

10 09 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. [8:30 - 8:50 AM School Board Comments](#)

Minutes:

Mrs. Wright asked for a discussion on the SWOT results. She stated she has multiple concerns that will impact the established goals. Ms. Sellers will check on dates for another retreat.

Mrs. Wright stated that in the minutes of the last Salary Committee, Mark Grey, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, was voted in as the new Chair. Given the current economic times and the duties and responsibilities of an Assistant Superintendent, she didn't feel that was appropriate. Mrs. Sellers commented that is a district decision, not for the Board.

Board Agenda Review

2. [8:50 - 9:30 AM Review October 9, 2012 School Board Agenda](#)

Attachment: [10 09 12 School Board Agenda.pdf](#)

Minutes:

- [C9- Retiree 2012 Health Plan Renewal](#)

Mr. Harris requested information on the two health plans. Mrs. Sellers explained that there are two different age group of retirees: those under 65 are part of the same plan as current employees; the second plan is for retirees who qualify for Medicare which is not a

part of our self-funded plan. Retirees have told her it is very cost effective.

- R60 - Superintendent's Recommendations on the Charter Applications Received August 2012.

Carolyn Bridges, Senior Director of Magnet, Choice and Charter, clarified that the timing of the Superintendent's Recommendation is within the 60 day time line set by law.

- R62 - Catapult Learning Contract for After School Tutoring

Mrs. Cunningham asked for the success rate of the students this past year. Mr. Lewis will make sure the Board receives the data before the vote later today.

Work Session Discussion: Dr. Nickell supports the Charter Committee's recommendations on the following charter applications:

- Magnolia Montessori Middle - Recommending approval
- Golden Gate Scientific Leadership Academy - Recommending denial (14-0)
 - target population significantly declines with the middle school cohort (year one begins with 140 sixth graders and planned to serve only 80 of these students in year three as eighth graders)
 - application provided only one year of assessment benchmarks
 - staffing plan is not sufficient to meet the class size requirements
 - lack of congruency between budget, staffing plan, and the narrative
- Innovations Middle Charter - Recommending denial (14-0)
 - education and curriculum plans lack the necessary detail, research, clear alignment to the budget, staffing plan, assessment, monitoring and other sections to assure the effectiveness of the program
 - goals are not specific, lack key elements and are completely missing for some academic areas. The assessment plan lacks a systemic, school-wide plan to manage the formative assessment process
 - the application lacks a clear understanding of basic ESE and ELL components and principles. ESE and ELL sections in the narrative do not match the staffing plan or elements of the narrative
 - the application includes the start up grant as part of its budget and does not include a backup plan for these services if the start-up grant funds are not received
- Somerset Academy - Recommending denial (12-3)
 - pre-registration form screens for students with disabilities in its application process
 - a clearly defined reporting structure to the Governing Board is lacking. This section does not provide a clear description of how the Governing Board will exercise continuing oversight over its school operations as required in Florida statutes
 - fails to clearly describe responsibilities various groups and people will have, and how those groups will relate to one another as required in the Model Application. No descriptions for the ESP officers and staff who provide the

remaining management services necessary to operate the school. No member of the Governing Board attended the Applicant Interview to provide clarification: this section of the application is incomplete and not met

- lack of transportation provided for students which does not meet the requirement that transportation not be a barrier to enrollment; particularly given the geography of the Poinciana area
- inaccuracies in the application
- Somerset parent contracts and sample registration documents from existing Somerset schools place an extensive financial and time burden on parents (uniforms, late pickup charges, volunteer hours, transportation requirements, etc.)

Lake Marion Creek was built for middle school-aged students, but due to the growth base at that time, it opened as a K-6. Higher grades are transported to Dundee Ridge Middle and Haines City's middle and high schools. It is understood that parents wish their students to attend a community school and that desire is pervasive around the district. There is no quick fix or resolution.

- Polk State College Lakeland Pathways Charter High School - Recommending denial
 - application does not explain the rationale for the College Administrative Expenses nor does it provide a breakdown of the services provided for these dollars. This is of particular concern since the same Board of Trustees will serve on both sides of this agreement. The PSC Board of Trustees in its role as governing board of the proposed charter school will issue the \$300,000 annual payment, beginning in year three, and will also receive the payment on behalf of the college in its role as Board of Trustees for Polk State College
 - application requests a five year contract but only provided a budget and budget narrative for the first three years of the application.
- Harrison Center for the Performing and Visual Arts - Recommending denial (14-0)
 - the proposed facility plan does not comply with charter law for a start up facility; unless the School Board agrees to provide this facility to the charter school
 - there is no budgetary plan to cover the proposed remodeling of the Harrison Center, which could place an additional financial burden on the district and may not align with the district's vision of how best to utilize the space at Harrison Center for the Performing and Visual Arts
 - the language in the proposal stating that "the school cannot guarantee district-wide access without the funds that have enabled it to provide that access in the past" as well as the statement that "...H.A.C. will strive to avoid becoming a Lakeland area school" raises concerns for students, particularly those students outside the Lakeland community, who may not be able to continue or enroll in the school due to transportation barriers

Mrs. Wright asked if money is still owed on the building. Dr. Nickell responded that approximately \$1.8 million remains outstanding of the \$21 to \$22 million initial cost. The fundraising dollars of the Parent Association (\$750,000) was used by the school to upgrade instruments and other items.

