

02 12 2019 Work Session 9 00 AM

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item 1

1. [9 00 AM - 9 20 AM Proposed Land Purchase](#)

Attachment: [Land Purchase.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Angela Usher, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities and Operations, provided information on a land purchase opportunity in the NE area of the county. This would be a site for a new elementary school on the east side of Highway US 27 and north of I-4 scheduled to open in 2024. The Tierra del Sol Subdivision will pay the impact fees from single family homes. Property owners will pay a proportionate share of infrastructure and maintenance fees through a one time payment for drainage and overall maintenance of \$250,000 included in the sale price.

The school would provide enrollment relief for Citrus Ridge, Horizon, and possibly Loughman Oaks by removing 117 seats at Horizon and 833 at Citrus Ridge. Citrus Ridge will continue as a K-8.

Mrs. Miller believes this is high price for a 20-acre undeveloped site. She asked for a copy of the two appraisals. Mrs. Usher stated the appraisers took into consideration the infrastructure in place and the fast growth of that area (limited open space remaining) and the site's proximity to neighboring 3 counties: Orange/Osceola/Lake.

Consensus reached to go forward with negotiations.

Item 2

2. [9 20 AM - 9 40 AM Water Walker Investments](#)

Attachment: [School Board of Polk County as of Sep 30, 2018 includes](#)

[Earnings Analysis.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mike Perrone, CFO, along with representatives from Water Walker Investments provided information on short term investment opportunities. There is a greater challenge to lock in longer interest rates in today's market; overnight rates are flat at 2.50%. The District's 2009 Sinking Fund has \$10.7 million to invest with additional payments to be made each year through December, 2024.

The Sinking Funds projected earnings of \$3.75 million, at today's market, is expected to be a short fall. The firm is looking at options of passive or active approaches to offset the shortfall by using the earnings of \$2.15 - \$2.56 million by investing 40% to ultra short government bond fund; 25% to local government cash-enhanced portfolio; and remaining to timed deposit for a yield 2.72%. They recommend a passive approach to lock in a guaranteed investment contract of 3%. If that rate is not attainable, they recommend a certificate of deposit at 2.57%.

Mr. Perrone will meet with Water Walker to develop a final plan and discuss the options with Mike Weiner of Holland and Knight. Once a plan has been developed, it will be presented to the Board for approval.

Item 15

3. [EMERGENCY ITEM: Textbook Adoptions](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Michael Akes, Associate Superintendent of Learning, reported on the changes coming from Tallahassee on Common Core Standards and textbook adoptions. He stated that the reality is that we don't have Common Core Standards, we have Florida Standards. We will go through a review cycle next year. More direction from DOE will probably be received over the summer. Whatever textbooks we decide to purchase, publishers have agreed to update the textbooks as needed.

Ms. Reynolds asked if the teachers are being apprised of these discussions. Dr. Akes is trying to eliminate any anxiety on the teachers. Mrs. Byrd stated the message she has been hearing is we are going to hold the course on our standards.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 3

4. [Investment Report as of 12/31/18](#)

Attachment: [Sum Of Invest Earnings For Board 12-31-18.pdf](#)

Item 4

5. [Head Start Services Report](#)

Attachment: [February 2019 S Board Executive Summary Report \(003\).pdf](#)

Attachment: [18HSA - Head Start Financial report as of 12-31-2018 NF.pdf](#)

BOARD AGENDA REVIEW

OLD BUSINESS

6. [FSBA Master Board Training](#)

Attachment: [FSBA Master Board Training Agreement.pdf](#)

Attachment: [FSBA Master Board Modules.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Board Members were to provide their Executive Assistant, Susan Worthington, their top 3 modules and date selection for the Master Board training. After a short discussion, it was agreed to have the first session (Building Board Protocols) at 8:30 AM on February 26, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

7. [Exceptional Student Education Advisory Council](#)

Attachment: [ESE Advisory Council Information \(2\).pdf](#)

Attachment: [ESE Advisory Council By Laws 2013.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. Miller voiced her desire to establish an Exception Student Education Advisory Council under the auspice of the School Board. They would act as a reporting group of district staff, community members, and agencies working on policy and other areas that affect ESE students.

Mrs. Cunningham asked if the staff member would report to the Superintendent or to the Board. Mrs. Miller stated they (Dr. Steinke, perhaps) would report to the Board. Mrs. Cunningham explained that the report would go to the Superintendent; not the Board. Mr. Wilson said it would be periodic reports from the Superintendent to the Board. Superintendent Byrd commented the committee falls under Academics (Associate Superintendent Dr. Michael Akes). Dr. Steinke, the Superintendent's liaison on the committee, reports to Dr. Akes. Mrs. Byrd stated that Duval has a similar program that reports quarterly to the Board. Dr. Steinke reported that she looked at 13 school districts' policies; only two were under the School Board, 11 are under the Superintendent's

designee or ESE Department.

Dr. Akes asked Mrs. Miller what structures she would like to see changed from the current structure. Mrs. Miller would like to legitimize the sustainability of the program. Dr. Akes commented that in the last Advisory meeting, the group (parents and community members) said they wanted to have more awareness with the school board. They want multiple board members to attend to be aware of the critical needs of the student population. He advised them of the Sunshine law requirements if 2 or more board members are in attendance. It could be, in essence, shaping policy at a meeting rather than focusing on the student needs. He informed them that his department would report to the School Board either quarterly or bi-annually. Mrs. Miller clarified it was not her thought to have any board members attend. This should not be a parent support group but a meeting of community agencies and businesses to improve the transition of students.

