

06 08 2010 Work Session

## New Business

1. [8:30 - 8:40 AM School Board Comments](#)

## Board Agenda Review

2. [8:40 - 9:15 AM Review Agenda of May 25, 2010](#)

Attachment: [060810 school board meeting.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Items C16- C36: Budget Revisions-

Lori Cunningham asked why there are so many requests moving departmental funds to capital outlay. Mark Grey reported that the 09-10 budgets were created without capital outlay funds, and, at the end of the year if funds remained, departments could transfer funds to capital outlay for purchases rather than obligate next year's budget.

Item C70- Vehicle Auction

Mrs. Cunningham asked where auctions are held. Fred Murphy reported that in the past we used an auctioneer but this year we will use the on-line auction at [vehicledeals.gov](#). About half of the vehicles being auctioned have been replaced but we have not had a sale since 2006.

Item R74- Contract with Dr. Nickell

Tim Harris presented several questions regarding the contract language.

- under the termination notice: one says 5 months the other says 6 months.
- Paragraphs 5 and 8 regarding benefits: one sentence reads "for other administrative employees", another reference "to other employees" and a third reference "to all

administrators". Is there a difference in the insurance coverage for administration as to other employees? Mr. Harris suggested the language read "as provided to employees" since there is only one plan.

Wes commented that these are artifacts of the template and can be changed if the Board and Dr. Nickell agree.

Ron Ciranna reported that because the collective bargaining agreement is outside the scope of this position, the wording should be "as provided for other administrative employees." Change employee to administrative employee.

Mr. Harris asked if long-term disability is provided for all administrators? Mr. Ciranna reported it is offered to all administrators.

Page 14: evaluation is spelled incorrectly.

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

## Discussion

### Item 4

#### 4. [9:30 AM - 9:45 AM Ballot Opportunities](#)

Minutes:

Mark Grey was away from the district and called in for the discussion.

Dr. McKinzie reported that discussions were needed should the district wish to place the .25 tax levy on the upcoming ballot or go forward with another type, what that would mean, and what would be the time frame. And, if something could be done for the subsequent years after 2010- 11 year.

- Deadline for November election ballot is August 24th. The next election opportunity is 2012.
- The .25 mill would generate approximately \$7 million; employ approximately 125 people.

At the national level there is discussion on a 'Teacher's Job Bill' that would bring in \$24 billion. However, the concern is that it will be too much to add to

debt. Currently, ARRA funds pays for approximately 600 of our staff and it will end in the near future.

The .25 levy the Board can approve is for two years if you do it now; other levies sunset at four years.

Mrs. Sellers clarified that the current budget created by the state includes the .25 mill ballot; so if we don't do this, we will have to take another cut. Can we place a .25 mill on the ballot and have it for four years if we word it differently? Mr. Grey said yes. It falls under a different section of the statute.

Mrs. Lofton asked how much money is generated and how can we educate the public on the truth of the financial state. Dr. McKinzie commented we have to make a case; this is critical for education, let them know what has to happen and if not, what the consequences will be.

Consensus of Board is to place a levy on the November ballot;

10.11.01(9) Statute allows for additional millage up to 10 mills. Mark informed the Board that currently the levy is at 7.586 and we have the ability to raise it 2.4 mills.

Mr. Harris asked for an estimate of the drop in property taxes and the affect on our revenue. Mr. Grey stated that the property tax values have decreased our revenue approximately \$80 million. ARRA is about \$74 million.

Mr. Grey reported that the County is considering placing on the general election ballot a half cent sales tax levy for the county-wide bus service.

Dr. McKinzie stated staff will bring back more information on a recommended levy amount needed to save jobs.

#### Item 5

5. [9:45 AM - 9:55 AM Helios Early Childhood Professional Development Grant](#)

Attachment: [Helios Early Childhood Prof. Development Grant.pdf](#)

Minutes: Specifically written to increase professional development for practioners of 0-2 year olds that we are already serving through the Teen Parent Program.

#### Item 6

6. [9:55 AM - 10:10 AM Head Start Self Assessment](#)

Attachment: [Polk County Schools Preschool Program Head Start Self-Assessment Process and Summary.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Matti Friedt, Director of Pre-K, explained that Federal regulations for Head Start requires us to complete a self assessment and to have that self assessment reviewed by the school's governing body, the School Board and the governing partners, Policy Council. We did find some areas that will need to be reviewed and we will be working on an improvement plan.

Matti stated that there are more children not being served by Head Start as are being served. She will be approaching the School Board later in the year to ask for an expansion in the grant to service more students.

Another area that we would like to strengthen is the information system data so we are going to Childcare.net. This will allow data entered by other employees to be readily available and will coincide with our PIR (Program Information Report) that we submit annually. Head Start Centers would like to input their data directly into our Genesis system to better track and monitor students' progress. Information Services has been working on developing a program.

Child development and health services are another issue. Many of the students have not been screened for lead poisoning: PVC pipes, lead in toys, paints, etc. It affects their brain development, their eating habits, processing and motor skills, and it is on the rise in the United States.

Hazel Sellers asked how many more children could be served if we had the capability. Matti responded that we have around 1400 children on the waiting list. These are eligible children. Due to unemployment, more children are eligible than ever before. We have 888 in Polk County Schools Head Start and 54 Head Start in ALPHI which is another program, that is 954 in Head Start. We have another 654 in VPK. VPK is broke, we are working on borrowed money now. Head Start seems to be our only viable, consistent funding source. Head Start is an expensive program to provide.

