



08 22 2017 Work Session 12 30 PM

NEW BUSINESS

1. [12:30 - 12:50 PM School Board Comments](#)

Minutes:

Vice Chair Lynn Wilson opened the work session and announced that Mrs. Fields will be late arriving.

Mr. Wilson reported that Businesses for a World Class Education agreed to fund the climate survey and secured a binding vote from its members. They will be establishing the time line in the near future.

Mr. Wilson also reported on the first meeting with the Lake Wales Charter System regarding the collaboration between Lake Wales Charter Schools and McLaughlin Middle Academy. In attendance was Deputy Superintendent John Small, Donna Drisdorn (McLaughlin Middle principal), Donna Dunson (Lakes Wales High principal), Lake Wales Superintendent Jesse Jackson and himself. He thought it was a productive meeting. Lake Wales High School has offered to send teachers to McLaughlin to assist with some of their programs. One concern is the roll up of McLaughlin Middle School students to Lake Wales High School.

John Small, Deputy Superintendent, commented that the meeting was to establish guidelines to provide the best education for the children in the Lake Wales area.

Mrs. Fields announced that the Master Board Training is scheduled for October 11th. FSBA (Florida School Boards Association) will notify us later as to where it will take place.

She reported that the joint meeting with the Board of County Commissioners scheduled for August 30th has been postponed.

Mrs. Fields announced there will be a brief Executive Session at 3:00 PM to be held in the conference room located in the legal department.

BOARD AGENDA REVIEW

2. [12:50 - 1:10 PM Review the Agenda of the August 22, 2017 School Board Meeting](#)

Attachment: [08 22 2017 Revised School Board Agenda.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Item 66: Proposed SB 7069 Litigation

School Board Attorney Wes Bridges reported that no draft complaint has been filed as yet. Currently those districts joining in the litigation are Broward, Miami-Dade, Volusia, Bay, Palm Beach, St. Lucy, Lee, and Hamilton. The Orange County school district will be voting tonight.

If the Board chooses to join in the litigation, our initial contribution would be \$25,000. The national legal firm to be used (Hush Blackwell) does not have an office in Florida. This will maintain objectivity and eliminate any conflict. There may be national implications if the litigation is successful.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item 3

3. [1:10 - 2:20 PM 2017 Charter School Applicant Presentations](#)

Attachment: [Navigator Academy of Leadership Needs Assessment.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Our Children's Prep School Needs Assessment.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Edward W. Bok North Needs Assessment.pdf](#)

Attachment: [GCTE Vocational HS Needs Assessment.pdf](#)

Attachment: [WS Summary Applicant Presentation 8.22.17.pdf](#)

Minutes:

1. Navigator Academy of Leadership: Will use SMART Curriculum that is relevant and focuses on science, math, art, reading and technology to enable students to become the CEOs of their own learning.

- 21st Century Science and Engineering - Project Lead the Way (Leader in Me) - K'NEX - LEGO - Robotics - VEX Robotics
- Looking to locate in NE Polk County - Davenport area - K8
- Lottery application enrollment - 1st come - 1st serve.

Mrs. Sellers and Mr. Wilson confirmed the applicant is looking to locate in Davenport area. Mrs. Sellers questioned the limiting of 4 mile area transportation. Applicant responded they may have to contract transportation for students outside the 2 mile radius in some areas.

Mr. Townsend asked if they will build retention to their population; keeping students that may not promote any given year. Applicant stated yes, they would add that in the contract.

2. Our Children's Prep School - Year 1 projections 305 students, 12 months to 8th grade

Sharon Comkowycz, the current superintendent, is retiring at the end of this year (June, 2018). Students will be the center of all academic decisions. Our speech language pathologist will serve as the expert in language and literacy development and will co-teach with the ESE teacher in reading. The facility in Winter Haven is move-in ready. The partnership between Our Children's Prep School and Our Children's Rehab Center will allow for therapists, namely speech language pathologists and assistants, to be intimately involved with building literacy skills by providing extensive language and vocabulary therapy within the classroom.

Mr. Wilson asked if the founding Board is the current Board. Applicant stated yes, right now. He confirmed that Ms. Comkowycz is retiring at the end of this school year. Mr. Wilson asked how students' educational experience will be measured as indicated on page 2. Applicant isn't sure but will research and send the information to the Board.

