

04 09 2019 Work Session 9 00 AM

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item 1

1. [9:00 - 9:20 AM ESE Budget Overview](#)

Attachment: [ESE Budget Overview \(Work Session April 9, 2019\).pdf](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Kimberly Steinke, Assistant Superintendent Learning Support, and Jason Pitts, Senior Director of Finance, presented an overview of the ESE (Exceptional Student Education) budget.

Dr. Steinke reported there are separate funding sources for each program such as ESE, Student Services, Behavior, and Mental Health; however, some overlap in certain areas.

Local Funding: \$78 million for personnel; includes approximately 2000 staff members: teachers, paras, LPN's etc. Contracted services for students with disabilities also comes from this funding and we can request for Medicaid reimbursement. Each fund also has operational requirements for general operations and travel. Local instructional materials funds (\$4,013,000) are for students with disabilities, which is used for the modified standards for our students.

Federal Funding: SEDNET is a discretionary grant from the state which is shared with Highlands and Hardee County. Terry Crace, Senior Manager, and her secretary are funded out of SEDNET and split funded with the IDEA grant. Any training, resources, or supports for more severely emotional students come from the SEDNET for all three districts.

FDLRS grant is regionally-based and covers Highlands and Hardee County. Dr. Poinsetta Tillman is the Senior Manager for this area. FDLRS is allocated for PreK and for general funding and contains monies for personnel and professional development. Most federal grants have indirect costs which

makes up a huge portion of the funds.

The State Personnel Development Grant (\$50,000) received from Florida Gulf Coast University is to provide professional development for teachers in mentoring and learning strategies. Tenoroc, Lake Gibson, Lake Region, and Roosevelt are currently participating in this grant. We hope to include middle schools next year.

The IDEA Federal Grant (\$25 million) is based on population of students with disabilities. This grant covers support personnel such as our district administrators, student specific paras, specialized nurses, LEA facilitators. Classroom-based teachers and paras are not covered. There is a charter school allocation based on the number of students. That amount is divided among all charter schools. The state dictates the amount of \$829,000 to go to private schools for tutoring, speech and language.

IDEA gives us a separate allocation for PreK support personnel, district staff providing evaluations for students, contracts with behavior support companies and operations and indirect costs.

Mrs. Fields would like to have the percentages by category of the funds, personnel, and information on PreK students.

Mrs. Miller would like information on the services and travel funded by the contracts. Dr. Steinke will provide her a list of the current contracts but is in the process of drafting new contracts for the coming year which will be on the upcoming board agendas. Travel reimbursement is for in-county travel.

We currently have 171 student specific paras including 33 LPNs. Mr. Wilson would like to know the dollar value of these positions.

Item 2

[2. 9:20 - 9:50 AM Charter Review Team's Recommendation to Superintendent on Charter Applications Received February 1, 2019](#)

Attachment: [WS Summary CRT Recommendations.pdf](#)

Attachment: [2019 American Classical Charter Academy Evaluation FINAL POLK.pdf](#)

Attachment: [2019 BridgePrep of Polk Evaluation FINAL POLKdoc.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Candy Amato, Acting Director Charter Schools and Carolyn Bridges, Senior Director of Acceleration and Innovation, along Vicki Mace, a charter consultant, provided information on the Charter Review Committee's recommendations.

- American Classical
- BridgePrep Academy of Polk County

American Classical Charter- Recommendation to Deny

Concerns:

- The applicant failed to provide a clear description of what children they intend to serve.
- Stated that it had open enrollment but wanted the public to know repeatedly that they were not a reform school or an academic recovery school.
- Provided inappropriate provisions to enrollment preference.
- Didn't provide a detailed plan for the educational program but had outdated research to support the proposed educational program.
- There is conflicting language in the narrative. We are not convinced that they gave enough detail on ratio of ethnic balance. The applicant confirmed that they didn't gather enough evidence.
- They don't have a desired location for the school.
- Will not be providing transportation nor do they have a budget for transportation.
- They don't have an adequate budget and failed to present a realistic assessment of revenue and expenses.

BridgePrep Academy - Recommendation to Deny

- There were numerous cut and paste in the application and other issues that have negative impacts to the application.
- Transportation fails to have evidence in reviewing budget for transporting children.
- In 2005 BridgePrep gave money to 6 schools which was paid back in 2016. A letter was provided from an auditor from Miami asking for legal council on this matter. You cannot transfer money from one school to another out of county.
- No confirmation on where they plan to locate.

Mr. Townsend stated that Mr. Arza is a very well known and well financed advocate for BridgPrep. The public should know that there are very strong forces behind this school.

Mrs. Cunningham asked if the areas in the contract with major issues are typical. She would like more detail on how their other schools performed. We need a school in the northeast area of the county.

