

08 13 2013 Work Session 8 30 AM

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New Business

1. [8:30 - 8:45 AM Board Comments](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. Cunningham reminded the Board of an earlier conversation to increase the number of community members on the Charter Review Committee. Mrs. Sellers responded that at the time, it was thought that the final version of the NEOLA updates would be submitted for approval by July 1st. Since the presentation has been postponed, the Board could consider waiving the current policy to increase the community membership. The final policies should be submitted to the Board in September.

Consensus was to waive the policy and request approval of the two nominees, Shawn Jiles and Jane Butler. Mrs. Fields requested that the two individuals be contacted to see if they are still willing to serve on the committee.

The final version of the revised policies should be submitted for Board approval in September.

Board Agenda Review

2. [8:45 - 9:15 AM Review August 13, 2013 School Board Agenda](#)

Attachment: [08 13 2013 School Board Agenda.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Discussion

Item 3

3. [9:15 - 9:30 AM Budget Update](#)

Attachment: [LCI Presentation.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mike Perrone, (Financial Consultant) and Greg Rivers, Acting Associate Superintendent of Operations, provided a 2013 fiscal update.

Mr. Perrone stated the final fund balance for 2012-2013 is 3.66% not the 3.72% reported last week. The main difference was due to an increase in Reserves for Grants and Restricted Programs (a roll forward increase of instructional materials - \$757,643.00). He distributed a color chart comparing the 3% state mandated fund balance amount, the 5% Board policy, our actual, and our projected ending fund balances for the next several years. At the end of 2013-14, it is projected to have a \$24,143,000 fund balance. We have to hold all else constant if we hope to meet the 5% goal in 2013-2014.

Mrs. Sellers commented that the visual chart brings the financial situation to the forefront. Mr. Mullenax asked when changes will be made to decrease the costs. Superintendent LeRoy responded that the Functional Financial Review Committee will begin meeting monthly right after school starts. We are waiting for possible community names from the Board. We are looking at:

- unit allocation staffing models that will not negatively impact schools but would return unspent funds
- looking closely at contracts
- lapse salaries
- categorical shifts

and will bring monthly projection reports to the Board.

Mr. Rivers provided an update on the LCI (Local Capital Improvement) funds. Over the last five years, based on the tentative budgets, our revenue generated has been approximately \$37 million and our debt service has been approximately \$20 million. (It is not going away anytime soon; it is based on certificates of participation and QSAB bonds.) That leaves approximately \$17 million available for LCI needs (maintenance salaries, school bus purchases, security systems, school furnishings, equipment upgrades and replacements, minor repairs and renovations, and technology upgrades and purchases). The total between our distributions and debt service exceeds our revenue. We have been existing on our carry forward funds which may only last one more year.

This will be an ongoing presentation along with the budget projections. The LCI information will be included with the budget chart.

Mrs. LeRoy commented that the problem is statewide and districts' delegations are requesting the legislature to increase the millage rate from the current 1.5 mills to 2 mills.

Mrs. Fields asked if a plan is in place to determine the priority use of the remaining funds and who will receive them. Mr. Rivers responded that every need is critical but staff is working on a priority plan for next year. These projections are worst case scenario if there are no increases to the property base.

Mr. Harris emphasized the need to lobby legislators to reinstate the millage rate as it was before they mandated a half mill to be used for operations.

Mr. Berryman inquired what dollar amount equals a millage. Mr. Perrone stated that it is approximately \$12 million.

Mrs. Cunningham asked if it was possible to renegotiate our debt service. Mr. Perrone stated the he has been told that may not be an option but he will discuss it with Jerry Ford when he returns in 10 days. Mr. Harris stated another question would be how soon it can be paid off. Mr. Rivers responded the bond is through 2027.

Item 4

4. [9:30 - 9:45 AM SBAR \(Elementary\) Report Card](#)

Attachment: [3 - Julie 7a School Board Report Card.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Abdu Taguri, Assistant Superintendent of Information Services and Technology, presented the final draft of the elementary report card (SBAR) that is more in line with the Common Core standards and easier for parents to understand.

Mr. Harris voiced several concerns:

- It does not seem applicable for Kindergartens (subjects such as Dance and Drama)
 - Mr. Ray responded that line is for the specialized schools that offer those subjects; all others will have the information blacked out.
- Where would teachers request a parent conference
 - The electronic version has a drop down box for teachers

comments. An electronic report card has been used for several years.

- Where would teacher mark 'possible retention'
 - That also is under the teacher comments
- Using two letter grades is confusing (A,B,C,D, F) and (E,G,S,N)
- Listing Modified standards is also confusing
 - It is for students with modified curriculum (ESE and ESOL).