Mrs. Sellers asked if the building is owned or to be leased. Applicant reported the building was purchased by Mike Mahalak and Dominic Nicosia. We will lease the building from them. Mrs. Sellers asked if they were still on the Board. Applicant confirmed they are not a part of the Board. Mrs. Sellers questioned the reference to loans as a way to pay for unforeseen expenses. How do you plan to repay loans? Applicant stated that Bryan Sherwin is one of the individuals who will provide a loan,

if needed. And, Our Children's Rehab Center is our partner that provides therapists to Our Children Prep students. If our projections are correct, the income from the Rehab Center will cover the debts.

Mrs. Sellers commented she is impressed with the facility but had concerns with the budget and borrowing last year.

3. BOK Academy North - Replicating Bok Academy -Grades 6-8: Targeting Lake Wales students who were unable to get into BOK Academy. There is a waiting list of 450 students.

Mrs. Sellers asked if the diversity will be the same for both campuses: Bok Academy and Bok North. How will you determine which students will go to the original BOK or to BOK North? Will there be one application for both schools?

Dr. Jesse Jackson reported the hope is to have only Lake Wales students attend BOK North.

Mrs. Sellers is also concerned that the application states the school will dismiss students who do not maintain a 2.5 GPA. This is no longer possible; it's against the law now. Dr. Jackson stated they do not dismiss students based on academic performance. Mrs. Sellers stated it is in the application and it is a concern. Mr. Damien Moses commented the language will be updated; they do not dismiss for low academics.

Mr. Townsend asked how you will identify the applicants are Lake Wales students. Dr. Jackson stated they will be accepting students from the 5 local elementary schools in Lake Wales.

Mr. Townsend stated in the past BOK requested a waiver of the FERPA rule. Do you plan to continue that waiver request? Dr. Jackson stated they like to recognize students who excel in academics as Lake Wales Scholars. Because of FERPA, we understand that is no longer possible. We will be in line with state law and will not ask for a waiver.

Superintendent Byrd commented there is still Target 1 and college bound student language in the application.

Mrs. Sellers commented that in the original application for BOK the Target 1 and 2 language didn't mean first and 2nd rounds; it was that the Target 1 would be high performing Lake Wales students; then open it up for high performing students outside of Lake Wales. She has seen the data and was shocked. Your current application has the same language; it's against the law. Mrs. Sellers is very concerned that Target 1 and 2 language continues to be in the application. It should be a true lottery.

Sara Beth Reynolds asked if there is a process to identify students attending the Lake Wales elementary schools are zoned for those schools; there are some attending that are zoned for Winter Haven or Haines City schools. Dr. Jackson stated using zip codes would be the best process for them. We have children on waiting lists and we can't enroll them because of lack of space. Working with McLaughlin, we hope to serve the students of Lake Wales determined by zip codes.

Mr. Wilson voiced concern that although we hear you say you want to serve all students, that's not what we hear from the community or see in your application. The best approach would be to accept the all students from the Lake Wales school system.

4. Grant Career and Technical Center

A non-profit to be located in the east side of Polk County targeting all students by providing work force ready skills, allowing them to migrate into the community through STEM learning.

Mrs. Sellers asked if the school is looking for students who are not successful in the traditional school settings; similar to New Beginning. Applicant responded it is open for all students.

Mrs. Sellers asked what area in Haines City are you looking. Applicant responded they are interested in the old Social Security building in the Haines City Plaza. The target enrollment for the first year is 200 with a maximum of 400.

Mr. Wilson stated it appears the administrating costs equals the operating budget; is that normal? Applicant responded that for the first year administrators will be doing double duties; after that, the cost will be spread out.

Item 4

4. [2:20 - 2:45 PM Donation of Poinciana School Site](#)

Attachment: [Poinciana Property Swap Exhibits.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Information provided by Assistant Superintendent of Facilities Angela Usher and John Small, Deputy Superintendent. Developer will donate land in lieu of school impact fees (\$520,293 value for 15.29 acres). If we wanted to purchase the property it would be \$1-2 million.

Mrs. Sellers inquired about the amount of impact fees to be waived. Mrs. Usher reported it would be for 120-130 units, up to \$520,000. Mrs. Sellers asked if the 15.29 acres is large enough for a school site. Mrs. Usher responded the land would be sufficient for an elementary school.

Mr. Wilson asked if this a land swap or receiving land in lieu of \$520,000 in impact fees. Mrs. Usher responded it is land in lieu of impact fees. The land swap is on their part; the original school site identified in the plan was in a different area.

Item 5

5. [2:45 - 2:55 PM Policy Updates](#)

Attachment: [Neola policy updates summary Aug 22 2017 wk session.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Docs for Neola policy updates Aug 22 2017 wk session.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Wendy Dodge presented several proposed policy updates. A discussion followed on the new Policy No. 6605: Crowdfunding. It has become popular and is unregulated. Mrs. Byrd recommends that any crowdfunding activity must be pre-approved. Wendy will gather more related policies on fund raising and submit them for a future work session.

