

02 26 2019 Work Session 12 30 PM

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item 1

1. [12:30 - 12:55 PM District Management Group Contract - Special Education Opportunities Review](#)

Attachment: [DMG Contract 2.11.19.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Kimberly Steinke, Associate Superintendent of Learning Support, and Mr. Nate Levenson, the Managing Director for the District Management Group, provided information on a proposal for an overview of our Special Education programs as well as struggling non ESE students. The district must focus on meeting all three objectives to achieve lasting results for students: Student Outcomes, Resource Allocation, and Operation Efficiency.

Struggling students: Many struggle to read and comprehend; many have skill deficits from prior grades; many require multiple modes of instruction; many learn and process information more slowly than their peers.

DM Group will

- Identify high-impact opportunities to improve services and equity for students with and without IEPs.
- Uses a web-based software to collect schedules for a typical week from staff members to deeply understand how students are supported.
- Focuses on struggling students, which has an intentionally broad definition to address common challenges.
- Will facilitate a prioritization workshop with a Guiding Coalition to determine which areas the district should implement.

Mrs. Miller stated other districts have used a Florida-based company; why would we use a company outside of Florida. DM responded

they are a national company but have worked with Lake and Indian River counties and with the Florida Association of District Schools Superintendents (FADSS) for over two years sharing best practices across the state.

Mrs. Miller also asked how the community member is selected to be a part of this process. Mr. Levenson responded that the outreach is through the Superintendent and the school's parent group. He asked if she had a suggestion. She suggested the stakeholders / business partners be approached.

Mrs. Cunningham asked if it is a random sample or will you visit every school? Mr. Levenson responded it is a combination of survey sharing and focus groups with selected representatives at approximately 20-25 schools over a 5-6 month period.

Mr. Townsend asked if Board Members can submit names for the coalition? Mr. Levenson suggested the requests be funneled through district leaders.

Dr. Steinke informed the Board that the District Management Group looks at district services provided to all students not just ESE.

Mrs. Fields would like the entire community to be represented in the Guiding Coalition. She also verified the leadership team would be a part of the planning retreat.

Mrs. Miller cautioned using IDEA funds for the review and was curious what programs it will be supplanting. She noted several concerns from the 2007 report that seem to continue: IEP services being delivered; recruitment and retention of ESE teachers; appropriate ESE delivery is a school/district accountability concern.

Ms. Fortney voiced concern on the work load for the teacher to complete the survey. Will this be another survey they donate time to complete but never see the results or implementation?

Mr. Levenson reported this is a change process not a report.

Mr. Townsend is concerned there was not an RFP.

Item 2

2. [12:55 - 1:50 PM Charter School Applicant Presentations](#)

Attachment: [American Classical Charter Academy Needs Assessment.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Mi Escuela Montessori Needs Assessment.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Navigator Academy N. Polk County Needs Assessment.pdf](#)

Attachment: [WS Summary Charter Applicant Presentation.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Bridgeprep Academy of Polk County Needs Assessment.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Melissa Brady, Director of Magnet Schools

1. Mark Dodson, American Classic Charter Academy to serve all populations in Polk County; reading and learning from classic literature. The school will be located in the Haines City/Davenport area as a not for profit 5013C. Founding Board Of Directors will be business professionals in aviation, real estate, and technology.
2. Bridge Prep Academy - K-8; will be open to all and specialize in ELL and ESE students. Direct instructional technology to mirror demographics of community, emphasis on dual language programs. Looking in the Davenport area but have tentative committed to other properties. Mr. Ralph Arza or a representative from his team has met with each of the school board members (but one). Mr. Wilson commented that he would be much more receptive to the application if it is located in the NE area of the county. Mrs. Cunningham also feels the NE area would benefit from the dual language component.
3. Kelly De La Cruz - Mi Escuela Montessori is a two-way language immersion Montessori for K-6 for English and Spanish. The school would be located in the south Lakeland/Mulberry/Bartow area.
4. Navigator Academy of Leadership (2nd school for the district) - Read, synthesize, analyze and apply, problem solvers, and critical thinkers. Incorporating the Leader in Me program based on Steven Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. The K-8 school will be located in the Davenport area; 660 first year and 1000 in 2025. Teachers will be trained at NASA.