Mrs. Fields stated it appears they are trying to revitalize the ESE Advisory Council. The superintendent can ensure that the bylaws are followed and reports are presented to the Board.

Ms. Reynolds suggested it be under the superintendent. She will be solely responsible for it. They will report to her.

Mr. Wilson agreed, if the committee reports to the Board and offers recommendations, that could be a conflict with the sunshine law for the committee members. If the council is under the Superintendent, they can make recommendations to her. Attorney Bridges reiterated that if the committee reports to the Board and does anything more than fact finding, it must be noticed, it must be open to the public with published agendas and minutes, just like an elected board.

8. [School Board Comments](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Fortney had several concerns:

- Round up is still being used across the district. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission suspended its use this past January.
- The Concerned Citizen group would like to address the lack of a community school in the Florence Villa community.
- Bartow High School's planning phase II was pushed back to 2022.
 - Mrs. Byrd reported that it has been moved back to 2021 now that the sales tax referendum passed. Mrs. Usher will be bringing that back to the Board
- Is there a policy /procedures in place for LGBT clubs on our campuses
 - Dr. Steinke reported that her staff helps schools with the guidelines.
- ESE support is needed at every single school.
 - Mrs. Byrd stated this is an issue across the state. We are looking to see how we can support principals and teachers.
- She hasn't seen the bulleted transportation piece promised at the last work session.

- Rachel Pleasant, Senior Director of Public Relations, stated it is posted on the website.
- Hillsborough County recently closed a charter. For future applicants, they will require monthly budget reports and minutes of their meetings. The county was not aware of the financial issues until vendors began calling them.
 - Jason Pitts clarified district staff performs preliminary audit on our charters.
- Visiting elementary schools, she found they do not have a buzz-in entry way
 - Dr. Akes and Superintendent Byrd reported the list is expansive and work is to begin over the summer.
- Reiterated the need of a Social Worker and Mental Health Counselor at every school
 - Mrs. Byrd reported this has an annual reoccurring cost of \$14.5 million and there is a problem with the availability of professionals. (101 social workers and 124 mental health counselors). She would need direction from the Board to proceed further.
 - Teddra Porteous, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, commented that we currently have 24 open positions that have been advertised.
 - Dr. Steinke reported that each school has a school counselor. We have 21 social workers and 42 school psychologists that are able to provide wrap around services.

Mrs. Fields announced her second town hall meeting will be held at 6:00 PM next Tuesday at Sleepy Hill Middle with Dr. Kate Blackburn. She will be releasing the responses from her first town hall meeting soon.

Mr. Wilson spoke on:

- At risk students and busing; it all boils down to funding.
- The millage rate roll back; property values are increasing because people are moving here. Rolling back the millage rate is disastrous for school districts. We could have an additional \$55 million per year if not for that. We have not seen any viable FTE or cost of living adjustments in FTE which would be helpful as well.
- He is unsure how to continue or what is to be accomplished during the Round Table discussion. The original goal of the Round Table was to allow additional time for school board members to speak on topics of interest in a more relaxed environment. We still have to take minutes and have staff available. It is difficult to take minutes when two or more people are speaking at the same time.
- The second part was the involvement of the community. It was said the public is reluctant to speak at board meetings because it is taped. Mr. Wilson clarified that section of the meeting is not recorded or released to the public. It was also suggested we offer more than 3 minutes but it appeared to him at the last meeting, after 3 minutes, the comments became repetitive. More discussion is needed on how the meetings should proceed. Today's Round Table meeting will take place at 12:30 PM today.
 - Mrs. Fields will not be attending the round table; she believes the original intent was to provide the board an opportunity to get to know one another. In listening to the first meeting, she believes the conversations could lead into policy setting measures. She believes time can be added to the regular work session without having a separate meeting.

- o Ms. Reynolds will not be attending as well and it is her recollection that it was to be a get to know one another and extend conversations. She believes the 9:00 AM meetings can be extended to accomplish the same goal.
- o Mrs. Cunningham agrees the 9:00 AM work sessions can be extended.
- o Ms. Fortney likes the Town Hall meetings Mrs. Fields is hosting; she believes she will do that in her area and bring those concerns to the round table meeting.

Ms. Fortney saw a list of unfunded mandates at her financial meeting that would be an invaluable tool with public discussions. She is trying to get a copy of the list. Mrs. Byrd will have Jason and Mike get a copy for the Board.

Mr. Wilson stated that he is seeking direction if the Board wants to extend the 9:00 work sessions or have a separate meeting.

Mrs. Miller supports expanding the 9:00 AM meetings. Her understanding was that the Round Table was to have lengthier conversations on a topic, to expand a conversation that you wouldn't do in Board Comments. She didn't expect the public to speak. She is good either way.

Mrs. Cunningham stated that when she gets information from the community or schools, she doesn't bring it back to the Board, she meets with the Superintendent.

Mrs. Fields believes it has evolved into something completely different. She believes whatever concerns we hear should be shared with Superintendent; she is the CEO of the district.

Mr. Wilson announced a break and then return for round table discussions.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM. Minutes were approved and attested this 19th day of March, 2019.

Lynn Wilson, Board Chair

Jacqueline M. Byrd, Superintendent