

12 08 2009 Work Session

## New Business

1. [8:30 AM - 8:45 AM School Board Member Comments and Discussion](#)

### Minutes:

Mrs. Fields reported that the Florida School Boards Association Conference was held last week. She asked members who attended the conference to provide a report over the next several work sessions.

Mrs. Fields also reported that contract extensions were approved for Wes Bridges, School Board Attorney, and Sheila Phelps, School Board Auditor.

Mr. Harris requested that a calendar of reports (upcoming work session items) be provided to the School Board.

## Board Agenda Review

2. [8:45 Am - 9:15 AM Review December 8, 2009 School Board Agenda](#)

Attachment: [12 08 09 School Board Agenda.pdf](#)

### Minutes:

Item R-43, Financing Corporation, and Item R-44, School Board Construction Bonds

Mark Grey, along with Jerry Ford and Mike Weimer from Ford and Associates, provided information on the process associated with construction bonds as part of the Stimulus package. Investors receive a tax credit on a quarterly basis; if the rate is not sufficient, the investor may require an interest rate payable quarterly. If Districts fail to meet the 3-year

spend out date, they are required to take back the amount of bonds unspent and reissue with a penalty.

Mark Grey and Fred Murphy will be responsible to ensure we have met the spending requirements of the Bonds. The funds will be used for the Mulberry Middle School project.

Jerry Ford will set up a tickler with Mark Grey to double check that the spending requirements are being met.

Several board members requested a 6-month reporting status. Board consensus was reached and Fred Murphy agreed to do so.

### 3. [9:15 Am - 9:30 AM BREAK](#)

## Discussion

### Item 4

#### 4. [9:30 AM - 9:55 AM Review of Investments](#)

Attachment: [SBA \(PRIME\) October 2009 Monthly Summary Report.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Polk County Public School District Core Fund Summary of Investments - October 2009.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Investment Update - December 2009.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mark Grey, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, reported this is the first of a semi-annual financial investment report, (March and September).

The district no longer invests new money with the SBA (State Board of Administration). We have no funds in Plan A and there is approximately \$3.5 million in Plan B (awaiting maturity). As these funds mature, he plans to invest elsewhere.

Investment Outlook: recent news reports that the economy is turning around but it will take time with the help of the stimulus spending. Employment is the lagging indicator. People are fearful in spending disposable income. Be aware of inflation and rates staying low for an extended length of time.

Rumor is that the next area to take a hit is in the commercial property area.

SIDE BAR - MarkGrey reported that our unemployment costs have increased significantly. From \$723,000 last year to approximately \$1.3 million for this year. It is driven up by the loss of jobs throughout the county. Active employers have to subsidize the unemployment fund for those people/companies who have lost their jobs or closed their doors.

Item 5

5. [9:55 AM - 10:25 AM RACE to the Top Grant](#)

Attachment: [Race to Top Points Overview.pdf](#)

Attachment: [RTTTExecutive Summary1109.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Race to the Top Guidelines.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Race to the Top is a Federal Grant that the State will apply for that will affect every school district. Highlights are:

- MOU to be signed by Teachers' Union, School Board Chair and Superintendent.
- Charter school component: option for low performing schools or turn the site over to a Charter School
- 4-year grant
- 1-3 grant - innovative technology grant (in addition to RTG grant)
- Pay for Performance requirement for administrators and instructional personnel only. (not custodial, bus drivers, etc). 50% of points has to be based on learning gains.
- Non participating districts' funds will be divided into the participating districts.

DOE reports that the 7 page MOU will be sent to Superintendents on Thursday of this week and will only require signature of Board Chair and Superintendent. They would like to have unions sign on but it is not required.

In the upcoming legislative sessions, Pay for Performance and Race to the Top is to be placed into legislation.

Item 6

6. ~~10:25 AM - 10:40 AM Overview of Technology in Polk County Schools~~

Attachment: ~~17 - SB Summary IST Tech Presentation.pdf~~

Minutes: To be discussed at the January 12, 2010 Work Session.

## Item 7

### 7. [10:40 AM - 10:55 AM 2008-2009 Fast ForWord Evaluation Report](#)

Attachment: [Fast ForWord and Polk County Public Schools 2008-9.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Polk County Briefing\\_09Nov18.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Paula Leftwich, Senior Director of K-12 Reading, reported that FastFoward is a reading intervention program for struggling students. Initial implementation in Fall of 2008 was at the secondary level to help the over-aged graduating students. Focuses on memory, processing and retention of knowledge.

Significant improvements in the 6th and 9th grade struggling readers at FCAT Level I and II. At every grade level, students met or exceeded expected gains.

## Information

## Item 8

### 8. [Anti-Bullying District Update](#)

Minutes: To be discussed at the January 12, 2010 Work Session.

## Item 9

### 9. [Overaged Student Report](#)

Attachment: [Overaged Middle School Students.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Sherrie Nickell reported that the middle school over-aged population issue begins at the Kindergarten retention level as well as the third grade level due to failing FCAT. By the time a student arrives at the Middle School level they have been retained at least twice.

David Lewis reported that the requirement to have a 2.0 before leaving middle school as well new A++ legislation that requires student to pass certain subject areas also contributes to increasing the over-aged population and students failing to graduate. Students can pass a course with a 'D' but not achieve the 2.0 requirement to graduate.

Interventions in place begin at the Kindergarten level with School Readiness programs such as Pre-K and Head Start programs. The Summer Reading

Camp is addressing the students who are unable to pass the FCAT and the district may use Portfolio Assessment in advancing the struggling student.

High school students have access to the Odyssey to help catch them before they fail a course. If they have failed a class, the Polk Virtual on-line program helps them to catch up or accelerate. NovaNet will also help address those areas that were not mastered, allowing students to graduate. Freshman Academies have also proven to be a success with struggling students. The Saturday Academy at Tenoroc High School has been well received for several years now. Boost, a Saturday reinforcement program, is offered at several elementary schools.

Because of the district's mobility rate, continuity of the curriculum is an absolute must at all levels.

Item 10

10. ~~Discipline Data~~

Attachment: ~~Expulsion Cases to The Board.pdf~~

Attachment: ~~Strat Plan format for Discipline 0809.pdf~~

Item 11

11. [Polk Education Foundation 08-09 Audit](#)

Attachment: [PEF 09 FS.pdf](#)

Item 12

12. [SAC Membership for 2009-10](#)

Item 13

13. [Revised Grant Funded Secretarial Plan](#)

Attachment: [APIP and TAH secretary letter.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Visio-School Based Operations SY10 pg13 SecIII combo.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Designated Change Secty III TAH APIP Grants 11 2009.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Exec Sum TAH APIP Grants WS Dec 8 2009.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Secretary III original.pdf](#)

Item 14

14. [Transition for Adult Learners Grant Application](#)

Attachment: [Adult Transitions SchoolBoardSummary.pdf](#)

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:55. Minutes were approved and attested this 12th day of January, 2010.

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Kay Fields, Board Chair

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Gail F. McKinzie, Ph. D., Superintendent