Item 3

3. [1:50 - 2:10 PM McLaughlin Proposal](#)

Attachment: [McLaughlinAcademies 2-19-19.pdf](#)

Minutes:

District staff, Dr. Michael Akes, CAO; Carolyn Bridges, Steven Cochran, and Beth Cummings, provided information on the proposal for McLaughlin Fine Arts & Polytechnic Academies.

Mr. Townsend asked what was being asked of the Board today. Is this an informational report or are you asking permission to move forward? Mrs. Byrd stated this is a McLaughlin staff directed plan that was proposed in the past but never moved forward. We are looking to move forward with a continuation of the plan for the academies and if the Board would like to weigh in, we would like to hear your comments.

Mrs. Miller also confirmed that the item today is providing information to the Board; the Board isn't being asked to agree to anything today. Mr. Wilson and Superintendent Byrd commented that no decision would be made today; the final plan will come to the Board for approval.

Dr. Akes stated we are looking to see what we can do for the school and the community; looking into the barriers that exists at McLaughlin, working to devise a structure to address the systemic needs, and returning with a plan in the Spring. The vision is wall-to-wall academies for grades 6-12. When students are engaged in academies, attendance improves, academics are better, students see the relevance of education because the academies tie into their academic courses. We are looking to create rigorous college and career preparatory courses within the polytechnic and fine arts areas. The polytechnic academies will include a variety of academy options tied to major industries in the area, providing students with college and career readiness pathways. The fine arts academies will enable students from the Lake Wales area access to quality fine arts programming while allowing the convenience of staying in their hometown. A full range of advanced placement and dual enrollment options; earn industry certifications; small school size allowing for individual attention, flexible programming, and postsecondary planning; Success Pathway portfolio that includes internships, advanced projects, advanced coursework, industry certifications, and research opportunities; voice and choice hands-on learning and state of the art technology.

The facility provides for separation of middle and high school core courses. Current enrollment is 650 with a capacity for 1320. The Lake Wales community is renowned for its arts, therefore adding the art component would complement the needs of the community. The school has a robust art facility as a base for the Fine Arts High School with plans for expansion as needed. A continuum of arts and polytechnic programming that will serve all students in the Lake Wales area.

- Increase the access and opportunity to Fine Arts in the Lake Wales area
- Increasing parental choice in Lake Wales
- A need for providing local, non-charter high school option
- Provides an alternative for transportation that allows Lake Wales students who choose to remain in Lake Wales
- Supported by administration and teachers; feedback and input from the staff has been incorporated
- Address the enhancement needs of programming at Spook Hill Elementary

Carolyn Bridges reported that in conversations with teachers and staff, they repeated over and over again the need for community involvement and communication through monthly colloquies, internships and mentorships. Implement Success Pathway Planning where each student will meet with the faculty mentor to plan and review progress on their path to postsecondary success starting in grade 6. Use a SPP digital portfolio to set long and short term goals; offer parental postsecondary planning courses.

Curricular approaches:

- Model will be embedded in core subjects; multidisciplinary,
- Project-based approach modeled after programs such as the successful High Tech High program;

- Arts integration approaches to be modeled after programs such as the Kennedy Center's Arts Edge approach.
- Academic courses will be designed to meet the needs of all students through personalization and differentiation to ensure that those differently-abled, thrive in a challenging, hands-on environment.
- Current ESE population is 14% which is consistent with district average. All programs will be inclusive of ESE students. Arts and CTE Programs will offer modified occupational completion points when possible, as well as life skill opportunities
- Parental Involvement: annual student-led conferences to involve parents in the success of their child; parent academies will provide parents opportunities to experience their students' academic environment, help them plan the journey to postsecondary goals and offer opportunities to extend their education through vocational, computer skills, English Language, or GED preparation provided by our students.
- Extracurricular programming: intramural sports will be available immediately for middle school; high school sports would begin in 2020-21.

