

01 24 2017 Work Session 12 30 PM

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. [12:30 - 1:00 PM School Board Comments](#)

#### Minutes:

Mrs. Cunningham commended everyone involved with the Annual Teacher of the Year and School Related Employee of the Year Banquet festivities. She commented she was especially thrilled with the student participation in the event.

Ms. Reynolds attended the Central Florida Public School Board's Coalition (CFPSBC) meeting. She commented the organization is soliciting the assistance of local chambers of commerce and local businesses to become more involved and foster partnerships with School Districts. The group has also requested student logo submissions.

Mrs. Sellers commented on the community partnership schools initiative. The University of Central Florida is coordinating these efforts as well as the efforts of Dr. Ed Schumaker, community leader. She also elaborated on how the academic performance of students that are demographically impoverished is affected. John Small, Deputy Superintendent, commented on the responses of agencies to assist in this initiative such as Children's Home Society and Heartland for Children.

Mrs. Fields commented that due to the end of year awards, graduations, and miscellaneous other events, she would like to the Board Members to consider having a single Work Session and Board Meeting in May. She proposed cancelling the meetings on the 9th and 23rd and meeting only on May16th.

Mrs. Fields discussed the upcoming opportunities for Master Board Training and reminded everyone that a majority of Board Members must participate in order to qualify for certification. The dates available range from April through June. JoAnne Clanton, Executive Assistant to the Board, will provide information and collect feedback from the Board Members regarding their preferences and availability.

Mrs. Fields suggested the School Board should wait until later in the year to schedule a School Board Retreat when there is more data available.

Mr. Townsend discussed his recent attendance of the The Jungle Book production performed by students of Wendell Watson Elementary in collaboration with Lake Gibson Middle and High Schools. He commended the schools and advisor Jessica Gautier for the cooperative interaction of the three school levels.

Mr. Townsend commented the Polk Vision Literacy Committee will soon begin requesting input for participation in the literacy services program. The directory may be available near the end of the school year.

Mr. Townsend suggested the Board should consider allowing a representative from McKeel Academy speak at a future work session to discuss the educational model they witnessed in Finland.

Mr. Townsend explained he is unlikely to vote for any further expansion of magnet schools until the philosophy and purpose of the Polk County School Board has been identified. He would like to discuss this further over the next few months.

Mr. Wilson commented on the need to increase funding for traditional/non-contract schools. He also commented on the increased engagement of students and parents at contract schools.

Mrs. Fields commented it may be beneficial to discuss the historical perspective of the magnet school model; how and why it evolved, how it effects racial balance, and how the money is targeted for these schools due to grant funding.

## BOARD AGENDA REVIEW

### 2. [1:00 - 1:10 PM Review the Agenda of January 24, 2017 School Board Meeting as REVISED](#)

Attachment: [01 24 17 School Board Meeting Agenda.pdf](#)

Minutes:

#### Special Recommendations

Mrs. Fields commended Superintendent Byrd for being proactive in bringing the Black History Month proclamation to the Board in a timely manner and also for recognizing the student winners from the Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest.

#### Donations (acceptance and acknowledgment)

Mrs. Sellers commented the School Board should send letters to donors thanking them for their generosity.

Mr. Wilson suggested donations flow through the Polk Education Foundation (PEF) instead of directly to schools. Wes Bridges, Counsel for the Board, and Mike Perrone, Chief Financial Officer, will discuss situations when it would be advantageous to do this. Mrs. Cunningham commented this method needs to be streamlined. This is currently a lengthy process.

#### Item C-70: News 2 You/Unique Learning System

Dr. Kimberly Steinke, Senior Director of Learning Support, explained this contract is pertaining to the access point classrooms for lowest, cognitively functioning students.

#### Item R-79: Request to Name Gymnasium at Mulberry Senior High School

Mr. Wilson commented his concern that, although the minutes from the School Advisory Counsel (SAC) meeting were provided, there is no list identifying who the participants were. He commented there have been community concerns in the past associated with the naming of facilities. The list of counsel members that attended and the minutes should be attached to requests of this nature for future reference.

#### Item R-80: Bartow Senior High School Masterplan - Phase I

Mrs. Sellers commented on the community support and patience she has experienced with the citizens of Bartow as well as the teachers' ability to work around the facilities challenges.

Mr. Townsend asked for clarification that the money being invested is enough to get some of the required renovations completed but not all of them. Rob Davis, Interim Associate Superintendent of Facilities and Operations, commented this is Phase I of II which will including a building addition and the demolition of antiquated facilities. This was made possible because of money generated by Sales Tax receipts. Phase II could require an additional \$18 million to \$20 million. If the community can raise \$500,000 to \$800,000, the school

will be able to build the facility for the construction academy.