There are times when Head Start will throw out opportunities to expand the program, we would have to hire more people. I did ask our staff to look at eliminating School Readiness and go straight to Head Start as those funds continue to be more difficult to access. One of the terms is eligibility, what are we doing to come to terms with eligibility? We are looking at our processes and monitoring processes. Hazel Sellers asked if we are now looking at the children that have had the opportunity to go to Head Start and the children that did not have the opportunity to attend Head Start to see the success of Head Start? Matti - yes, the first year (last year) we had 888 children at 22 sights, we did see some real growth. We had four that had some issues in academic situations. We had some children with significant issues but with the help of Title I to provide preschool support teachers, we have seen some great changes. Our parents and students know that our expectation is for our children to graduate. We had 21 parent committee meetings every month, we had 10 policy committee meetings. Overall, when you have parent engagement, you have success. Hazel asked what is needed to support this

grant? Matti stated that over the summer a meeting will be held with Risk Management to ask if we have more children than currently funded, what can be done to serve all the children.

Hazel Sellers asked academically how Head Start differs from VPK? Mattie stated that the Head Start standards are not as rigorous as the VPK standards, so the district adopted the VPK standards.

Tim inquired about the need for quality employees. Matti stated that the child in the preschool classroom has need of an appropriate language model, language acquisition is there in a preschool classroom. So if we have a teacher with limited language skills, the child will be modeling those limited language skills. This will negatively impact the child. We are in need of people who are articulate, that have a desire to learn vocabulary, a desire to read with passion and teachers who nurturing.

Regulations for Head Start will soon be changing; it will require a CDA (Child Development Associate) to have a bachelor's degree.

Tim Harris asked if these employees are evaluated by the site based principal? Matti replied that we evaluate the employees in partnership with the principal of their campus. We provide a pool for the principal to hire from and we evaluate them in partnership with the school principal. Remember these children do not count for FTE. Tim Harris said this makes for a little public relations problem for some schools. Matti commented they work together with the site principal.

#### Item 7

##### [7. 10:10 Am - 10:40 AM Charter Contracts for ACE Charter School, Compass Charter Middle School, Life Skills East Polk County and Montessori Middle School](#)

Attachment: [Contract Draft 6-PCSB to Life Skills East 6 3 10 \(3\) doc.pdf](#)

Attachment: [WS Summary Contracts 6 8 10.pdf](#)

Attachment: [WS Contracts 6.8.10.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Life Skills - Unresolved Life Skills issues are centered around the financial reporting.

- Mr. Grey reported the balance sheet reflects only the money controlled by the Board of Directors, not the total amount available to the school. No accounts payables (the management company pays those). We don't know if their bills are being paid or not. It is very difficult to know if they are on the brink of being shut down or the utilities being turned off. We cannot get a sense if the school is doing ok or not.
- Carolyn Bridges commented these are excel spread sheets not the reconciliations checks and balances sheets we normally receive, because those are prepared by White Hat. Example: March administrative costs

increased to \$14,000 in April. There is no explanation of what the change affects; there were no changes in the benefits so it wasn't reflected in salaries.

- There are no bank reconciliations.

These are the same difficulties we had four months ago; nothing has changed.

Mrs. Fields questioned the financial statement information; who provided it?

Carolyn reported it is assumed that the governing board is sending information to the management company who creates the document and sends it back to them and us. There is no documentation to support this statement.

Mark stated that we often hear about the State's requirement of 65% of dollars-to-the-classroom, Life Skills is well below the 65% required by the state. The documents we are asking for are standard accounting documents; not something that would have to be created.

Consensus was to allow Life Skills to have until noon on Thursday, June 17, to provide the necessary documents.

Dr. McKinzie said the deadline failures are exasperating. The deadline must be met or it will not be added to the agenda.

No questions on ACE Charter (5 years), Compass Charter Middle (7 year ), and Montessori Middle School (4 yr).

Item 8

8. [10:40 AM - 10:50 AM Snively Elementary Choice Phase Out Proposal](#)

Attachment: [WS Snively Phase Out 6.8.10.pdf](#)

Item 9

9. [10:50 AM - 11:00 AM 2010-2011 Code of Student Conduct](#)

Attachment: [Summary Changes to the Code.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Changes with Strikethrough.pdf](#)

Attachment: [2010-2011CoC with strikethrough.pdf](#)

Attachment: [BUDGET IMPACT ANALYSIS Code of Student Conduct.pdf](#)

Minutes: Cell phone and communication devices are the major changes to the Code of Conduct. Florida Statute says we have to allow them to have them but we can set the requirements when they can be in use on campus. Chain of custody is a major issue as well.

Information

Administration - Magnet, Choice, Charter

10. [Modification to DRF Babson Park Elementary for 2010-2011 Projected Enrollment](#)

Attachment: [WS - Babson Park Projected Enrollment 6 8 10.pdf](#)

11. [Modification to Hillcrest Elementary for 2010-2011 Projected Enrollment](#)

Attachment: [WS - Hillcrest Projected Enrollment 6 8 10.pdf](#)

12. [Modification to Janie Howard Wilson Elementary to Remove Pre-K Program](#)

Attachment: [WS Janie Howard Remove Pre-K 6 8 10.pdf](#)

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 PM. Minutes were approved and attested this 22nd day of June, 2010.

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Kay Fields, Board Chair

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Gail F. McKinzie, Ph. D., Superintendent