

01 23 2018 Work Session 1 30 PM

NEW BUSINESS

1. [1:30 - 1:50 PM School Board Comments](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. Sellers reported that she discussed Turnaround Schools, VAM scores, and Career Academies with several legislators recently. Mr. Wilson announced he spoke with Senator Ben Albritton who seems very much interested is working with us.

Mr. Townsend commented on the Middle School study found on the DOE's website. Several states offer a better program than Florida. It shows they have more resources than the Florida model.

Mr. Wilson reported that Mrs. Byrd is assisting in collecting sample proclamation policies. Mrs. Byrd stated that Wendy Dodge will provide samples at a future work session.

2. [1:50 - 2:10 PM District Managed Charter Schools](#)

Attachment: [12-28-2017 article.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Wilson reported that over the past few years he has been approached by several business people in the communities concerned with concurrency and concurrency certificates, which ultimately slow down growth through moratoriums. They developed a temporary solution working with our Assistant Superintendent of Facilities, Angela Usher, that alleviated concerns of the BoCC. In fact, the BoCC cancelled the joint session this year because they felt we were in a good place. During the discussions, information on district-managed charters was provided as a possible solution to growth issues.

Mrs. Byrd clarified that this is for future use to address capacity issues in high growth areas and not because of school grades. Mrs. Byrd clarified this is not the district-managed charters being set up by the Legislature for our Turnaround Schools.

Mrs. Cunningham stated she had conversations with previous superintendents about this concept. As the Legislature continues to provide more funding toward charter schools, she believes it would behoove us to look into the possibility.

Mrs. Byrd stated the State has not provided a list of External Operators. Legislation is requiring districts to contract with an EO now. District Superintendents are asking why are we acting on this before school grades are released; why not have a planning period? We would like flexibility with the vendor that when a school earns its way out of Turnaround status, they are returned to the District. She has been approached by several and they

are all very expensive; one is requesting \$1 million per school for 5 years, regardless if the school improves outside of the turnaround status. Mrs. Cunningham asked if there were other options available.

Mrs. Byrd stated most districts went with the EO option. There were 3 ways a district could address the low performing Turnaround Schools: close the school, turn it over to a charter or private business, or contract with an External Operator. Initially, districts were told there would be no waivers, but 5 were presented last Tuesday and all 5 were approved by DOE and received a waiver. There is a 4th option being discussed now: putting a high performing principal in the building to run a group of schools (called a Franchise). No superintendent that she knows of has said they are not going to comply with the State requirements.

Mrs. Byrd commented that the EO is to handle the operations of the school: hiring/firing of teachers and principals. They are requesting a 3-5 year contract. Superintendents are asking that the company works collaboratively with the district and as schools reach a "C" grade, they be returned to the district. DOE says once the school makes the grade of C the company must continue as a partner at a lower level of service to build sustainability that the school will continue moving forward. DOE is not able to provide a list of true External Operators. Superintendents that were working with an AMO (Academic Management Operator) in their district are looking at them to assume the role. We are looking for an EO that will work collaboratively with the district and move the schools forward. We have one more company to vet and will bring a recommendation to you.

Mrs. Byrd reported she has talked with one of the districts that received a waiver. After reviewing the data they submitted, she and staff are looking at our data before making a decision to request waivers.

Mr. Wilson stated, to him, District Managed Charter Schools are a way for the district to obtain funding that is not available to public schools at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

3. [2:10 - 2:20 PM School Board Services' Direct Employees Contract Discussion](#)

Attachment: [Contract Renewal Memo - Wes Carol.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Wes reported several sample contracts have been received and he is waiting on others. Copies will be provided to the Board for the next work session. Mr. Wilson commented that he learned several districts have their Internal Auditor reporting to the Superintendent or a member of her staff.

BOARD AGENDA REVIEW

4. [2:20 - 2:30 PM Review Agenda for the January 23, 2018 School Board Meeting](#)

Attachment: [01 23 2018 School Board Agenda.pdf](#)

Minutes:

C-95: Project P-01821 - Mulberry Senior Drainage Improvements, \$288,000

Mr. Harris questioned why we are spending so much money on a site that is to be rebuilt in the near future. Angela Usher, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities, responded that the remodeling isn't planned for at least 4 years, possibility 5. Currently, the school is not able to use their football field, so we plan to address the drainage so they can use the area.

Mr. Harris suggested the district look to relocate the school rather than rebuilding at the same location.

Item R-104: School Board Policy Updates

Mr. Townsend asked when the Board will see the current Technology Plan and the updated version. Superintendent Byrd replied the Technology Plan is under revision now and should be available in March or April.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item 5

5. [2:30 - 2:50 PM Collective Bargaining Agreement Changes Reached with the Polk Education Association](#)

Attachment: [5 1-23-18 ESP Tentative Agreements 27p.pdf](#)

Attachment: [2 1-23-18 Budget Impact Analysis PEA Salary Agreements.pdf](#)

Attachment: [3 1-23-18 Teacher Tentative Agreements 90p.pdf](#)

Attachment: [1 1-23-18 Executive Summary 16-17 and 17-18 PEA Contract Changes.pdf](#)

Attachment: [4 1-23-18 Paraeducator Tentative Agreements 30p.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Tedra Porteous, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, provided an overview on the agreement with Polk Education Foundation's three employee groups. An approximate total of \$9.9 million in salary increases and benefits.

Item 6

6. [2:50 - 3:15 PM 2016-2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Audit](#)

Attachment: [CAFR FY17- Final.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Polk County District School 2017 Governance Letter.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Consultants from Cherry Bekaert reported there were no significant audit findings or non-compliance issues.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Business Services - General

7. [Financial Statements for the period ending November 30, 2017.](#)

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

8. [Quarterly Report - Recommendations approved by the Superintendent](#)

Attachment: [Quarterly Report 10-1-17_12-31-17.pdf](#)

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM. Minutes were approved and attested this 27th day of February, 2018.

Lynn Wilson, Board Chair

Jacqueline M. Byrd, Superintendent