Ms. Reynolds asked if there is a timeline for the initiation of Phase I and how long will it take to complete. She also asked what is going to be done to accommodate classes that might have to temporarily relocate during construction. Mr. Davis explained that portable classrooms will be provided.

Mrs. Sellers commented that most of the high schools have a master plan and that Bartow was unable to implement their plan previously because of the lack of funds.

Item R-82: P-01711 - Employee Health Clinic (Lakeland) - Remodel

Mr. Perrone commented there were plans to expand the Lakeland Branch of the Employee Health Clinic; however, due to cost limitations, the facility will repurpose existing space instead. Other areas of the county are being investigated for the possible addition of another clinic. The funds to establish another clinic are a part of the health plan.

Items R-84 through R-87: Cooler/Freezer Upgrades/Replacements for Rochelle School of the Arts, Blake Academy, Jewitt Middle Academy, and Lake Region Senior

Mrs. Fields asked why the schools receiving cooler/freezer upgrades or replacements have construction involved. Mr. Davis commented the items went out for bid and these recommendations are standard for this work.

Item R-93: Bus Purchase for 2016/17 SY, \$4,292, 470.00

Mrs. Fields asked that Mr. Davis elaborate on the bus purchase. He explained the existing buses are on a fifteen-year rotation cycle despite the state recommended ten-year cycle. The new buses will replace approximately 6% of those in existence and will also include more safety equipment; such as, seat belts and air conditioners. He also commented the older vehicles have become difficult and expensive to maintain and will be taken off the road.

Mr. Harris encouraged staff members to return to the state-recommended ten-year rotation cycle when it becomes financially feasible to do so. He stated having sufficient buses that are in reliable condition is a public service and also promotes the timeliness of student arrival.

Mr. Townsend asked if there is any collaboration between the School District and the local transit organizations. Mr. Davis commented there is a relationship with them and this is used for ninth through twelfth grade students during transit schedule hours.

Item R-94: White Fleet Purchase 2016/17 SY, \$490, 254.32

Mrs. Fields asked about the bidding process for white fleet vehicle purchases.

Mr. Davis explained this is a state awarded bid and the pricing is extremely difficult to beat.

Mrs. Fields commented she would like Mr. Wilson to return an update to the Board Members on efforts for the sales tax renewal.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Item 3

3. [1:10 - 1:20 PM New Positions within the Mindful Schools Grant: Additional Intervention Facilitator Position; and New Coordinator Position and Job Description for Mindful Schools - AWARE](#)

Attachment: [Coord Mindful Schools 1.10.17WS.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Harris asked what is being done to notify employees of the temporary nature of grant-funded positions. Teddra Porteous, Associate Superintendent of Human Resource Services, stated a letter will be added to the employment packet that explains the constraints associated with grant-funded positions, including the date of expiration.

Mr. Townsend asked for clarification on this item. Jim Maxwell, Director of Student Services, explained this grant pays for salaries and training. The positions being requested will add staff members to target schools, including someone to provide adequate grant reporting.

Item 4

4. [1:20 - 1:30 PM Continuation Title I Grant Part A, Part C, Part D; \\$38,661,156](#)

Attachment: [Associate Technician - Migrant Data.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Sr Coordinator Migrant 12-14-2016.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Sr Coordinator Title I Basic 12-2016.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Visio-Chart 12 Teaching and Learning Federal Programs SY17 REV WS 01 10 17 BM 01 24 17.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Job Desc - Paraeducator Family Liasion REVISED copy.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Title I 2016-17 Board Summary.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Title I Part C Budget Impact Analysis 2016-17.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Title I, Part D Budget Impact Analysis 2016-17.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Title I, Part A Budget Impact Analysis 2016-17.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Title I Paid Personnel 2016-17for EAgenda.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Sr Coordinator Parent Involvement 12-2016.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Migrant Home School Liaison Job Description.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Maria Longa, Senior Director of Federal Programs, commented that the Title I Grant Parts A, C, and D are continuation grants with nothing substantially different. The only changes are updates to job descriptions in order to better reflect the work that staff members are performing.

Mr. Townsend asked if this is refers to Title I school-wide. Dr. Longa explained Title I is multi-faceted with many strands and there are actually additional strands and components, including the School Improvement Grant (1003A) for \$1.4 million that is released later in the year.

Item 5

5. [1:30 - 1:40 PM BREAK](#)

Item 6

6. [1:40 - 2:00 PM Policy Updates](#)

Attachment: [Neola Updates Summary 1 24 17 wk session.pdf](#)  
Attachment: [Neola Updates Docs 1 24 17 wk session.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Wendy Dodge, Government Affairs Liaison, presented policy updates.