Mrs. Miller commented that Mr. Arza said that location isn't a reason for dismissal by the State Board. She is also concerned of who will be part of the school's board of directors in order to have local interest.

Ms. Fortney stated that charter schools that are for profit play by a different set of rules than traditional schools. Our website makes it seem like these schools are a more innovative option for students.

Mrs. Bridges suggested the Charter Applicant provide a letter of commitment to the Board that they intent to build the school on the east side of the county.

Mr. Wilson concurred.

Item 3

3. [9:20 - 10:20 AM Budget Update](#)

Minutes:

Michael Perrone, Associate Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer , along with Jason Pitts, Senior Director of Finance, provided budget updates.

Mr. Pitts explained

- the governor's FTE budget line has about 900 fewer students which may not include DOE's updates.
- the House has proposed a .34 cent increase in the base student allocation. This budget and the Senate's budget decreases our DCD from .9708 to .9700 which leaves us a \$33.83 increase in the base student allocation. The House budget has a decrease in Safe Schools allocation and an increase in Mental Health. The other categorical are similar.
- The House Budget has an increase of \$18.7 million (an 1.18% increase per FTE funding)
- Senate budget has increased the base student allocation to \$149.40 and when applying our DCD, it gives an increase of \$141.56 in the base student allocation which is the largest increases in a few years.
- A new column was added for Turnaround Supplemental Services allocations which is for Community Schools and other turnaround services.
- Safe schools and Mental Health were increased by \$3 million.

Mr. Townsend asked if we are able to count the compression allocation.

Ms. Reynolds stated that Senator Stargel has a bill to cause the compression allocation to be reoccurring; but, until that time, we should not rely on that funding.

INFORMATION ITEMS

BOARD AGENDA REVIEW

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

4. [FSBA Master Board Training](#)

Attachment: [Master Board Program.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Wilson stated that a date is needed for Master Board training.

Mrs. Worbington was asked by Mr. Wilson to contact FSBA for a summary of their last meeting.

Mr. Townsend would like to establish ground rules on audits and how to interact with leadership and staff. He plans to work thru this issue at Master Board and hopes to clarify what is acceptable.

Ms. Fortney agrees to follow ups and goals to see if they have met or will work on meeting them.

Mrs. Byrd stated that it would be best to get dates in July after the graduations. Mrs. Fields agrees.

Mr. Wilson stated that Mr. Townsend has two resolutions he would like presented. One is for the Board to express their preference of raises over bonuses as compensation for employees. The second resolution is for the safety concerns of private schools.

Mrs. Fields stated these aren't items on the agenda so she could not speak on them. Mrs. Miller stated that there is a state push about salaries over bonus.

5. [2019/2020 Proposed Board Meeting Dates](#)

Attachment: [Proposed Board Meeting Dates \(2\).pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. Byrd stated that the April dates will flip due to graduations beginning on the 29th of April.

Ms. Fortney would like work sessions to begin at 9 AM and the board meetings to begin after 5:00 PM. She commented this would help those teachers that don't get off until after 4:00 PM and for those that come from northeast Polk County that can't make it here by 5 PM. Mr. Wilson asked if 6:00 PM was ok. Ms. Fortney and Mr. Townsend both agreed on 6 PM.

Ms. Fortney inquired about board meetings being held twice a month. Mr. Wilson asked Mrs. Cunningham and Mrs. Fields to weigh in on this matter about why it was changed to one meeting a month.

Mrs. Fields reported that one board meeting per month is sufficient to cover all items. Two work sessions a month were kept to process the information as needed and to lighten the duties and burden placed on staff. Mrs. Cunningham agreed and said that one board meeting a month was discussed due to the burden that is placed on staff along

with their daily duties. She feels that once a month is more than sufficient.

Mrs. Miller asked about having more discipline meetings; they are being dragged out and it may be an issue. She asked if they can be addressed during a work session. Mr. Bridges stated that it has to be a board meeting because official action is being taken.

Mr. Wilson stated if there is a discipline emergency it can be taken care as needed by calling an emergency meeting and a notice has to go out.

Member Comments:

Mrs. Miller stated that Mr. Hill is working on behavior crisis program. She feels that a presentation to the Board addressing discipline would be best.

Mr. Townsend asked that anytime that there is a repeat allegation of an issue such as sexual harassment, etc., the Superintendent should be notified.

Ms. Reynolds stated that there is a concern about the pop-up schools. Senator Stargel is aware and is pushing this bill.

Mrs. Porteous stated employee discipline is being tracked. They work with DCF and local police to determine if allegations are substantiated and then discipline takes place.

Meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m. Minutes approved and attested this 23rd day of April 2019.

Lynn Wilson, Board Chair

Jacqueline M. Byrd, Superintendent