

08 17 2010 Special Work Session 9 30 AM

New Business

Board Agenda Review

Discussion

Administration - Magnet, Choice, Charter

1. [2010 Charter School Applicant Presentations](#)

Attachment: [Charter Applicants.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Carolyn Bridges informed the School Board that each applicant will be allowed 10 minutes to discuss their application and identify their relationship to the application: Board member, principal, applicant, etc. Next week, the Charter Review Committee and the Diversity Committee will review the applications and make a recommendation to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will make her recommendations to the Board on October 12th.

Lakeland Preparatory School -

Mrs. Bridges informed the Board that DOE requires an application to be submitted by a legal applicant and new applicants must participate in the new applicant training. It has not been confirmed that Lakeland Preparatory meets these requirements; however, the applicant requested to continue with their presentation.

Holly Robertson provided the names of the founding Board members: Holly Robertson, Scott Robertson and Deanna Burrows. It has not been decided if a management company will be used.

Mission and Vision: inspire all children to a lifelong love of learning and excellence by incorporating science and technology throughout the curriculum.

- School population: K-8, At Risk students.
- Focus on student engagement and academics through science and technology.
- Open with 100-200 students in the South Lakeland area with a goal of 800 in total enrollment.
- Focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) to meet the demand for jobs in these high tech areas.

Board Members' concerns:

- Finances are based on 800 students, but the school is to begin with 100-200 the first year
- Applicant is looking for a 30-room facility to accommodate 800 students.
- Proposed salaries for the principal and assistant principal are far above district salaries, yet salaries for the teachers are far below district average.
- Application states a goal that all students will perform on or above grade level and meet AYP; yet one of the targeted areas is at-risk students. How do you plan to meet these bold statements?
- Concerned with the statement of 'trying to locate a management company'.
- South Lakeland is not an area of at-risk students, how do you plan to attract?
- Core Knowledge is the basis of curriculum and it has not been successful in Polk County Schools.
- Didn't see any rigor or relevance in the application.
- Articles of Incorporation are with the state of Arizona; no Kaizen Corporation in Florida.

Mrs. Robertson responded:

- Focus intensely on the at-risk student, professional development training, teacher evaluations and student assessments and benchmarks; appropriate placements.
- Looking at those families on the waiting lists of Lakeland area charter schools and parents who can no longer afford private schools for potential students.
- Not sure they will use a management company. Her current employer is with a management company and there are no problems.
- Busing has been discussed and if a facility cannot be found in South Lakeland, several are available in North Lakeland.
- Core Knowledge will be a supplement to district curriculum. Sunshine State Standards and District is the base of curriculum.
- Rigor will be in the science and technology incorporated through STEM curriculum, bringing at risk students to grade level, hiring professional

and highly qualified staff, establish academic goals for each student, self motivate the students.

Mr. Harris commented that STEM has been established at Cleveland Court and Southwest Middle. He would like to see a needs assessment for another STEM school in South Lakeland.

Dr. McKinzie voiced concerns on the budget being based on an enrollment of 800 throughout the application. There is a lot of unknowns within the application and today's presentation, according to the guidelines, is the final and only application to be viewed by the School Board. If the necessary information isn't in this application, it cannot be added or changed.

### New Beginnings High School

Ken Smith, retired Vice President, Lowes Home Centers, and his wife will serve on the Board of Directors.

New Beginnings High School will target students in Grades 9-12 (ages 16-21) that are not successful in a traditional high school environment through on and off-line instruction. Applicant is currently looking at COMPASS which is used by several elementary schools within the district. Every teacher will also serve as an adviser to students each day. Board of Directors will have full authority to oversee the operations of the school.

School Board Concerns:

- \$20,000 to be raised annually to subsidize the budget, what happens if you don't raise the funds?
- Everything is based on Compass Odyssey, what happens if you don't go with them?
- How will this school impact LifeSkills East?
- Goals seem to be low.
- What happens if LifeSkills remains open?
- Will Winter Haven area be able to support a second at risk school of this type?

Applicant's response:

- Fund raiser would be extra money for the budget; budget is sufficient without it.
- Compass is the front runner, but we have other options.
- It is applicant's belief that LifeSkills will close if the contract with the management company isn't renewed.
- Application is based on realistic goals of target population.
- Application will continue.
- Applicant believes the Winter Haven area can support another at-risk

high school.

### Our Children Middle Academy

Sharon McManus and Marie Carroll, Principal and Assistant Principal of Our Children's Academy.

- Continue education for children with special needs: Medical and Education model.
- Target Grades 6-8 throughout the county: BOK Academy is willing to mainstream students.
- Planned site is contiguous to BOK Academy at Warner which allows students to attend class or elective at BOK Academy.

School Board Member concerns:

- Believes this will create a legal issue because it has the potential to place BOK over their enrollment limit.
- Purchase of 8 portables is a concern, is this a permanent solution?

Applicant's response:

- Current portables have IT lines, alarm systems, and are located on a cul-de-sac. If the application is approved, she will have to approach the County to have the property rezoned. There is an option of a second five acres also available at Warner (a former hotel).

### Pivot Charter School

Jeffrey Wood

- School for grades 6-12 with on line curriculum with teachers in the classroom, site based instruction - not a virtual school.
- Targeting students who need more class offerings, make up credits, individualized programs, or are excellerated learners.
- Open for home school students as well.
- Wide range of courses Anthropology, web development, journalism Curriculum is currently under development and will meet Sunshine State Standards.
- Open in the Lakeland area with 205 students first year; no facility identified as yet.
- Year round school; two session format (four hours each)
- Charter Board will monitor AAI (curriculum provider); no other Polk County school has this format.

School Board concerns:

- What are the student achievement goals for the first year?
- Why select Polk County for a charter when none of the Board members are local?
- Outside organization for profit business opportunity in POLK County without a needs analysis.
- Did not attend orientation.
- For dual enrollment, which college(s) are you looking to partnership?
- Excessive salary for principal of 200 students not on campus for a full day.
- No interim goals; benchmarks are too soft.
- What management company are you considering?
- Biggest concern is that the Governing Board is not local.

Applicant's response:

- First year goal is 87% of students enrolled to receive 4 or 5 on FCAT; same for 2014 goal.
- Polk County has a larger target population (no formal study was done, just looked at demographics).
- Partnership with DeVry University.
- Principal should be someone with a diverse background and available.
- Advanced Academics would be the management company for curriculum.

#### Polk Pre Collegiate Academy -

Pam Gervase/Kathy Carver/ Marie Borglund

Number of students qualifying for Polk State Collegiate High School has declined from 26% to 18% in three years. After transitioning to Polk State Collegiate High School, PPCA students can receive their high school diploma as well as a two-year college degree at no cost to the parents.

- Proposed for 9th and 10th grader to provide skills needed for college and qualify for Polk State Collegiate High School. 25 Students the first year, 25 added per grade level until capped at 100.
- Will use Sunshine State Standards through honor classes infused with STEM.
- Located at Berkley Accelerated Middle Academy in Auburndale and will share staff (teachers, secretary and Principal) before/after school and during their planning periods. Staff to receive supplements.

School Board concerns:

- This is a back door method for Berkley Middle to establish a high

school.

- Will need to budget more than \$1000 for marketing if your target area is all of Polk County.
- Why didn't Polk State Collegiate High School approach the District with student qualifying concerns?
- Does not see the necessity of this charter.

Information

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM. Minutes were approved and attested this 7th day of September, 2010. Amended Minutes were approved this 28th day of September, 2010

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Kay Fields, Board Chair

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Gail F. McKinzie, Ph. D., Superintendent