Enrollment

- All students who complete 8th grade at the McLaughlin Academies will have an automatic option of continuing to McLaughlin Academies High School.
- If seats are available after the roll-up of the middle fine arts academies, those students attending the non-fine arts track may request the academy change. Students would utilize Success Pathway Planning (SPP) to receive support and mentorship to be encouraged to complete the fine arts - focused portfolio class in grade 8.

Spook Hill zoning will remain unchanged.

FUNDING: local, state and federal, and public-private partnerships

- We have a building to be fully utilized; with its current occupancy, the school generates just over half of possible FTE dollars.
- The Academy would be a fiscally, efficient option for the district, reduce transportation costs.
- Funds for the gym facility for McLaughlin were previously approved, independent of this project;
- Fine Arts facility has been created by the district and will initially serve the needs of the middle and high school arts programs;
- Local allocations of the Perkins grant for the career and technical education;
- Additional personnel (as the school increases in size) will be funded through the FTE allocation.
- No additional local funds will be needed

Mrs. Bridges reported that this is not a grant-funded initiative; however, grants

schools.

Mrs. Miller is unable to support at this time. She would like to know the number of students going out of Winter Haven and how much has been spent on the school currently. She would like another work session discussion.

Item 4

4. [2:10 - 2:20 PM 2019 - 2020 Budget Update](#)

Attachment: [18-19 Third Calc compare with Gov. Budget February 2019.update.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Governor's Budget:

- Based on the DCD, Polk's Basic Student Allocation increased \$48.54 per student; a 1.2 % increase.
- Less \$7.7 million from last year (one time funding compression)
- Best and Brightest allocation of \$14.8 Million is a categorical included in the \$17.9 identified as new revenue. Realistically, our new revenue is \$3.1 million
- McKay scholarship will be reduced \$6.7 million to provide for the vouchers.

We will start next year with a \$3.6 million loss.

Mr. Townsend would like a historical trend on the Gardner/McKay Scholarship.

Meeting was recessed for an Executive Session at 2:50 PM

Item 5

5. [2:20 PM - 2:50 PM Office of School Safety Update](#)

Minutes: Meeting was recessed at 2:50 PM for Executive Session to a school safety update.

Item 6

6. [2:50 PM - 3:10 EXECUTIVE SESSION](#)

INFORMATION ITEMS

Facilities and Operations - General

7. [Naming of Auburndale High School Football Field](#)

Attachment: [AHS SAC Doc.pdf](#)
Attachment: [Parrish files 02132019_0001.pdf](#)
Attachment: [AHS-Parrish Field Rec2-19-19 Dawson.pdf](#)

BOARD AGENDA REVIEW

8. [3:10- 3:20 PM - Review the February 26, 2019 School Board Agenda](#)

Attachment: [02 26 2019 School Board Agenda.pdf](#)

Minutes:

R-111 - Land Purchase and Agreement

Mrs. Miller would like to see three appraisals in the future when two are so far apart.

C-19: RP Funding Rental Agreement

Mrs. Fields questioned the increase. Mrs. Byrd responded more schools were added and we have to cover the costs of security, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

9. [3:20 PM School Board Comments](#)

Minutes:

Wes Bridges requested amending the agenda to authorize Tina Nicholson and Jon Stidham to address FEMA's attempt to deny several of our hurricane claims. They will charge a 3% contingency fee on successful recoveries. Request granted.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM. Minutes were approved and attested this 19th day of March, 2019.

Lynn Wilson, Board Chair

Jacqueline M. Byrd, Superintendent