Crowdfunding is being used by teachers (using the District's name) to raise funds for a specific classroom. A question arises on the ownership of the items purchased or donated if/when the teacher leaves; is it the property of the school or the teacher.

Attorney Wes Bridges noted that it is important to remember that the only contracting authority for principals is identified in the Internal Accounts handbook; it is very limited: such as year books, caps and gowns, or yearbooks. A potential problem would occur if someone at a school entered into a crowdfunding contract that binds the School Board. The Superintendent is the only person authorized to sign contracts on behalf of the District.

Mr. Wilson spoke on the controversy created within the community regarding the LBGTO proclamation. He suggested the district adopt the process used by the BoCC. They do not vote on proclamations or sign them. They simply read them.

Mrs. Fields would like to see what other districts are doing.

Mrs. Sellers commented proclamations should be supporting education or organizations that support the education of our students. We shouldn't be reading every proclamation brought before us. Mr. Wilson replied that the problem will be in defining the limits; all proclamations will be tied to education is some way to get them read.

Attorney Wes Bridges will see how other school districts handle proclamations.

Mrs. Sellers said the Board should be able to reserve the right to decide if the proclamation is tied to education.

Item 6

6. [2:55 - 3:20 PM Appointment Policies](#)

Attachment: [3 142 Bay county schools consensual relationship policy.pdf](#)

Attachment: [The Hartford Close Personal Relationships Policy.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Vanderbilt University relationships at work policy.pdf](#)

Attachment: [romantic relationships.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Pasco County FL Fraternization language.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Wendy Dodge, Legislative Liaison, facilitated a discussion on relationship notification. At the request of the Board Chair, she provided information on the Lakeland Police Department's rules on nepotism.

Mr. Townsend believes staff who find themselves in relationships with co-workers should not supervise each other. He likes the Bay County policy. He's not trying to prohibit relationships by firing the individuals but supports requiring a disclosure; one of the partners need to relocate to avoid violations. He believes this could be addressed by adding language requiring prompt disclosure of the relationship to avoid disciplinary action.

Mrs. Sellers liked Bay County's because it is simple and direct.

Mrs. Fields asked how would that relate to current staff. What if it is an ex-spouse situation? Teddra Porteous, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, commented that currently, this is allowed; and we have instances of employees who have hired their ex spouses.

Mr. Wilson doesn't know how we can ignore punitive actions. We may be creating problems in cases of same-sex relationships that don't report to avoid retaliation. What do you do if neither of the partners want to transfer locations? He is in support of a policy but believes we must be careful how it is crafted.

Mrs. Sellers commented that it would be against policy now if you are supervising someone and having a relationship. You are at risk of losing you job whether you self-report or not. We are talking about adults; if the decision is to enter into a relationship, one has to decide to be moved.

Wes Bridges said it would be a legal expectation to uphold the policy. In cases where current employees are in a relationship, would they need to self-report and one move. In cases involving an ex-spouse/partner, it could become a problem depending on how the policy is written.

Mr. Wilson suggested there be one person in Human Resources that employees could report their relationships to maintain privacy.

Mrs. Porteous will call Bay County to see how they enforce the policy and bring the topic back to a session.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 7

7. [21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Application Laurel EI, Palmetto EI and Lake Marion Middle Schools \(Grant D\) \\$492,500](#)

Attachment: [21st CCLC Laurel Palmetto Lake Marion Creek Middle eagenda backup 17-18.pdf](#)

Item 8

8. [21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Application Wahnetta EI and Gibbons Street EI \(Grant C\) \\$210,650](#)

Attachment: [21st CCLC Wahnetta Gibbons St eagenda backup 17-18.pdf](#)

Item 9

9. [2017-2018 Uniform Statewide Assessment Calendar-Polk County Schools, AAE, 0\\$](#)

Attachment: [K12UniformAssessmentCalendar17-18_8.15.17_DRAFT.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Michael Akes, Chief Academic Officer, provided information on the writing assessments. Part of the FSA ELA writing score is in line with the writing assessments. Students in Grades 4-10 would be given a writing prompt each quarter then the teachers score the test to prepare for the next unit of instruction. The annual cost is about \$10,000 - \$12,000.

Mrs. Fields asked if these additional assessments are necessary. Dr. Akes believes they are necessary to move instruction forward.

The Work Session adjourned at 2:48 PM. The minutes were approved and attested this 5th day of September, 2017.

Kay Fields, Board Chair

Jacqueline M. Byrd, Superintendent