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School Board Budget Workshop
May 6, 2009

The School Board Chair clarified her statement made to the public, at the April 27, 2009, Town Meeting, inviting the community to attend future School Board workshops. The School Board Chair wanted to clarify any misunderstanding regarding speaking at the workshops. It is the School Board's policy that speakers are not heard at workshops and that these meetings are the opportunity for School Board Members to have discussions on scheduled topics. The public is encouraged to come and listen to these discussions.

Drop Teacher Extension Process

The Superintendent brought forward a process for those teachers who wanted a DROP extension. There are 233 instructional personnel, who have requested an extension of their DROP date, which include: teachers, guidance counselors, social workers, media specialists, ESE specialists, school psychologists and speech language pathologists.

The Superintendent explained that if there were not a match for a position from the surplus list of instruction personnel that is currently held by a DROP Teacher, the DROP teacher would be offered a one-year extension. If there is a match for the position from the surplus list the DROP teacher will not be extended.

This is a very complex issue and the Superintendent and staff are looking at the number of potential surplus teachers and vacancies available and how many surplus teachers there will be once the vacancies are filled.

The Area Offices are looking over the schools' 4% budget reductions and are finding that they are not consistent across the district. Area Office will be doing a laser drill down to see what positions were surplus and will determine if they were guidance counselors, art, or music teachers. The Superintendent wanted the public to know that, as a School District, we do believe in the arts and do not want to do away with those classes.

The School Board Members were happy with the Superintendent's process and thought it fair. They asked that this process be communicated to employees via a pop-up message so they know what is happening.

Staff has gone up to Tallahassee to learn exactly how the stimulus dollars can be used. Looking at the Title 1 and IDEA money it does appear that some of those dollars can be used to hire reading, math and science coaches, which would reduce the surplus number of instructional personnel. Board Members want to make sure that the School District will be using these funds according to the Federal process and will be able show accountability.

School Board Members want the community to understand that the number of surplus personnel is not only due to the budget crisis of the State, but also due to the loss of 3,200 students. Due to the loss of students there is a surplus of instructional personnel of approximately 145.

The State has lost tax and tourism money and has used the stabilization dollars to sustain School Districts for another year. This money is not sufficient to fund the School District completely and, therefore, is under funded.

Board Members did have a concern Pare advertising the positions rather than using surplus employees, such as the ESE employees that were just surplus. It was thought that the surplus employees should have an opportunity to interview for the positions. Staff is requested to look into this to make sure the correct procedure is being followed under these circumstances of having a large surplus pool of employees, due to budget cuts.

Instructional personnel have a hire back process and School Board Members request that there be a process for non-instructional employees. The School District must adhere to the Union contract when it comes to surplus or bumping personnel.

The Superintendent's Drop Teacher Extension Process has been added to the eAgenda May 6, 2009 workshop.

Middle School Recommendation

It was thought by changing the middle school schedule it would save the District a large sum of money like the \$35 million saved if high schools changed to a 7 period day.

Staff came before the Board, and after gathering data, it was determined that changing the middle school schedules would not save a large amount of money. Most of the middle schools, except two, are already on a 6 period day schedule. It was suggested that the two schools, one on a 3 X 3 and the other on a 7 period day, should build up their enrollment to 1,500 and then change to a 6 period schedule.

There are scheduling requirements that must be taken into account, such as class size, middle school reform, opportunity to increase student academic excellence, ongoing remediation of lowest 25% of students, academic enrichment for all students and ongoing staff development.

There are also curricular issues, such as course recovery within the master schedule for students not meeting promotion criteria and the need to incorporate various mandates, such as the requirement for intensive reading, math, and government.

Current legislation and policies require a minimum of 348 minutes in a student's day, promotion requirement, physical education mandates, intensive reading and math requirements, to name a few.

A few years ago the Board decided to change the middle school 6 ½ hour day to a 6-hour day using the ½ hour for teacher planning and professional development. Board Member requested that this be looked at again to see if that half-hour should be added back. Since that change was made, Board Members have not had a follow-up on this schedule change and would like that discussion brought to a workshop.

Material for this topic can be found on the eAgenda May 6, 2009 workshop.

High School Schedule Realignment Cost Benefit Analysis

This discussion is a follow-up to the previous discussion on February 10, 2009. The Board Members asked that staff bring back information regarding:

- The impact of a 4-day week for high schools, including transportation.
- Schools in District that would stay on existing schedules.
- Incentives to schools to vote to change scheduling individually.

A 4-day week for high schools would save on transportation, food services, and electricity for a total saving of \$3,630,809. Board Members were not in agreement for a 4-day school week across the District, but did want available the option for schools to choose to do so, on an individual basis, with the proper vote at the school level of teachers and the community.

Schools in the District that would change to a 7 period day have the potential to save \$34,481,685. This is a huge savings. There are 18 schools that would not change their schedule. Pompano Beach High and 17 centers, such as the technical schools, Seagull, Sunset, The Quest, and Charles Drew Family Resource Center, to name a few. Board Members are in agreement to go forward with changing the schedules across the District to a 7 period day, and staff is requested to begin discussion with the Broward Teachers Union, since this is a contractual decision. Individual schools that wish to change to a 7 period day would have the option to do so with the proper vote of teachers and community. There was a question regarding teachers getting paid the extra hour. At this time teachers are being paid for the additional hour at schools, which are on a block schedule. Staff is requested to supply the Board with the total cost for the additional hour payment and let the Board Members know what the final savings would be.

Material for this topic can be found on the eAgenda May 6, 2009 workshop.

JFN:jd