

09 17 2019 Work Session 9 00 AM

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Item 1

1. [1:30 PM - 1:45 PM Policy Updates](#)

Attachment: [Neola Policy Docs wk session Sept 3 19.pdf](#)

#### Minutes:

Deputy Superintendent, John Hill advised the Board that Wendy Dodge wasn't present. There were a total of 9 updates. Mr. Bridges will read them this evening at the Board Meeting in place of Wendy Dodge.

### Item 2

2. [1:45 PM - 2:00 PM 2019-20 Final Budget Presentation](#)

#### Minutes:

Jason Pitts, Director of Finance, explained the Final Budget that was to be presented at the original Board Meeting on September 3, 2019. However due to Hurricane Dorian, it had to be delayed. Mr. Pitts explained how we met all TRIM requirements to present the budget. Board Members will vote tonight to approve the millage.

Mr. Pitts stated that the 2019-2020 budget is a flat level of service budget. The district will be able to provide the same programs and services as we did in 2018-2019 budget. The Fund Balance is 3.05% which is 100% budgeting for all salaries and expenses. We expect to end the 2020 fiscal year with a fund balance of between 4 and 4.5%. Unless we see a substantial change in funding revenue from the State, we would need to decrease our level of service next year to meet the fund balance requirements.

Mr. Pitts mentioned that we are seeing a decrease in workman's compensation claims. He said he would bring more information on this issue.

Item 3

3. [2:00 PM - 2:15 PM Resolution 2019/2020-08](#)

Attachment: [RESOLUTION2019-2020-08 \(School Board\) WITH EXHIBITS \(003\).pdf](#)

Attachment: [PCSB - RAN 2019 Resolution 8.26.2019 REDLINE.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Authorizing Resolution School Board of Polk County Revenue Anticipation Note 2019 69649093 4.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Brent Wilder of PFM updated the Board on their options on the multitiered 2015A and 2015B COPS. The Resolutions would authorize to refinance and terminate interest rate SWAPS depending on market value and combine into one or more fixed rate issues at little to no cost to the district or if this is not the case, since they are coming in to maturity, they can be extended at the same price and same terms.

Lori Cunningham asked if the reason for termination is going from variable to fixed rates? In next 5 years, how will the district ultimately save money with how the market looks today?

Mr. Wilder replied the numbers would be continuously looked at but the primary motivation should be risk reduction and not cost savings. Any refunding would be rolled into the cost of the debt.

Lynn Wilson recalled that a few years ago, we almost came close to a termination. The cost was going to be in the range of \$5M.

Mr. Wilder stated that it was renegotiated with Citi Group and they were gracious to do this for us.

Item 4

4. [2:15 PM - 2:30 PM Resolution 2019/2020-09](#)

Attachment: [RESOLUTION2019-2020-09 \(Financing Corporation\) WITH INDEX OF CERTIFICATE DOCUMENTS.pdf](#)

Attachment: [PCSB - RAN 2019 Resolution 8.26.2019 REDLINE.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Authorizing Resolution School Board of Polk County Revenue Anticipation Note 2019 69649093 4.pdf](#)

Item 5

5. [2:30 PM - 2:45 PM Grants Management Quarterly Report](#)

Attachment: [Grant amendments 2018-2019.pdf](#)

Attachment: [PCPS Quarterly Grant Summary Report - September 2019.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Andrew Baldwin, Director of Grants and Acquisitions, presented the Grants Summary report to get feedback from the Board to see if there are any changes to be made for the quarterly report coming in November.

Billy Townsend asked if Mr. Baldwin can add in a "state" column to make it easier to identify. He would like a comprehensive list of what is being requested.

The Board would like to see this added as an information item in the Work Sessions and would like it emailed to all Board members as well.

Superintendent Byrd suggested to Mr. Baldwin that he notate the new grants in bold or highlight them.

Michael Perrone advised the Board that a few months ago, Mr. Davis did the Bus Radio project and has been completed. It was stated that we would try to pay it from Sales Tax but were not able to. We can do a short term lease for the \$6M of this project. It would be paid off in five years. We will try to pay it off before the five years to avoid interest.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 6

6. [PLUS: Polk Library User for Students](#)

Attachment: [PLUS Summary.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Item 7

7. [2019-2020 Uniform Assessment Calendar \(AA&E\)](#)

Attachment: [K12UniformAssessmentCalendar19-20\\_8.30.19\\_version.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Billy Townsend advised that he will vote against it and will have an explanation at the Board meeting tonight.

Dr. Akes stated that 180 assessments were reduced a couple of years ago. We are accountable to turn in the testing calendar to the state to ensure that we are not over testing. Besides DOE required testing, we also have requirements with reading and we also progress monitor our Turn Around Schools as well. We have critically looked at all pieces that we have in place to make sure that schools are moving forward.

Billy Townsend asked if there are any on the calendar that are voluntarily assessments? Dr. Akes stated that there are some EOC courses are monitored quarterly. We have given A and B schools flexibility. We have already done away with other voluntary testing.

Billy Townsend asked what happens if the Board doesn't approve this calendar? Dr. Akes stated that there are different funding sources and different grants are overseen or approved by the Department of Education and they expect a progress monitor for them. This is a state statute, which can be changed through Legislation.

