

03 24 2015 Work Session 12 30 PM

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

A. New Business

1. [12:30 - 12:40 PM Board Comments](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. Cunningham requested the May 26th Board meetings be changed to a 8:30 AM Work Session and 1:30 PM Board Meeting. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to swap meeting times with the May 12th meeting; which will now be a 12:30 PM Work Session and 5:00 School Board meeting.

Mr. Berryman announced that Mr. Harris was nominated as the President Elect of the Florida School Boards Association.

Mr. Berryman was able to meet with several Legislators and believes they are receptive to some of our capital needs. He commented that the Polk County Commission will vote on Impact Fees at their public hearing on April 7th.

Mr. Mullenax announced that the Charter Review Committee needs a Community appointee from the School Board. He suggested nominees be submitted using a district rotation beginning with District 1. The Board agreed. Mr. Berryman will submit possible candidates to Pat McManus, Executive Assistant to the School Board.

The Board Members received a copy of the schools' internal account audits with finding of several athletic accounts in the red (ranging from \$500 to \$65,000). Mrs. Sellers asked if there is a way to stop schools from increasing the debt. Mrs. LeRoy responded that she will discuss consequences with the Regional Assistant Superintendents.

B. Board Agenda Review

2. [12:40 - 12:50 Review the March 24 2015 School Board Agenda](#)

Attachment: [03 24 2015 School Board Agenda.pdf](#)

Minutes:

C- 6: March 10, 2015 Work Session Minutes

Mr. Wilson questioned the impact fee percentage comments made by Mr. Berryman and himself. He believes it was 42% rather than 45%.

C-29: Donation of \$405,430.39 Donation to Fort Meade Middle/Senior

Mr. Berryman asked who would administer the funds. School Board Attorney Wes Bridges reported that several committees were created to oversee any expenditures. The funds are in a separate account (not a part of the general funds) and will have separate oversight committees to ensure the funds are spent according to the wishes of the Trust.

R-45 - Agile Minds Purchase (\$801,600)

Mrs. LeRoy reported this highly successful Intensified Algebra program has been used nation-wide and it will help our 9th Grade Level 1s and 2s. After the summer retake data showed huge improvements, she felt more students would benefit from the program.

R-46: State Board of Education's Final Order for Discovery High School Appeal

Mr. Berryman asked if, in the future, the School Board can be approached before staff goes to Tallahassee on an appeal.

Mr. Bridges responded that going forward that could be established. The School Board denied the application; the applicant appealed to the State as is the process.

Mrs. Cunningham questioned why the State denied our ruling when the concern was that the budget did not seem sufficient to fund both schools: using their teachers, facilities, and lunch program to subsidize the new school. Mr. Harris asked if the conversion charter is placing a start up charter school on our property. Mr. Bridges believes they have purchased property or are in the process of doing so.

Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Cunningham asked what would happen if the School District appeals the State's ruling. Mr. Bridges responded that if the record is reviewed in its entirety there is a likelihood of success. Mr. Berryman questioned the evidence denied during the appeal. Mr. Bridges reported there was a reference to the SPAR report that was not included as evidence; but, the district's concern was on the budget not the qualification of teachers (SPAR).

3. [12:50 - 1:00 PM BREAK](#)

C. Information

Item 4

4. [Investment Performance Report As of December 31, 2014](#)

Attachment: [POLK_2015 Complete.pdf](#)

Minutes: As of December 31, 2014 our total investments were \$179,798,122.30. Total interest earned July through December was \$297,512.23 which will be new revenue added to the fund balance.

Item 5

5. [Head Start Grant Monthly Services Report](#)

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

Attachment: [Head Start Grant Monthly Service Summary- Feb 2015.pdf](#)

Attachment: [2014 HS Self Assessment Report final.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Head Start Financial Report as of 01-31-2015 - Preliminary.pdf](#)

D. Discussion

Item 6

6. [1:00 - 1:30 PM 'Just In Time' Opportunities for Success on the End of Course Exams](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. LeRoy reported that the district has launched an extensive support program of resources and practice items on the End of Course Exams for students and parents. Subjects covered are Algebra 1, Biology, Civics, US History, Algebra 2, and Geometry. Tutoring videos that will mirror classroom instruction....a one stop shop on our website.

