

03 20 2012 Work Session

For ADA assistance, contact the Office of Equity and Compliance, 534-0781, at least 3 business days before the meeting.

New Business

1. [8:30 - 9:00 AM School Board Comments](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. Fields voiced concern with the decision of individual high schools to implement a uniform policy for the 2012-2013 school year. She doesn't feel the burden should be placed on the School's Advisory Committee. Mrs. Sellers agreed.

Mrs. Sellers spoke on a recent trip she, Tim Harris, Superintendent Nickell, and John Small made to Nashville, Tennessee to view their academies. The city has 12 high schools, a poverty rate similar to Polk County's, has more diversity and approximately 80,000 students, yet they have increased their graduation rate significantly. All students have the opportunity to enroll in an academy (Wall-to-Wall Academy) at their high school. If students fall behind, they have quick interventions in place and offer immediate remediation.

Mrs. Sellers requested tentative dates for a joint meeting with the Board of County Commissioners. Dates provided were: May 8, 3:30; May 15; April 17; and the morning of May 4.

Board Agenda Review

2. [9:00 - 9:20 AM Review Agenda of March 20, 2012](#)

Attachment: [03 20 12 School Board Agenda.pdf](#)

Minutes:

C-9 Approval of Minutes

Mr. Harris requested a clerical correction to the February 28, 2012 Work Session minutes.

Discussion

Item 3

3. [9:20 - 9:40 AM 2011 Group Health Insurance Plan Annual State Filing - F.S. 112.08](#)

Attachment: [112.08 filing presentation.03.20.12.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Joy Myers, Director of Risk Management, Jan Bush and Jessica Jones of Robinson Bush, and Allison Poole, Actuary with the Lakeland Consulting Group, provided a history of the District's Group Health Insurance Plan and annual state filing.

- projections for future biometric screening
- health risk assessments
- additional Blue Cross Blue Shield on-site employee
- disease management programs
- Health Clinic - build out construction (\$318,000); staffing, start up costs, supplies, etc (\$1.5 million)
 - Contract with Healthstat; their employee costs processed through the district

Item 4

4. [9:40 - 9:55 AM Update on Special Policy Concern](#)

Attachment: [Report of Special Committee 3-20-12 WS.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Don Wilson, Attorney with Boswell and Dunlap, along with district Employee Relations' staff, Jose Farinas and Manny Rodriguez, reported on the district's policy that prohibits employment of persons with felony arrests. After a review of 19 Florida counties' practices, it was recommended the district uphold the current policy. Hillsborough, Duval, Orange, and Lake Counties also have the same policy.

Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Fields asked how this recommendation will affect hiring minorities and avoiding any issues with USF Polytechnic's Project Pride. Mr. Wilson reported that it would be the University's responsibility to screen applicants before enrolling them in the program. He stated that Polk

State College does a criminal background check before admitting students to the nursing program.

Mr. Harris questioned hiring persons with DUI or domestic abuse convictions.

Item 5

5. [9:55 - 10:10 AM BREAK](#)

Item 6

6. [10:10 - 11:00 AM Conversion Charter Discussion](#)

Attachment: [Harrison-E.pdf](#)

Attachment: [WS 3 20 12-Conversion Charter Discussion.pdf](#)

Minutes:

David Lewis, Associate Superintendent, and Carolyn Bridges, Senior Director of Magnet, Choice and Charter, provided data on the process for conversion charters.

- conversion charters must serve their current population
- employees of conversion charters may remain members of the Florida Retirement System (FRS)
- District is responsible for maintaining the facilities' ESRA compliance
- no facility rental or leasing fee can be charged for the buildings
- a written request from two parents/teachers starts the charter ballot process
- official ballot is created and distributed by the school
- parent (simple majority); teacher (51% majority)
 - each household receives 1 ballot (enrolling parent) regardless of number of students in the household
- charter application must follow in the next filing period after vote; it cannot be delayed multiple years

A discussion followed on the Lois Cowles Harrison Center for the Visual and Performing Arts and Lakeland High School.

Superintendent John Stewart established a Gifted Education Task Force in 1985 and came up with the concept of a Fine Arts High School. It was decided to place the Fine Arts program at Lakeland High School because of the planned renovations there and for the access to Lakeland's Polk Museum of Art. Enrollment began in the fall of 1989.

In 2007, Chancellor Cheri Yecki notified Superintendent Gail McKinzie that Harrison did not meet state requirements as a stand alone school. Their school identification number would be eliminated and the

program would be reporting through Lakeland High School. In 2010, extensive renovations and facility enhancements to increase student capacity and programmatic opportunities at a cost of \$17.5 million were completed. Subsequent letters from both Superintendents McKinzie and Nickell requesting Harrison's number to be reinstated were denied by the Department of Education.

Questions

- what strategies do we have to discourage schools to file for conversion charter
 - Legislative language is conducive for schools to consider charter status. i.e. class size mandates, teacher evaluations, enrollment cap, etc.
- who is providing the leadership for this movement
 - local resident very vocal on successful charters: both conversion and start up
 - community conversations
- why are we seeing aggressive charter movement when other districts are not
 - Polk County was first in state for conversion charter (McKeel)
 - infrastructure exists in Polk to replicate that program
 - charters in Polk received unique legislative support as compared to other districts
- what are we doing to ensure that services to students in Magnet and Choice programs will not be diminished

Information

Item 7

7. [District Mobile Device Standard](#)

Attachment: [12 - Mobile Device Standard Work Session Summary.pdf](#)

Item 8

8. [Diplomas for Virtual Students](#)

Attachment: [Polk District Diploma.pdf](#)

Item 9

9. [Quarterly Investment Portfolio Performance Report](#)

Attachment: [POLK 4QTR 2011 COMPLETE.pdf](#)

Item 10

10. [Changes to the Exceptional Student Education Policies and Procedures \(SP&P\)](#)

- Attachment: [October 2011 SP&P \(Polk\) 5 of 6.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [October 2011 SP&P \(Polk\) 2 of 6.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [October 2011 SP&P \(Polk\) 4 of 6.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [Board Summary of SPP changes April 2012.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [October 2011 SP&P \(Polk\) 3 of 6.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [October 2011 SP&P \(Polk\) 6 of 6.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [October 2011 SP&P \(Polk\) 1 of 6.pdf](#)

Item 11

11. [Adult Education and Family Literacy – Adult General Education Grant Application \(Continuation\)](#)

- Attachment: [AGE - School Board Summary Form 2012-13.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [AGE - BUDGET IMPACT ANALYSIS 2012-13.pdf](#)

Item 12

12. [Adult Education and Family Literacy – English Literacy/Civics Education \(Continuation\)](#)

- Attachment: [EL Civics - BUDGET IMPACT ANALYSIS 2012-13.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [EL Civics - School Board Summary Form 2012-13.pdf](#)

Item 13

13. [Head Start Community Assessment Review and monthly reports](#)

- Attachment: [11HSA BUDGET report Policy Council Mtg 01-31-2012.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [FLDOE VPK RR STATE WIDE DATA 2010-2011.pdf](#)
- Attachment: [March 2012 Board Executive Summary.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Matti Friedt reported that 93% of Polk's VPK schools met or surpasses the state cut scores - 20 schools scored at 100% and 5 schools were below the cut score (1 was a charter school provider).

Currently, only 3000-4000 students are being served county-wide through the VPK programs. There are over 1000 names on the waiting list for our VPK sites.

Adjournment

Work Session adjourned at 12:25 PM. Minutes were approved and attested this 10th day of April, 2012.

Hazel Sellers, Board Chair

Sherrie B. Nickell, Ed. D, Superintendent