Ms. Fortney asked if progress monitoring matches up to the expected outcome of the state test and punish test? What testing platforms do we currently use. Dr. Akes answered that it is looked into critically each year. We currently use UNIFY and Performance Matters it has the ability for teachers to give quizzes or test. We are working with teachers so that there aware of the capabilities of these platforms.

Ms. Miller would like to know how are we getting info to staff? Dr. Akes answered that we work with the coaching groups and go to specific schools.

Ms. Miller asked if there is an assessment committee to review? Dr. Akes stated that there are committees in place.

## BOARD AGENDA REVIEW

## OLD BUSINESS

## NEW BUSINESS

### 8. [BOARD COMMENTS](#)

#### Minutes:

Mr. Wilson mentioned that he reached out Tom Noland about the possibility of referendum he and indicated that he would come speak with the Board. Free of cost. He will meet with each board member individually. Mr. Noland will then hand his report to Superintendent.

Mr. Townsend addressed Blake Academy and asked if the situation type at Blake had been classified in the Code of Conduct? Mrs. Byrd stated that the investigation is still ongoing. Hopefully it will conclude this week.

Mr. Townsend asked Mrs. Byrd if she will make a recommendation to the Board after the investigation. She answered that she will. Mr. Townsend also mentioned that he would rather not see the parents go to court for injunctions. Mrs. Byrd said that injunctions are suggested by law enforcement, not the schools.

Mr. Hill advised Mr. Townsend when law enforcement gets involved, they make parents aware of their rights. Brett Butler, Director of Discipline stated that we don't encourage or discourage the use of injunctions.

Ms. Reynolds asked if we should text or call Superintendent Byrd when situations like this happen? Mrs. Byrd said, yes call me first so she can address the situation quickly. Ms. Reynolds also asked about Student Privacy Laws and how we can make the community aware.

Mr. Bridges stated that we (the school district) operates by the Federal Congress. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) states that parents have a right to access information about their child and no one else can access their child's information. This applies to existing records which the content cannot be discussed. He stated that there are very limited items that we can release.

Mrs. Miller asked if we have crisis management in place to train principals on how to deal with the public and parents in situations like this. Mr. Hill stated that we went through several levels of training, showing empathy and getting the facts. The training was very extensive with the principals.

Mr. Bridges mentioned that when students are subject to discipline the Student Code of Conduct can be shown to parents or the public in regards to what will take place.

Mrs. Fields feels this is a teachable moment. She commends Superintendent Byrd for jumping on this situation quickly. She ensured everyone through a press conference that we were on it and there was an investigation going. We need training so that everyone knows what they are doing.

Ms. Fortney thanked Mrs. Porteous for the new teacher reception. She would like to have this expanded to all new employees. Ms. Fortney also asked about the grants used to encourage staff to go to low performing schools.

Superintendent Byrd said there are items that DOE would not allow in awarding certain grants. This includes certain groups of staff etc..

Ms. Fields wanted to know about the contract agreement renewal for the Internal Auditor and the School Board Attorney because the contracts are up in June 2020. Mr. Wilson stated that the evaluations were done and discussed.

Ms. Reynolds asked about Lake Alfred Polytech losing units and wanted to know if this is happening at any other schools.

Mr. Perrone stated the staffing plan is based on previous numbers for enrollment. On the third day students that didn't show up were not enrolled. They worked with a strict formula but there weren't enough children to keep the extra five units therefore, the units were removed.

Mrs. Bridges stated that charter schools are going through the same situation where children enroll and then move away or change their minds about the choice they have made and go elsewhere. Unfortunately, this year, the numbers were not correct due to students moving. A lot of recruiting is being done to help the parents make decisions and waiting lists are being created as well.

Mrs. Miller said that she had no knowledge of this issue and needs to know how to respond. She is asking the board member be alerted when things like this occur.

Ms. Reynolds wanted to know many student schedules will change because of this change in units? Dr. Akers said that about 100 students.

Ms. Fortney stated that she will not be voting for the budget due to schools losing units, no raises, no decrease in workflow etc...

Ms. Reynolds spoke on Roundtable meetings and how there is staff in the district that can bring information of what they are doing and how they are working in their areas. Roundtables are supposed to be staff driven and she would like to see each person over an area at the meeting.

Mr. Townsend mentioned Roundtables sessions are working the way he has planned.

Mrs. Miller feels that it has turned into a weird division.

Mrs. Fields stated that she will not attend if we are not meeting our mission/vision.

Mr. Wilson added that Roundtables were made to allow Board Members to explore issues and concern.

Ms. Cunningham said that they learn something new each time and from each other. She sees it as a glorified work session.

Ms. Reynolds advised that the City of Lakeland runs a Roundtable if they have questions at work session and then they have staff come in to give more information.

Mr. Wilson said that he would work with Mrs. Byrd to coordinate more.

Meeting adjourned at 4:44 PM. Minutes were approved and attested this 22nd of October, 2019

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Lynn Wilson, Board Chair

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Jacqueline M. Byrd, Superintendent