Mrs. Sellers and Mrs. Fields requested the information be made available to non-profit organizations and community centers. Mrs. Jacqueline Bowen, Associate Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer, reported the program is available thru the district's website.

There will also be face-to-face Algebra 1 and Biology Boot Camp sessions on April 11th and 18th at Winter Haven Senior and Lakeland Senior.

Item 7

7. [1:30 - 2:20 PM Federal Funding Update](#)

Minutes:

Superintendent LeRoy provided information on the use of Title I budgets over the past three years.

Mr. Berryman inquired about next year's roll forward dollars. Mrs. LeRoy reported it is projected to be \$4,000,000.00 (conservatively).

Mr. Harris asked how the district monitors the different grant expenditures if the federal dollars are combined. Mike Perrone, Chief Financial Officer, and Jacqueline Bowen, Chief Academic Officer reported that the District's SAP program is able to report the financial data and district staff (Grants, Title I, Title II, etc.) monitor the requirements of the various grants. Mrs. LeRoy reported the main issue is to ensure that we use the dollars to support programs; not supplant.

Mr. Berryman asked for the total Title dollars received. Mr. Perrone believes it is between \$42-43 million.

Item 8

8. [2:20 - 2:30 PM Create New Position to Support Reorganization of Federal Programs](#)

Attachment: [Sr Dir Fed Programs - 3-24-15 WS.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Superintendent LeRoy proposed consolidating the isolated program silos to one umbrella with a Senior Director position to oversee all federal dollars for better leveraging power (Title I, II, III, IDEA, SAI, K-12 Reading, Grants, etc.). The position will require an extensive background in Title dollars and grant management. They will report to the Chief Academic Officer and Assistant Superintendent of Learning Support.

Item 9

9. [2:30 - 3:10 PM Review of Recommendations by End of Year Exam Committee](#)

Attachment: [EOY Committee Recommendations and Discussion.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. LeRoy reported that last year the State passed legislation that required assessments be created for all courses in grades K-12. A committee

comprised of principals, teachers, and district staff was established to develop a plan to implement the assessments. Currently, Senator Legg has an accountability bill moving through the process that will remove this requirement.

Heather Wright, Senior Director of Assessment, Accountability and Evaluation, reported that there are two bills currently moving through the legislature that eliminate the K-12 course assessment requirement in Statute 10028.22; but they do require districts to measure student learning gains in courses that are used for teacher evaluation purposes. The committee tried hard to mitigate the impact on students.

Committee recommendations (given the limited resources and time lines):

- Prioritize courses based on total student enrollment in course
- The Assessment, Accountability, and Evaluation Department will develop guidelines for school administrators to assess teacher-selected or principal-selected assessments in courses not used for teacher evaluations.
- To fulfill State EOC, the District will use existing assessment for courses assessed by an AP/IB exam, State Assessment, or Industry Certification exam.
- Require students who do not take the existing assessment for AP/IB, State Assessment or Industry Certificate Exam to take an alternate teacher or District developed EOY exam.
- Teachers will be given the option to serve as test blueprint developers or reviewers, test item writers or reviewers for District developed EOY assessments.
- All District developed EOY test forms will be created by District-level staff, non-load bearing staff, and/or qualified teachers who are not currently teaching the course.
- District and teacher developed EOY assessments will be administered in the District assessment platform.

Ms. Wright reported that the District currently offers over 1,100 unique courses.

Mr. Harris asked if this will meet State approval. Ms. Wright is confident the recommendations will meet State requirements and approval.

Mr. Berryman asked out of the 1,100 courses how many EOY assessments will we have. Ms. Wright responded approximately 440.

She will incorporate the information and requirements into a Board policy based on the requirements of the Statute.

Item 10

10. [3:10 - 3:20 PM State Board of Education's Final Order for Discovery High School Appeal](#)

Attachment: [Discovery High School FOI.pdf](#)

Attachment: [BM-Summary 3.24.15.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Wilson asked for a copy of the budget that was submitted as part of the original application. Melissa Brady, Director of Charter Schools, provided him with a copy.

