

08 21 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. [12:30 - 12:50 PM School Board Comments](#)

Minutes:

Dick Mullenax commented that he has been listening closely to the insurance committee's discussion on gastric bypass surgeries. He understands this is a negotiated item, but with the advancement of technology, he feels the cost would be less than what staff believes. It is reported that the process can eliminate diabetes (86% successful elimination). Dr. Nickell commented that more information will be provided at an upcoming work session.

Kay Fields asked for an update on the Harrison mediation. Dr. Nickell responded that another session is scheduled for tomorrow.

Board Agenda Review

2. [12:50 - 1:15 PM Review Agenda of August 21, 2012](#)

Minutes:

C-14 4th Quarter Fiscal Year Ending 2012 Disposition

Mrs. Fields asked what happens to the surplus items. Mark Grey responded that items are offered to schools first, then charters, then auctioned on line.

C-41 Revised Job Description - Specialist, Assessment, Accountability and Evaluation -

Mrs. Cunningham voiced her concerns on lowering the educational requirements of the position. Wilma Ferrer, Senior Director of Assessment, Accountability, and Evaluation, reported that when the position was open several years ago only a limited number of qualified applicants with experience in the field applied. By lowering the requirement to an AA degree with years of experience, it allows more applicants to apply. The salary level for a BA is also an issue.

Discussion

Item 3

3. [1:15 - 2:50 PM 2012 Charter School Applicant Presentations](#)

Attachment: [Applicant Presentations Combined WS 8 21 12.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Golden Gate Scientific Leadership Academy -

Dr. Antoinette Wilcox stated that the academy would focus on Economics, Science, Technology, and Mathematics for Grades 6-8 students in the Lakeland area. It is a military-based curriculum but not a military school. The curriculum will be a source for discipline, critical thinking, and preparation for leadership. It is proposed that the school be a feeder school for Summerlin Academy.

When asked how low-income, disadvantaged families will be recruited, Dr. Wilcox responded that she is connected to the local low-income project areas and has been approached by parents looking for alternative solutions for expelled and suspended students.

Board Members voiced several concerns with the application:

- integrating military curriculum in a wide variety of courses.
- application is unclear how the sciences and a global linguistics studies program will be introduced at the levels presented.
- the student discipline contract references military courtesy; is this a military school or not
- fund raising as a way to supplement the budget (\$150,000)
- no site for the facilities provided other than the north side of Lakeland
- comprehensive needs assessment to justify the application
- specific address
- names of local members of the board
- will this school ensure that existing schools do not experience 'brain drain' becoming inner-city schools
- returning students to district schools when contract not met (yet this is

the targeted students)

Heartland Academy

Terry Saunders, CEO of Heartland for Children serving Polk, Highlands, and Hardee Counties, and Vance Linholm, submitted an application focusing on the social and emotional well being of students to be located in the greater Lakeland area. The initial application is for 232 K-5 students with goals to expand to 464 within four (4) years. Identified targeting children that have experienced difficulties or inconsistencies in their grades, or may have experienced adverse childhood events, and children that have been diagnosed with a focused or behavioral disorder.

Questions from the School Board

- no code of conduct
- setting too high of goals
- bus transportation for K-5 students using Citrus Connection
- use of start-up funds in the initial budget
- no plan to transition students back to the 'real world' school environment

Mrs. Fields asked if the strategies could be incorporated in the public schools (perhaps through a consultative services agreement) rather than open a charter school? Ms. Saunders stated that she would be open to the opportunity.

- Innovations Middle Charter School

Dr. Tamela Wright, Governing Chair Person for Innovations Middle Charter Academy of Orlando, submitted an application replicating their Orlando school addressing over-aged students. Curriculum staff create individual learning plans for each student within the first 3-weeks of schools. Planned site to be in the greater Lakeland area.