- Polk State College Lakeland Pathways Charter High - denial

Mrs. Fields asked if a three year contract had been considered by the Committee. Carolyn Bridges reported that the law says a charter application must be for 4 or 5 years. The budget is a critical piece of the application and they failed to submit a budget for each of the five years.

Mrs. Sellers would like to see the statute that allows for reducing the contract to three years; School Board Attorney Wes Bridges read the statute provision. He reminded the Board that the Charter Review Committee's recommendation and the Superintendent's recommendation have been for denial.

Mr. Mullenax questioned why the applicant did not provide the data as requested on DOE's template. He is uncomfortable deviating from the process.

Discussion

Item 3

3. [9:30 - 9:50 AM Fund Balance Discussion](#)

Attachment: [2012-2013 Fund Balance Explanation.pdf](#)

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

Minutes:

Mark Grey, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, provided an overview of the budgeting process and fund balances.

- Prior to building the budget, the district receives information from schools on what they need to meet the goals of the Board
- District prioritizes the needs based on resources available to the district (FEFP, property taxes, new money from Legislature, and any unspent resources from the prior year. This could be unspent funds allocated for fuel, utilities, school budgeted funds, etc. This is the unassigned fund balance.)

Item 4

4. [9:50 - 10:00 AM BREAK](#)

Item 5

5. [10:00 - 10:30 AM Race to the Top - DISTRICT Grant Application](#)

Attachment: [RTTT Summary Graphic.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Personalized Learning in Polk County Schools.pdf](#)

Attachment: [RTT-D BUDGET IMPACT.pdf](#)

Minutes:

David Lewis, Associate Superintendent of Learning, and Marcia Ford, Director of Grant Acquisitions, presented the District Race to the Top Grady application for \$30,000,000. The purpose of the grant is to implement the strategies, structures, and systems needed to use personalized student-focused approaches to learning and teaching that will produce excellence and ensure equity for all students.

Key indicators of improvement will be:

- 85% reading proficiency at grade level by the end of grade 2.
- Accelerate those students that have fallen behind in Grade 3-6.
- As the progression of 9th graders into 10th through the 9th Grade Centers seems to be working successfully, the district would like to see the same transition from 5th grade to 6th.

The competitive grant will target the 20 "D" and "F" schools and requires partnership from communities and municipalities. Personalized learning and technology provide strategy and tools that overlay all aspects of the plan. The four activity categories are:

1. Learning to Read
2. Reading to Learn
3. Ready to Learn
4. Ready to Teach

Mrs. Wright voiced concern on the sustainability after the grant ends. Mr. Lewis reported that the Governor requested input from several Superintendents on the funding issues. One recommendation is to allow districts the flexibility to use text / flex and IT funds as needed.

Item 6

6. [10:30 - 10:40 AM Employee Pay Frequency](#)

Attachment: [Pay Frequency Executive Summary.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mark Grey, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, reported that in working with PEA and AFSCME before the end of school last year, an employee survey was issued for payroll preference of 10 months vs 12 months; weekly, bi-weekly, or continue with monthly paychecks.

- 55% of those that responded would like paychecks bi-weekly
- 35% would like to continue with monthly
- 10% had no opinion
- vast majority want to be paid over 12 month period
- if approved, transition period would be for July, 2013.

Mr. O'Reilly and Mr. Mullenax asked for the actual number of employees who participated vs the total number of employees. Mark will provide the information to the Board.

Mrs. Sellers asked if there is cost involved to change the frequency. Mr. Grey thought it would be a cost savings to go bi-weekly and might result in a more accurate process.

Item 7

7. [10:40 - 10:50 AM Annual Anti-Bullying Program](#)

Attachment: [School Board Anti-bullying training 12 - 13.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Item 8

8. [10:50 - 11:00 AM Revised Job Description for School Counselor](#)

Attachment: [Revised Job Description for School Counselor 10-9-12 WS.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Information

Item 9

9. [Head Start Administration Grant update](#)

Attachment: [August 2012 Board Executive Summary.pdf](#)

Attachment: [12HSA BUDGET Report Policy Council Mtg 08-31-2012.pdf](#)

Item 10

10. [School Health Services Plan 2012-2014](#)

Attachment: [School Health Plan Summary for Work Session 2012-2014.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Summary.School Health Plan 20012-14.pdf](#)

Attachment: [School Health Services Plan 2012-2014.pdf](#)

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM. Minutes were approved and attested this 23rd day of October, 2012.

Hazel Sellers, Board Chair

Sherrie B. Nickell, Ed. D, Superintendent