

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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School Board Workshop

May 12, 2009

Policy 5202, Gifts: Solicitation and Receipt and New Policy: Representation of Persons Before the School Board

Policy 5202, Gifts: Solicitation and Receipt, included a rule regarding Representation of Persons Before the School Board, which concerns employees doing business with the District. Board Members requested that these two rules be separated into two policies.

Policy 5202, Gifts: Solicitation and Receipt, refers to employees accepting gifts. Staff brought forward the Board's recommendations regarding this policy.

Paragraph 2. Improper Influence. It was requested to delete this statement "Two or more people meeting at a social gathering is not construed as an unethical practice." This statement does not refer to accepting gifts. Board Members are governed by the Florida Statutes and Ethics Rules, which are stated in this paragraph. Board Member suggested that this statement be placed in the handbook being developed for SAC training.

It was pointed out that Paragraph 2 did not address a teacher receiving a gift from a parent for example: during the holiday season or at the end of school. Staff is requested to add to the Policy and Guidelines a statement that would capture this type of gift giving that would not be for influencing a grade, rather a gift of appreciation.

In Paragraph 3, Gifts or Gratuities - Employees, 7th line. It is requested that the word "monetary" be changed to "cash." Staff is requested to give direction and training during orientation to employees involved with vendors regarding what can or cannot be accepted. Board Members also referred to the vendors \$100 limit on lunches. Staff is requested to clarify this in the Guidelines.

Paragraph 7, Procurement Employee and Reporting Individuals. Staff is requested to add to this paragraph a statement regarding training for employees involved with vendors regarding all restrictions and limitations.

Policy 5202, Guidelines, Board Member requested that in paragraph III, Permitted Gifts or Gratuities, Item b., remove teacher and use a more general statement for awards that can be accepted.

Staff is requested to bring back the requested changes to a workshop to review before going to a School Board meeting for approval.

The New Policy, Representation of Persons Before the School Board, states that no School Board Member or School District employee may represent another or entity for compensation before the School Board of Broward County, Florida, for a period of two years following vacation of office or termination of employment except for purposes of collective bargaining. It

also states that the employee cannot work for the School Board on weekends or after work through the employee's own business.

Board Members did not have any changes for the new policy: Representation of Persons Before the School Board.

Also mentioned was Policy 6308, which delineates rules for publishers, textbook adoption committee, and District staff regarding gifts, food, money, emoluments, entertainment, employment, or other valuables and Policy 6206, which is regarding fund raising activities.

Material for this presentation can be found on the eAgenda, May 12, 2009 workshop.

Campus Vending Machines

All campus vending machines have been consolidated into a common contract, which require healthy food options in every vending machine.

The School Board requested at the September 2007 workshop that all vending products were required to contain zero trans fat and there be healthy foods in every vending machine. Site visits have been performed to make sure this is done.

A review of the commission revenue shows requiring healthier options has not negatively impacted schools. In fact, the projected trend shows increasing commission revenues.

A small sample of Principals was surveyed to see if the requirement of healthier options impacted their commissions or students. The results were favorable. A similar survey was conducted with the larger vending companies. The general feedback is that there is no negative financial impact by offering healthier vending choices.

Staff stated that they would conduct a larger survey, including all schools, to find out how offering healthier options in their vending machines has impacted their commissions. This information will be forwarded to the Board Members. The survey will ask if business has gone down and if any complaints have been received. Staff is requested to include the KCW Administration Building in the survey and meet with the Research department to make sure the right response is being received.

It is also requested that Principals be involved in what is being offered in the vending machines at their schools and ask that the vendors contact them individually. Schools count on those dollar profits for awards and incentives.

Board Members requested that staff research the District and/or an individual school on having a single vendor and what the advantages would be. Other considerations would be to reduce product cost for higher earning for schools.

Material for this presentation is on the eAgenda May 12, 2009 workshop.

Budget Update:

SRO's

The Broward Sheriffs Department is considering canceling some of the funding for a number of SROs due to budget restraints. Half of our cities have contracts that provide SRO funding. The Superintendent said that there is a list of all cities, which fund SROs and will send that to the Board.

It was decided to put a workgroup together to discuss the SRO situation on a regular basis throughout the year, to discuss the existing funding, to find a long term solution for funding, and if there is any stimulus money that could be used to pay for SROs. Board Member stated that the biggest issue is the quality of service and not all of the programs are the same. It was suggested to create a template of what a SRO program should look like. This SRO template could also be considered by the workgroup. The membership of this workgroup should include: a few members from the League of Cities, Broward Sheriffs Department, School Board Members and other staff, in order to bring new ideas to the table.

A document has been added to the eAgenda regarding Broward County Public School's financial contribution over several years for SROs.

Budget Update

Staff came before the Board to give an update on the State's Budget for Education and passed out several handouts, which are now posted on the eAgenda for this topic. The handouts are:

- Financial Update-Number 31, 2009-2010 State Proposed Budget
- Final State Conference Report/FEFP Calculation
- Public School's Funding Summary/Comparison with 2008-1009
- Broward School's Budget Balancing 2008-09

Also previously posted:

- Matrix of Board Workshop Budget Reduction Options

The 2009-2010 State Public School's Budget is 7.2 per cent lower from \$19.3 billion two years ago to \$17.9 billion for next year. Broward County School's budget is \$10 million less than last year. The budget is designed to maintain the current level of spending with no new dollars.

