Item 5

5. [10:45 - 10:55 AM Senior Director, Facilities and Operations - Budget Impact Analysis](#)

Attachment: [Senior Director, Facilities and Operations.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Agenda Item Packet for Senior Director Facilities.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Teddra Porteous, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources and Angela Usher, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Operations explained the need to relinquish two vacant positions to fund the Senior Director of Facilities and Operations position.

Item 6

6. [10:55 - 11:00 AM Loughman Oaks Elementary - Addition of 16 New Classrooms](#)

Minutes:

Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Operations, Angela Usher, advised the School Board on the need to add additional classrooms at Loughman Oaks to address the increasing enrollment.

Ms. Cunningham asked if there is a way to speed up the completion date (January 2019) due to the large number of new students this year.

Mrs. Sellers asked if additional portables could be added until the wing is completed. Mrs. Usher responded that is a consideration but she will need to see where the portables could be placed and ensure the capacity of the school is being used effectively.

Mrs. Byrd stated that these funds can only be used for construction.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 7

7. [Financial Statements for Period ending October 31, 2017](#)

Attachment: [Oct 2017 Board Financial Packet FINAL.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Reynolds confirmed the increase in Community Services listed on Page 5 is due to hurricane costs.

Mike Perrone commented the Fund Balance projection will come after the union raises have been implemented in February.

Item 8

8. [Head Start Grant Services Report](#)

Attachment: [IM-HS-17-01 Facilities.pdf](#)

Attachment: [PI-HS-17-03 Real Property submission 429.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Disaster Recovery.pdf](#)

Attachment: [PI-HS-17-04 Federal Reporting SF 425-428.pdf](#)

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM. Minutes were approved and attested the 27th day of February, 2018.

Lynn Wilson, Board Chair

Jacqueline M. Byrd, Superintendent