

02 14 2017 Work Session 11 00 AM

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. [11:00 - 11:20 AM School Board Comments](#)

Minutes:

#### McLaughlin Middle School

Mrs. Cunningham stated she has been receiving comments from the Lake Wales Community regarding the School Board giving consideration to making McLaughlin Middle School a charter school. She asked the other School Board Members for consensus to authorize staff to investigate the possibility of McLaughlin Middle School being absorbed into the Lake Wales Charter School network.

Mrs. Fields commented Mr. Robin Gibson, the attorney for the Lake Wales charter group, has approached all of the School Board Members about this and she has many questions. She recommended the Board Members submit whatever questions they have so their concerns are adequately addressed. This information should be forwarded to JoAnne Clanton, Executive Assistant to the Board, in the next week. She also reiterated the importance of keeping the stakeholders of McLaughlin Middle School informed. She added this is not an action that can be taken overnight.

Mr. Wilson commented McLaughlin Middle School is in his District. He has witnessed the community support for the Lake Wales Charter Schools which he feels has led to their success. He stated that opening a second Bok Academy would likely result in the closure of McLaughlin.

Mr. Harris discussed his conversation with Mr. Gibson. Mr. Harris stated he agrees that the schools in Lake Wales should be under one umbrella but it should be under Polk County Public Schools. He commented on the importance of keeping the school and faculty informed of such discussions and reminded everyone there has not been a school grade assigned to McLaughlin this year.

Mrs. Sellers commented on the importance of ensuring the entire community has been informed and feedback has been received.

Mr. Townsend stated he supports further investigation into McLaughlin becoming a charter school and commended Mrs. Cunningham for bringing this issue forward. He also stated he is not an advocate for or against this action and he is only interested in what is best for the community. Mr. Townsend also disclosed that Robin Gibson, Attorney for the Lake Wales charter group, is his cousin.

Ms. Reynolds commented on the importance of ensuring the Lake Wales community is serving all of their local students instead of sending them elsewhere.

#### Upcoming Events

Mrs. Fields discussed upcoming commitments such as Spring Break week, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) annual conference, Part 2 of New School Board Member Training, and Legislative Days in Tallahassee that will create conflicts for the scheduled March 28th Work Session and School Board Meeting. She suggested that the meetings be moved to March 14th.

The Board consensus was to reschedule the Work Session and School Board Meeting for March 14, 2017. The School Board Members also came to consensus that there should only be one meeting date in June (which will now be June 13th) and one meeting date in July (which will now be July 25th).

Mrs. Fields commented on feedback that has been received from the other School Board Members regarding Master Board Training availability. One additional calendar option has been made available for training on September 21-22, 2017, in Howie in the Hills, Florida. Mr. Harris suggested if the two new board members and Superintendent are not able to attend, that the Board not participate in the Master Board Training at this time. All School Board Members indicated they are available for the September dates.

Mrs. Fields reminded the School Board Members that March 17th is the last day to register for the "Day in the Legislature" on March 28-29, 2017.

Mr. Harris reminded the School Board Members that the NSBA conference will take place in Denver, Colorado, on March 25-27, 2017. He also commended Ms. Reynolds for her attendance at recent professional development opportunities offered to school board members covering finance, personnel, and collective bargaining.

#### Consideration to Extend the Superintendent Byrd's Contract

Mr. Harris commented on the extinguishment of the sales tax for capital expenditures at the end of 2018. He suggested that the School Board consider extending Mrs. Byrd's contract by two years so that there is no change in leadership during the sales tax initiative.

Mrs. Fields discussed the alternatives for the length of an extension to the Superintendent's current contract. The Superintendent's annual evaluation should be done and action must be identified by May 1st.

Mrs. Cunningham commented that she would like to have a copy of the evaluation tool. She would also like Mrs. Byrd to identify her significant accomplishments.

Mrs. Sellers commented she is not in favor of pursuing a Superintendent search and prefers to continue with Mrs. Byrd in the position of Superintendent.

Mr. Townsend commented he is also in favor of Superintendent Byrd continuing in this position. He suggested that the community be invited to provide input prior to determining the length of the Superintendent's contract. He also commented on the lack of stability at the State and Federal levels and he feels that leaving Superintendent Byrd in her current position will afford the School District some consistency.

