

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**JAMES F. NOTTER  
SUPERINTENDENT**

Telephone (754) 321-2600

Facsimile: (754) 321-2701

**School Board Workshop  
February 13, 2008**

**Student Code of Conduct**

The revisions to the Student Code of Conduct suggested by the Board Members were presented for the last review. Some of the proposed revisions included: the media release form, incidents that occur at bus stops, a comprehensive definition of bullying and cyber bullying, the dress code, FCAT testing and the possession of electronic devices, ID badges and make up work.

The media release form has separated the different media releases for better clarification for students and parents. Regarding incidences at bus stops it is clarified that parents should contact law enforcement directly. The Student Code provides a comprehensive definition of bullying and cyber bullying: Bullying and cyber bullying are defined as continual picking on another for pleasure or for power through verbal and/or physical actions or threats or through the use of electronic communication such as email, pod cast, camera, home pictures and the like; staff indicated that additional language from the Anti-Bullying Committee and the Discipline Matrix will also be included. If there is further legislation passed on bullying and cyber bullying it will be placed on the "What's New" page in the Student Code book to inform parents. The dress code now provides flexibility of the dress code regarding spaghetti straps/tank tops as long as an over blouse or jacket are worn. Low hanging pants cannot expose under garments. Any articles of clothing or jewelry that may cause injury such as spikes or sharp objects, chains are not allowed. Exchanging grills are not allowed and are a health hazard and have been addressed as such through the Health Education Services Department. Grills may be a disruption to the classroom; teachers will use their discretion whether or not they are a distraction. During FCAT, testing possession (i.e., "within arm's reach") of a cell phone or electronic device that reproduces, transmits, calculates or records are cause for invalidation of the test. This message will be strongly delivered to alert parents and students and will be absolutely adhered to, per the FCAT Test Administration Manual referred to in Statute. Staff will be investigating ID Badges with possible technology integration and will bring that information to the School Board Members in the Fall.

School Board Members had a detailed discussion regarding make up work beyond absences over 30 hours. In other words, a student could have a total 30 hours of excused or unexcused absences in a marking period and be able to make up the missed work. The discussion regarding making up work with more than 30 hours of unexcused absences was the major concern of the Board Members. They wanted to encourage a student to make up work without it being an extra burden for teachers and did not want to create an opportunity for a student to abuse this support. Also discussed was whether or not the missed work should get a full grade. Language proposed by staff would allow students to make up all work for absences within these 30 hours; for any unexcused absences beyond this, work would not be allowed to make up unless the principal/designee determines there are extenuating circumstances. The Board Members were very firm in their belief that there should be a consequence for missing school or classes. The school should automatically be alerted if a student has more than 30 hours of excused or unexcused absences in a semester. (Note: this is currently done through TERMS.)The student should be red flagged to make sure there are not circumstances, which could further reduce a

a student's attendance. If there is a question of whether an absence is excused or unexcused the principal/designee of the school will make that determination based on the reasons specified in the Attendance Policy.

Board Members realize that schools interpret policy differently from one school to another. This is not their intention; therefore, an interpretation template from administration will be developed for the Student Code of Conduct and given to the schools, principals, and teachers. Schools must be consistent across the district on the interpretation of policy directed by the School Board.

### **Investment Performance**

Steven Alexander, Managing Director of PFM Asset Management LLC, Broward County School District's Investment advisor, presented to the Board Members the quarterly report.

It was Mr. Alexander who alerted the School District of the sub prime mortgage problem and the danger to the School District's account with School Board Association (SBA). He advised the Chief Financial officer to withdraw these funds and place them in other securities and money market funds. Because of this advice, the School District saved their investments and did not experience the loss that many school districts did. The School Board will continue working with Mr. Alexander who will advise financial strategy for this corporation.

### **Boundary V**

Plantation High School and the Choice area at South Plantation were discussed. Board Member Dinnen supports the community's proposal, 1.1C that removed the Choice Seats at South Plantation High School and will bring forward some ideas such as a Magnet or IB programs for Plantation High School. Originally, South Plantation was under enrolled and a magnet program was started there. Because of this, Plantation High became under enrolled. A workshop will be held in the future to discuss Plantation High School and possible programs once further discussion with staff is completed.

Boundary scenarios for Cypress Bay High school were discussed. Staff went through the different scenarios, 4.1S + 24, the original staff scenario for West Broward High School (LLL), 4.1 +24 modified scenario for West Broward High School (LLL), 4.3 +24 combination of community scenarios 22.1C & 32.1C for West Broward High School (LLL). The Superintendent recommended 4.1S +24 staff scenario and gave the following reasons for his decision. This scenario:

- Provides the greatest relief for Cypress Bay High School.
- Stops the use of the Cypress Bay Annex, Circle Site, and can be used for other projects.
- Providing this relief allows for better scheduling for students.
- Meets Class Size demands.
- Helps with lunch scheduling issues.
- Does not disturb feeder patterns.

The recommendation from the Superintendent was driven by data and the needs of the students as a whole.

After discussing the different scenarios and their pros and cons, the Board Members supported the Superintendent's recommendation of scenario 4.1S. Board Members also suggested amending 4.1S to include Cooper City. The TAZ's involved are 911, 605, 606, 607, 608, 808 & 809. This scenario will be brought forward to the March 13, 2008 Boundary Public Hearing.

JFN:jd