It was noted that a committee of teachers (K-5), parents, and curriculum staff met and drafted the proposed report card.

Mrs. LeRoy will recommend that every school have a report card presentation at their Open House. She offered to have an electronic version be presented at the next work session.

Board Consensus was to go forward with committee recommendations. No additional presentation is needed.

Item 5

5. [9:45 - 10:00 AM Legal Services Fees Update](#)

Attachment: [Legal Fee Comparison Year Ended 2013.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Legal Fees Breakdown 2011-2012.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Legal Fees Breakdown 2010-2011.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Legal Fees Breakdown 2012-2013.pdf](#)

Attachment: [FinanceReport_legalservices_2012-13.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Wes Bridges, School Board Attorney, distributed additional information that had been requested over the weekend by a board member.

He spoke on the cost of legal services over the past few years. Mrs. Cunningham commented that 2012-2013 figures tripled. Mr. Bridges reported when the Board decided the legal services for charters would be outsourced no budget accounts were established so the fees were charged to his department. The legal fees of the union impasse were also charged to his budget (over \$60,000). Also, employee and student discipline cases are charged to his budget.

Mr. Mullenax asked if anyone else is being considered for the hearing officer role. Mr. Bridges stated that it is under consideration.

Mrs. Wright asked about the charter school fees. Mr. Bridges responded there are several different charter issues: review of applications, negotiation of contracts, litigation of denials, and lawsuits.

Mr. Berryman stated he was expecting a summary of the total legal fees of the district; and the operating expenses of the legal department. He also asked for

a continuation of the discussion whether to utilize a consultant to review our legal services and proper usage of the department.

Item 6

6. [10:00 - 10:10 AM Break](#)

Item 7

7. ~~10:10 - 10:25 AM School Bus Manufacturer Comparison and Purchase~~

~~Attachment: Executive Summary Bus Manufacture Comparison final.pdf~~

~~Attachment: Bus Manufacturer Comparison Final.pdf~~

Item 8

8. [10:25 - 11:00 AM 2013 Charter Applicant Presentations](#)

Attachment: [0 WS 2013 Applicant Presentations 8 13 13.pdf](#)

Attachment: [2 2013 Chart of Applications Received 8 1 13.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Brian Warren, Director of the Charter Department, reported that one of the five applicants withdrew their application: Brilliant Minds Montessori. Each remaining applicant will be allowed 10 minutes for an oral presentation.

- CLEAR Charter School (Career Learning Exploration and Academic Readiness)
 - to serve at-risk students by providing individual attention and curriculum development
 - attract students from low performing schools or are not performing academically at their home school; may have some behavioral issues or perform better with small group instruction or need hands-on learning
 - Serve 198 students in PreK - 5 the first year, adding 6-8 in subsequent years
- Career Exploration focus at the elementary level
- Pearson materials for core curriculum
- Five academies: Business Law, Health, Early Childhood, Education, Media and Technology
- No food or transportation budgets have been included (used 2013-14 FEEP calculations for the first three years)
- Looking at two sites - Lakeland (Griffin Elementary area) and Winter Haven

Mrs. Sellers noted there are two different opening numbers and the demographics do not match the district's. RESPONSE: The budget was

developed on both numbers to be conservative; the demographic information came from the census bureau.

Mr. Warren clarified that the application presented today is the document and data to be used going forward; it is not a document for revisions.

Mrs. Fields asked why apply to Polk County and if this is their first application. RESPONSE: It is the first. Mrs. Randolph stated she was employed in Polk County and heard the concerns of the community leaders and students.

Mr. Harris asked:

- How will PreK be funded? RESPONSE: It is VPK and they are looking for state funding.
- How does this application differ from Drop Back In? RESPONSE: She was employed at DBI and it is completely different.
- Why not apply in your home county of Orange County rather than Polk? RESPONSE: Founding board members are in Orlando and did not want the appearance of conflict of interest with their duties with the Alternative Unlimited program there.
- Where is the needs assessment? What evaluation was done to show the need for the program? RESPONSE: As the former Executive Director for DBI, she saw needs across the county in areas of social skills, career development, and focus of physical and social skills. A needs assessment is not a requirement of the application. Her intent is to offer a career exploration element at the elementary level which Polk County does not.

Mr. Mullenax stated there is confusion as to how students are selected to attend and the use of ESPs (Education Service Providers). It one area it states the use of an ESP and later in the application it says ESPs are not being used. RESPONSE: Open enrollment to be used initially; then a lottery to fill vacant seats. Consultants, not ESPs, will be used.