The \$91 million in Federal stimulus dollars were supplanted to fill the holes in the State's Budget. There are no extra dollars to save jobs. The State has also reduced categorical items and transferred those revenues to the general fund making it appear that more State revenues are being allocated for education, when it only amounts to a shift of available funding.

The legislature reduced the capital millage from 1.75 to 1.5 and increased the discretionary millage in the operating budget to make up for shortfalls in state funding. This is a drastic reduction in funding for the Capital side of the budget, which includes funding for school construction, technology and vehicles. The School Board has the option to transfer .25 mills from the Operational side of the budget to Capital, however this would create a deficit in the operating budget. The change also allows the School Board to decide if they will approve, by super majority, an additional levy of .25 mills for a two-year period, which would then require voter approval after the two-year period has expired. This additional levy can be used for either capital or operating budget.

Staff will be preparing different models of the various millage options for the Board based upon these legislative changes. This will be discussed at the June 9, 2009 School Board Workshop along with the impact it has had on the Capital Plan.

Board Members agree that the State supplanted the Federal Stimulus money to balance their budget. Supplanting Federal Stimulus dollars is not allowed. It was suggested the School Board Members and the community contact the Governor to veto the budget due to supplanting. The handout, Final Conference Report/FEFP Calculations, at the bottom under categoricals, column two for 2009-10, shows the state funded zero dollars for this year.

Board Members asked if the Stimulus dollars were removed from the State's budget, how much money did the State actually fund. That data would be very useful to explain the State's budget to the community. Employees expected the \$91 million stimulus money would be used for saving jobs. Even the Broward Teachers Union expected that. Board Members requested an exact explanation, in easy terms, of what has happened with the Stimulus money. Include in the data what the State has funded the School District in the past several years and the unfunded mandates that are required, so there is a clear picture. The community is asking for transparency and accountability on the stabilization funds and Stimulus dollars.

The Superintendent stated that every Board Member has done everything that could have been done to not lay off employees in the last two years and this year the School District has fallen short of that directive. The State's budget numbers have changed by the hour and to act in a normal plan ahead mode has been impossible. This is the first time in many years that the School District has had to surplus employees.

Board Members requested the Superintendent to have another Town Hall Meeting to let the community know about the approved budget, the supplanted dollars, and have more time for questions and answers. The Superintendent will get some dates for the Board's approval.

It was asked why West Palm Beach School District receives more FTE dollars per student than Broward County. This was noted in the local newspapers. Staff explained that there is a base funding per student that is the same across the state. The extra dollars are due to how the base funding is weighted by extra ESE services students received, thus adding on to the base. Board Member asked staff to research what West Palm Beach is doing and what we are doing. Board Member asked if teachers are properly filling out the extra services matrix. There could possibly be more funding that could be received. The Chair also asked for definitions of the terminology being used, such as: what is FTE, base allocation, and weighted.

Next, staff went over the matrix of all Budget reductions options that would reduce the School District's budget that were presented at past workshops, which ones were approved, and which are pending Board approval.

Board Members asked for further clarification of lapse salary. Staff explained that when a position becomes vacant it is the dollars saved before the position is again filled. Schools in the past used these dollars. The new SAP budget program does not allow this, due to its greater accountability of all dollars and internal control. Schools will now fill the positions in a shorter length of time to keep those dollars in their budget. This is a good practice, reduces the need for substitutes, and is better for the students.

The postponement of literature & reading for grades 3-8 adoption was discussed. The Superintendent stated that staff suggested there be an adoption for 3rd grade. This is the grade that the first retention could possibly occur. The Superintendent agrees and dollars will be realigned for this purchase.

The District Educational Financial Plan (DEFP) is scheduled for the May 26th workshop. Staff requested that this be postponed until the June 9th workshop. This will allow time for staff to sit with individual Board Members to discuss what will have to be cut from this plan due to the State's under funding.

Material for this presentation can be found on the eAgenda May12, 2009 workshop.

Preschool Models

School Board Members requested that staff create alternative models for an extended day, no fee, preschool program.

The current VPK/Head Start Service models are: VPK/Head Start, VPK/ESE, VPK/Fee Based and VPK/sliding scale model. A full day is 8 a.m.-2 p.m. The extended day is 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After 2 p.m. it is considered after care. There are eight schools that have the current VPK/Head Start Service Model with total operational cost per student of \$9,666.

Board Members asked staff to see if all the 8 a.m.-2 p.m. VPK/Head Start models could be extended to 5 p.m. by taking the Head Start model and extending the day with Pre-K funding. It was suggested to contact the parents of an 8 a.m.-2 p.m. model and see if they would like an extended day. That way these would be confirmed attendance. The School District will look at school by school to see who needs the extended day the most so resources can be used in the most needed areas.

Board Member was very concerned with the Readiness student population and that there is no funding for that group of students. Staff is exploring different funding options for this group of students by looking to see if dollars can be realigned so that more students can be serviced. Staff will outline some barriers that exist, which impede the readiness part, and will bring that information to the Board so they can decide on the next steps.

There is a new initiative being crafted at the State level for Bright Beginnings. This initiative is looking at VPK and Head start and aligning them with the Bright Beginnings program, bringing all of these programs together.

Material for this topic is on the eAgenda May 12, 2009 workshop.

JFN:jd