Mrs. Fields commented she would like to have Dr. Tom Freijo look at the evaluation document to determine the appropriate method to proceed since the test scores/academic piece will not be available at the time of the Superintendent's evaluation.

## BOARD AGENDA REVIEW

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### Item 2

#### 2. [11:20 - 11:40 AM 2015-2016 Internal Funds Annual Audit](#)

Attachment: [06-30-16 Required Communication - Polk CPS Internal Accounts.pdf](#)

Attachment: [06-30-16 Financial Statement - Polk CPS Internal Account.pdf](#)

Minutes:

John Small, Deputy Superintendent, and Dr. Tina Barrios, Assistant Superintendent of Information Systems and Technology, discussed the Internal Funds Annual Audit results.

Dr. Barrios commented staff members have narrowed down the source of conflict in the financial piece of the Focus software.

Mike Perrone, Chief Financial Officer, commented on the option of bypassing the Focus software for this piece with the hope this will be repaired by July 1st.

Mrs. Sellers asked if other Districts are experiencing these issues and commented on the financial challenges that were identified previously at the technical colleges. Mr. Small explained there have been many changes and those systems are treated as a separate entity.

Mrs. Cunningham commented she would like to see the plan of options and associated timeline. Jason Pitts, Director of Budget, explained there should be a clear direction in approximately three months.

Mr. Perrone commented there is a Focus meeting later this month and he will have a better idea of how many Districts may be experiencing difficulties.

Dr. Barrios explained other Districts may not be running dual platform information such as ours with SAP and Focus.

Mr. Wilson asked if this system replaced the Genesis system. Dr. Barrios commented Genesis software is for the K-12 schools only. Mr. Wilson commented the Genesis system is no longer supported by Microsoft and asked what the plan is in that regard. Dr. Barrios elaborated on the data migration process.

Mr. Townsend asked if the State forced the District to purchase this system. Mr. Small explained this was originally a State initiated pilot and this was part of a grant with the implementation in 2015. The District's cost was based on maintenance fees for years 2-5.

Mrs. Fields discussed the importance of having more than one staff member cross-trained to ensure consistent knowledge of this system and maintain the integrity of information.

Mrs. Cunningham discussed material weaknesses.

Mr. Harris commented on challenges that were experienced because the current SAP system was originally intended for business entities not a government accounting system. He asked if similar issues are being experienced with this system. Mr. Perrone explained this system experiences challenges in part because of the constant adoption of federal regulation changes.

Mrs. Sellers commented the Focus system is a cash basis versus an accrual system and discussed purchasing a system that would interact with SAP.

Mr. Wilson commented this material weakness only affected internal accounts and that often the amount of time required to adequately map account information is underestimated.

### Item 3

3. [11:40 - 12:00 PM 2015-2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Review \(CAFR\)](#)

Attachment: [CAFR2016FINAL.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Polk County School District Issued SAS 114.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Item 4

4. [12:00 - 12:20 PM Annual Master Inservice Plan](#)

Attachment: [MIP - Agenda Item Details 2016.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Components Edited on TNL 10.14.16.pdf](#)

Minutes:

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 5

5. [Social Studies Instructional Materials Adoption for Grades 6-12](#)

Attachment: [Social Studies Instructional Materials Review.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Michael Akes, Chief Academic Officer, discussed the Social Studies Instructional Materials that have been identified for adoption for middle and high schools.

Mrs. Fields referenced cultural information such as Black History and Hispanic Heritage being covered in the textbooks. Dr. Akes explained information has been added to curriculum maps to ensure that information is adequately covered.

Mrs. Sellers asked if the teachers were pleased with the variety of selections. Dr. Akes confirmed that the teachers have been very pleased with what was presented to them.

Ann Everett, Senior Director of K-12 Reading and Writing, elaborated that the committee process included rich communication with teachers, parents, and community members. The Middle School primary selection for publisher is McGraw-Hill and the secondary choice is Houghton-Mifflin. The High School primary selection is publisher McGraw-Hill and the secondary choice is Pearson.

Item 6

6. [12:30 PM Executive Session](#)

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM. Minutes were approved and attested this 14th day of March, 2017.

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Kay Fields, Board Chair

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Jacqueline M. Byrd, Superintendent