Item 11

11. [3:20 - 3:50 PM Ridgeview Global Studies Academy](#)

Attachment: [RGSA Email Correspondence with FLDOE.pdf](#)

Attachment: [RGSA Aerial View of Proposed Site.pdf](#)

Attachment: [RGSA Proposal.pdf](#)

Minutes:

School Board Attorney Wes Bridges recapped the request of Ralph Frier, Executive Director of Ridgeview Global, that we sell them a portion of the land where the conversion charter school sits to allow him to build a new start up charter school. Mr. Frier had provided correspondence from DOE that will provide him capital outlay funds should the district agree to sell the property.

The request creates several issues:

- By State Statute, School Districts can only dispose of real property through a resolution and it has to be of no further educational value to the District. This is tricky because an active school currently sits on the property; and, if it is sold, a school is to be built on the same property. Diligent measures are to be taken to dispose of educational properties only in the best interest of the public.
- Leasing them the property will hinder their financing and funding from the State.
- The Statute will not allow us to charge rent or lease payments to a conversion charter school, parents, and teachers for property inventoried to the conversion charter school.

Mrs. Sellers asked if the District can lease to the start-up charter school. Mr. Bridges responded the problem is that they haven't submitted an application for a start-up charter school. He stated that the Department of Education is creating a legal fiction where a conversion charter school is being treated as a start up charter.

He made the Board aware that, if the request is approved, it is likely there are other entities in Polk County that are watching and waiting to see if we are giving away property so they can access any of our other properties; not just other charter schools but outside interest groups.

It has been suggested that we transfer ownership for a nominal amount and the property will revert back to the School District should the school close. However, disposing for a nominal fee of \$1 is harder to justify as being in the best interest of the public rather than at the current market value or the amount we paid for it originally. Mr. Bridges stated there are many legal issues and politics involved.

Mr. Rivers stated that the 34 acre parcel was purchased at a cost of \$46,674 per acre; a total of \$1.6 million. Mr. Frier is asking for 14 acres; however he may be unaware that not all of the land can be used for buildings. A portion of the 14 acres is part of the original construction site and permitted water retention areas through the Southwest Water Management District.

Mr. Mullenax commented he will not support a nominal fee offer when tax payer dollars purchased the property to address our overcrowding.

Mr. Harris commented that the letter indicates they plan to occupy the new building in 2016-2017 school year: the same year we will be opening a K-8 school in that area. Why would we supplement a competitor across the street? It would not be fiduciary prudent to do so.

Mr. Wilson commented the District could retain remainder interest in the property which is an established real estate practice.

Mrs. Cunningham asked what if we give them the use of the land. Mr. Bridges responded the difficulty is DOE funding is tied to their ownership of the property.

Mr. Harris spoke on the aerial picture and proposed land usage. He asked where would they place physical education facilities to handle the new secondary school. Mr. Rivers responded that was a concern with the original proposal. The additional 500 students places the school at 163% of the design capacity for the core facilities where the play fields, cafetorium, and media center are geared more for the elementary students. Mr. Bridges stated he believes the proposal is for a hybrid campus: part to be directly owned by the District and part by a start up charter.

Mr. Harris suggested a needs assessment be addressed after we build our K-8 facility.

Mrs. Fields suggested it be determined how much acreage can be used; then, determine the value of the property. She agreed that it should not be for a nominal fee. Mrs. Fields suggested Mr. Rivers and Mr. Bridges meet with Mr. Frier to work on the issues.

Mr. Wilson is confident the remainder interest can be sold for a nominal fee because we are educating the kids of Polk County.

Mr. Mullenax cautioned that a precedent will be established.

Mr. Berryman believes that going forward there will be a capacity constraint in that area. He would sell it for \$1 and if it sets a precedent we can address it.

Mrs. Cunningham would like to know the five year projection for that area.

Mr. Bridges reminded the Board that there are several charter bills before the legislators that include millions of capital outlay dollars to be sequestered for charter schools and charter school management companies.

Mrs. Sellers asked if Mr. Rivers would verify that the State is agreeable to fund a hybrid school.

Mr. Bridges and Mr. Rivers are to return with options after they meet with Mr. Frier.

E. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:32 PM. Minutes were approved and attested this 14th day of April, 2015.

Dick Mullenax, Board Chair

Kathryn M. LeRoy, Superintendent