Questions from the School Board:

- why the greater Lakeland area
- replicating an "F" school (been in existence for three years)
- cost of facilities

Lakeland Pathways Charter

Sally Brisbane, Director of Polk State College Collegiate High School, Lakeland Campus, submitted an application targeting students that are disengaged from the traditional high school program. It will introduce them to college course work and position them for college success when they graduate high school. Age range of students from would be from 16 to 21.

Questions from the School Board:

- age level of 16 year olds with high school credits would be on track

- conflicting information in the application - requiring earned college credit before graduating high school
- already have several charter schools for at risk students
- recruitment
- confusion with targeted students - disengaged, yet with foundation of academic ability for application pool

Lois Cowles Harrison Center for the Visual and Performing Arts

Barbara Erickson, President of Harrison Parents Association, Craig Collins, Principal of Lois Cowles Harrison Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, and Les Dunson, Founding Board Trustee Member, recapped that the application re embraces the concept of the original intent of the county-wide school. The application includes a partnership with Florida Southern College to leverage resources for students' success. Proposed student population is 550 students and increases to 590 by 2017. Grades 9-12 will continue to be based on a rigorous, merit-based audition process for students throughout the county.

Questions from the School Board:

- why schedule mediation if the intent was to submit a charter application
- requires a supplement from the District to fund a county-wide enrollment opportunity
- application requires the district-owned facility
- feasibility of teaching science courses in music labs
- no transportation provided

Magnolia Montessori Academy

This application is for an enrollment of 63 students in a Montessori-method school for grades K-8. Possible sites are located in Lakeland. Negotiating with McKeel Academy for bus transportation and hopes to partner with a local public school for meal services.

Questions from the School Board:

- dismissing students for lack of parental involvement
- projected locations not conducive for targeted families of Winter Haven and Bartow
- no bus transportation for Winter Haven and Bartow students
- recruitment plans

Somerset Academy Poinciana

Nick Murdock, Chairman of Poinciana Economic Development Alliance, submitted a K-8 application that includes a partnership with the Polk County School Board. Somerset requires a high level of parental and community involvement through volunteer hours, uniform policy, and discipline plan.

The plan is to build an elementary school, request the district to convert Lake Marion Elementary to a middle school; then work on a new high school which is the highest need.

Questions from the School Board:

- need in the area is for a middle and high school, yet the application is for an elementary thru 8th grade; question on why the application was not for a middle or high school
- application doesn't reference using building codes established for public schools which would be necessary if the goal is to turn the school over to the district
- no Board discussion held to converting an existing elementary school to a secondary school
- why use an outside organization to open a charter school (no local board members)

It was suggested by several Board Members that the application should be for a secondary school, not an elementary school.

Item 4

4. [2:50 - 3:00 PM BREAK](#)

Item 5

5. [3:00 - 3:15 PM Step Up Academy Requests to Delay Opening](#)

Attachment: [WS Summary SUA Delay Opening 8.21.12.pdf](#)

Minutes: Each site has the option to open in January, 2013.

Item 6

6. [3:15 - 3:30 PM New Job Description and New Position for Coordinator, Financial Aid](#)

Attachment: [New Job Description and New Position - Coordinator, Financial Aid 8-21-12 WS.pdf](#)

Minutes:

John Small, Senior Director of Workforce Education, reported that adult student enrollment has increased significantly at Ridge Career and Traviss Career Center creating the need for two full time financial coordinators. Over the past three years we have increased in federal funded tuition from less than \$1,000,000 to more than \$3,000,000.

Item 7

7. [Women and Minority Business Enterprise Annual Report](#)

Attachment: [Annual summary with graph FY 2012.pdf](#)

Minutes: Mark Grey, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and Scott Clanton, Director of Purchasing, reported that the trend over the last three years has increased funds to minority women of business. The district reached out to vendors to become more competitive.

Information

Item 8

8. [Revised Annual Contracts for School-Based and District Office Administrators](#)

Attachment: [Revised Annual Contracts for School-Based and District Office Administrators 8-21-12 WS.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 PM. Minutes were approved and attested this 4th day of September, 2012.

Hazel Sellers, Board Chair

Sherrie B. Nickell, Ed. D, Superintendent