

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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**School Board Workshop
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Review Facilities Department: Qualification Selection Evaluation Committee, QSEC Policy

The QSEC policy has been revised and in practice for approximately three years. From a business perspective, it is working very well. Now with the new QSEC policy there are very few protests. The reorganization of the department is the result of two Grand Jury reports. There were conflicts of interest in the department and mold and mildew complaints, which cause many concerns.

The QSEC process includes a prequalification application of the contractor, which is based on the criteria set forth in the State Requirements for Education Facilities (SREF) and a financial background check from Dun and Bradstreet.

Board Members are requested to attend the QSEC Committee meetings when projects involve their Districts. The Board Members are happy with the scoring computer system, which tallies the vote and takes a lot of the politics out of it.

The Facilities Deputy Superintendent gave an overview of some of the great things that have happened over the past few years. Facilities departments staff have gone through the back log of old projects on the books and are getting them done. They have replaced the roofs damaged by hurricane Wilma and are up to hurricane code. The Facilities department is looking into solar energy to light parking lots at schools. At this time, seven schools are planned to get this energy saving process. The irrigation systems at schools are controlled by computers, schedules watering and monitors rainfall so the system is not watering while it is raining. Bathrooms are using less water, thus saving approximately 40,000 gallons a year.

Facilities staff meet with Miami-Dade and Palm Beach school districts on a regular basis to exchange ideas on how to save energy in these large school districts and to keep up with the most recent innovative ideas and best practices.

The Board Members and School District are very proud of the things that are being done to save water and energy. A new marketing strategy was recommended by the Board to let the community, State and the entire Country know what is happening in Broward County. With the great leadership of this School Board and environmental friendly processes being implemented, Broward Public Schools is a good business model. In a time of cut funding and less operational money, saving on the daily business of running the 6th largest school district in the country helps in the long run. Money saving efforts like the ones that are being done through our Facilities department are being implemented throughout the School District, where applicable in every department and school.

Policy 3320, Purchasing

Staff came before the Board to discuss recommended changes/additions to the Purchasing Policy. Changes/additions recommended are:

- Updating the name of the department to match the organizational chart - Supply Management & Logistics.
- Purchases in excess of \$500,000 would require School Board approval. (Changed from \$150,000.)
- Waiving the requirement for requesting solicitations or School Board approval for instructional materials purchased from state authorized book depository. A monthly list of purchases exceeding \$500,000 would be provided to the Board.
- Addressing instances where a vendor is in non-compliance with a contract and giving the Director of Supply Management and Logistics the authority to invoke progressive corrective action steps prior to finding the vendor in default.
- Include in policy that an annual report of all Purchasing Card transactions shall be provided by the Superintendent.
- Include in policy the permitting of purchasing food refreshment for Title I and Head Start parent involvement activities as stated in Federal regulations (F.S. 1001.43(2)(g)).
- Include in policy the vision of a fully integrated technology system as referenced in the District Strategic Plan for Technology.

The Purchasing Department of Broward County Public Schools has received the 2006 and 2007 Annual Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award. This is another wonderful recognition that the School District has received and the Board Members noted that it had not been mentioned in the newspapers, nor posted on the browardschools.com website.

The Board Members stated that Broward County Public Schools does wonderful things that no one knows about. A marketing committee will be established with members of the Board, staff, business professionals, marketing teachers and students to come up with new ideas to communicate to the community the great things that are happening in our schools and departments. The Board Members had many ideas using the technology of today's world for example: blog, wiki, and weekly podcast.

In the future, once the committee is established and has developed marketing strategies, a workshop will be scheduled to present these ideas to the Board Members.

Budget/Legislative Update

A conference call was made to the School Board's lobbyist group working in Tallahassee, answering the School Board Members' questions on key issues such as:

- 2 mil funding issue in regards to how that money will be used.
- Class size issue.
- Bullying Bill.
- Transportation dollars.
- Children with autism and who would be responsible for funding.
- High School Reform.

The School Board's Lobbyist group will continue to update the School Board Members on the latest breaking news from Tallahassee.

There are still two estimating conferences before the final budget comes out in July. It is estimated that there will be a total of \$250 million cut from school budgets for next year with approximately 165 million coming from the Southern counties. This is 40% or $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total

budget cuts coming from Palm Beach, Broward and Dade counties alone. The Board stated that there is a huge inequity of budget cuts to the Southern counties in comparison to what is being cut from the Northern counties. The Board plans to have a press conference after their visit to Tallahassee this week expressing this inequity and how it will affect our school districts, businesses and communities. They want to get the correct information out to their constituents and update and educate them on this hard hit to education in their communities. Using the Boards' Communication Plan, and with the help of new technologies, this message will be conveyed to inform everyone about today's issues.

JFN:jd