Mr. Harris asked what the determining factor is in regard to the "Facilities Planning Policy Update, \$300,000 threshold". Ms. Dodge explained this is a statutory change or a rule change. Mr. Harris also asked who determines the "alternative construction methods" indicated in the policy. Ms. Dodge stated the purpose of the alternative construction methods is in order to save money and she thinks it is up to the School District to make that determination.

Mr. Harris stated he does not support the maintenance policy update that places the responsibility on the School Board to provide sidewalks and safe access-ways from neighborhoods to schools. He

commented this is outside the Board's purview and asked what determines the qualification of an area as a "neighborhood". This item will be removed from the updates until further review of the content.

Mr. Townsend asked if the School District ever builds sidewalks. Wes Bridges, Counsel for the Board, commented the School District builds sidewalks when they are contiguous to the school campuses.

## Item 7

### [7. 2:00 - 2:20 PM Compass Middle Charter School and Magnolia Montessori Academy Recommendations for Charter Contract Renewal](#)

Attachment: [Compass Middle Charter Renewal Document.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Compass Middle Charter Site Evaluation.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Magnolia Montessori Charter Renewal Document 1 of 2.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Magnolia Montessori Charter Renewal Document 2 of 2.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Magnolia Montessori Site Visit Evaluation.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Renewal Presentation to the Board 2017.pdf](#)

Attachment: [WS Summary Compass Middle & Magnolia Montessori Charter Contract Renewal.pdf](#)

Minutes:

#### Compass Middle School

Melissa Brady, Director of Charter Schools, presented the recommendations to the Board. She also elaborated on the demographically challenged student body at the school and the efforts the staff has made to encourage change.

Mrs. Fields commented on the progress the school made in one year and commended the leadership and teachers at the school.

Mrs. Cunningham commended the group for their dedication to turn the school around and also positively impact the lives of the most vulnerable students.

Mr. Harris inquired about the discrepancy in the enrollment history documentation. Mrs. Brady explained this is due to the statistics collected from the Florida Department of Education that reflect student information collected during Full Time Equivalent (FTE) data.

Mrs. Sellers commented on the amount of effort invested by the teachers and the school staff to get this level of results. She also stated it takes many resources and community support to reach these students.

Mr. Townsend commented on the decrease in student numbers transitioning from seventh to eighth grade. Mrs. Brady explained this decrease is the optimal outcome because it indicates the students have been successful and are returning to their regularly zoned schools.

Mr. Wilson commended the staff of Compass Middle Charter School for their hard work, as well as the dedication of Mrs. Brady for the learning progress and success that has been documented.

#### Magnolia Montessori Academy

Mr. Harris asked what action is being taken to address the demographic imbalance at Montessori. Mrs. Brady commented this is seen in many of the Montessori programs. She commented they are working on recruitment but they have a waiting list. She explained the minority students must supersede the number of applications for the lottery numbers to change, which will be a challenge since this school has a very small population of less than 100. She also commented that minority families in the community may be unfamiliar with the program and therefore reluctant to apply. Mr. Harris reiterated the Board Members are concerned that the school population and demographic do not match.

Mr. Townsend asked if there are ways to prioritize enrollment. Mrs. Brady commented there is nothing in State Statute that allows the use of demographics as a priority, therefore the only way to diversify is to market and recruit from the minority communities.

Mrs. Fields discussed the need to encourage the school to increase their diversification strategies. Superintendent Byrd commented on the importance of the student population mirroring the community.

Mrs. Brady asked if the demographic imbalance could be considered a reason to non-renew the school's contract. Wes Bridges, Counsel for the Board, commented it can be encouraged, but it is not grounds for non-renewal

Mrs. Cunningham commented this school has a very small population and the Montessori method is an extremely different approach in a non-traditional setting.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### Business Services - General

8. [Financial Statements for Period ending November 30, 2016 REVISED](#)

Attachment: [FINAL BOARD PACKET ON EAGENDA.pdf](#)

Minutes: Mike Perrone, Chief Financial Officer, presented the financial statements.

### Teaching and Learning - PreSchool - General

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

Attachment: [December Board Executive Summary.pdf](#)

Attachment: [16HSA - Head Start Financial Report as of 11-30-2016.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Matti Friedt, Director of Pre-school Programs, informed the Board that the Head Start Expansion Grant application was denied. She then explained the differences in funding and support between Voluntary Pre-kindergarten programs and the Head Start Program.

Mrs. Sellers asked how many students are currently being served in the Head Start program. Mrs. Friedt explained the program currently has over 900 students, and approximately double that on the waiting list. Mrs. Sellers would like to see the longitudinal effect of students that have participated in the program compared to those who have not once they reach elementary school.

Meeting adjourned at 2:48 PM. Minutes were approved and attested this 28th day of February, 2017.

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Kay Fields, Board Chair

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Jacqueline M. Byrd, Superintendent