Mrs. Wright is concerned that the Career Exploration component is a trial run for elementary students- our most neediest students. How will that improve the academic status of the at risk student? RESPONSE: Career Exploration is tied to academics, rigor, relevant and relational aspects by installing values in the students at an early age to learn at their own pace. It is using research data based on a Georgia model.

Mrs. Cunningham stated the application appears to be a Drop Back In program for elementary students. The data is based on a high school but is aimed for elementary students. How do you determine high risk at the elementary level? What are you using as an assessment? How will you recruit K-2? RESPONSE: Assessments will be made after students enroll to know their particular needs. Hoping for referrals from other schools which will include academic placement information.

- Golden Gate Scientific Leadership Academy

- o Will be a grade 6-8 program for all Level I and II students of Polk County
- o Focus is to have a structured discipline education for all students through economics and military science curriculum
- o The academy will expand the school day, offer Saturday classes, and summer school to assist students

Mrs. Sellers commented that a major issue will be providing county-wide transportation and using parent volunteers as crossing guards for the neediest students. RESPONSE: Dr. Wilcox responded that the proposal is to use a bus certified by the district and crossing guards certified by the Sheriff's department at three areas located near the school.

Mr. Mullenax stated he did not see a budget geared for science in the application. It is the most expensive area to build and maintain. The academy's name implies a focus on science but the application does not.

Mrs. Cunningham commented on the use of Just Read Florida as the curriculum. It is not a curriculum. RESPONSE: Buckle Down Florida will be used. Mrs. Wright noted that is a test prep program, not curriculum.

Mr. Harris asked if the academy envisions their students feeding into Summerlin Academy? RESPONSE: That is the vision but it was not addressed in the application.

Mrs. Fields inquired about the proposed site and the amount set aside for minor repairs. RESPONSE: One site selected is Without Walls in Lakeland with a budget of \$6,000 for minor renovations. It will be the landlord's responsibility to make it rental ready. A second facility being considered would also require the landlord to have it rental ready.

- Polk Academy of Math and Science
 - o Charter School Associates as the Governing Board
 - o Site specific location: 745 Lake Miriam Drive across from Lakeland Highlands Middle school
 - o CSA operates several sites in Hillsborough County that have been enrolling Polk County students and the parents requested the program be replicated here
 - o Open with 490 students in K-7 for year one and increasing to 910 students in K-8 by year 5
 - o Targeting students interested in a math/science engineering program
 - o Will provide contracted bus transportation
 - o Replicating a Valrico Charter school (a high performing school)

Mrs. Sellers noted a statement in the application where students have the option to drive themselves - K-8 school students don't drive. Also the site chosen is not conducive to creating a diverse student body if the bus service is to be within the four mile radius. There is already a K- 8 charter school targeting this area. RESPONSE: The charter would be open to all students

of Polk County and diversity can be achieved through marketing county-wide; media, direct mail, parent informational meetings, etc.

Mr. Berryman asked what percentage would the management company receive. RESPONSE: A fixed 9% fee of the net FEFP for the operations of the school but that would not include other funding resources (before and after school care, grants, etc.).

- Polk Maritime Academy
 - Replicating a charter that has been in existence since 1999; not as a high performing charter
 - Opening with 695 students and increase to 860 in years 2-5.
 - Possible location on Lake Gibson at 777 Carpenters' Way
 - Engage students in maritime experiences through all classroom activities
 - Serve Lakeland area that will represent a diverse population.
 - Provide transportation through an outside contract.

Mr. Berryman asked what percentage would the management company (EDY) receive? RESPONSE: The cap for the management company is 9%, but 7% was budgeted for the 5 years.

Mrs. Sellers noted that the application has an option for students to drive to school; K-8 students do not drive. RESPONSE: Not sure why that is included because sufficient transportation funds have been provided in the budget.

Mrs. Cunningham commented it would make more sense if the school located in a coastal community. RESPONSE: Desire is to develop an interest in marine life and the aquatic environments of Florida.

Mr. Harris and Mr. Mullenax voiced concerns of locating inland for a maritime academy.

Mrs. Wright commented that the online application seems to allow you to pick and choose students to prevent diversity.

Mrs. Fields would like to see a needs assessment requirement of future applicants. She would like a listing of our existing charters schools, their attractors, and their locations.

Mr. Warren reported that the needs assessment is not a requirement on the state template at this point. We try to discuss the needs assessment during the initial application process and interview.

Information

Item 9

9. [Scriborder: Student Records Processing Program](#)

Minutes:

Item 10

10. [Contract Modification for Our Children's Middle Academy](#)

Attachment: [WS OCMA Modification 8.13.13.pdf](#)

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm. Minutes were approved and attested this 27th day of August, 2013.

Hazel Sellers, Board Chair

Kathryn M. LeRoy, Superintendent