

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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**School Board Workshop
June 23, 2009**

Growth Management and Boundaries

Staff came before the Board to give a follow-up to the June 9, 2009 workshop, Level of Service Standard, Senate Bill (SB) 360, Interlocal Agreement discussion.

Board Members had asked if the qualified relocatables, under Senate Bill 360, could be used to enable schools to meet Level of Service (LOS) Standard by their deadline year. At this time, staff is waiting for an official response from the Florida Department of Community Affairs regarding the inclusion of qualified relocatable capacity for meeting LOS. It will depend on the definition of "the first 3 years of school concurrency implementation."

The Board Members had a discussion regarding what other districts were doing to comply with LOS and the consequences if we do not meet the Interlocal Agreement.

One of the penalties would be that the State would hold back lottery dollars. The Board asked what the greater consequence is, moving students and disrupting families with boundary changes, or getting fewer lottery dollars.

Board Members stated that they have the opportunity to amend the Interlocal Agreement and look at other models. Most counties across the State are having the same problems. When this agreement was designed a few years ago, the data for making this agreement was completely different. The Board did not understand the unforeseen consequences of this plan. There also may be a legal challenge to SB 360.

Staff brought forward other model options such as:

- Expanding the concurrency service area, like Palm Beach did.
- Chose to adopt a long-term concurrency management system of 10 years.
- Amend the Level of Service Standard (LOS), to 120% capacity. At this time it is 110%

The pros and cons of all options were discussed and the Board decided not to make a decision at this time. The Superintendent requested that the Oversight Committee discuss these options and bring forward a recommendation.

Board Members wanted to make sure that the maps from the June 9th workshop, Level of Service discussion, were brought to the Oversight Committee so they completely understand the boundary situation and how drastic the boundary changes would be if we were to comply with the Interlocal Agreement. Once that presentation is made to the committee, a subcommittee is to be formed to see what has occurred across the State, review the different options available, and have staff come back with a model for the Board's consideration. Include the pros and cons, potential future consequences, and rationale. The most current up to date data must be used to make these decisions.

Board Members requested that spot surveys be done at several schools. The Superintendent asked Board Members to give him a list of schools where they would like spot surveys done.

Board Members also requested that communities receive a further explanation regarding the moving of students to receiving schools because of NCLB and AYP and as a result schools are overcrowded. They do not understand why the students need to be transferred and that this a Federal mandated program.

Staff then gave the Board an overview of the boundary process this year and the schools that will probably need a boundary change. Also discussed was the offering of two rather than one boundary scenario at community meetings, the timeline, and the suggestion to restructure the school and community meetings. It was decided to offer two boundary scenarios at community meetings and have a time certain for speakers at schools. Board Members also requested that there be a better process of notification for when these meetings would be held.

The second boundary workshop will be held in August 2009. Material for this presentation can be found on the eAgenda June 23, 2009 workshop.

Stimulus Update-The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

At the previous March 6, 2009 workshop, there was limited information about ARRA. Board Members were informed that the ARRA stimulus package would provide support for K-12 education by:

- Additional funding for specified grant programs, subject to Federal regulations.
- The State Fiscal Stabilization Fund.
- Authority to issue school constructions bonds.

The Florida Department of Education and Florida Legislature have finalized and released allocations since March. This presentation is the status report on those allocations.

Staff updated the Board on all the funding streams such as grant funding: Title 1, IDEA, Technology grant, Mckinney/Vento Homeless grant, and School Lunch Equipment Assistance. Applications are in process or have been submitted for these grants. So far, the District has been awarded \$115,386 for the School Lunch Equipment Assistance.

Board Members asked why the School District did not apply to the grant for Head Start. This is a cash-matching grant and the School District did not have the dollars to do this. The Superintendent decided not to submit an application because of the budget circumstances. Head Start is rewriting their existing grant, which will bring in more dollars.

A total of 49 new schools have been identified to receive Title I dollars. There are 166 schools for 2009-10, which meets the criteria to be identified as a Title I school. Title I schools have significant academic needs with 40% or greater of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch. The added schools receiving Title 1 stimulus funding is an opportunity to provide more support for more schools.

Board Member requested the Superintendent to notify the new schools and communities, in advance, that they are now Title I schools. Many of these schools are designated receiving schools for NCLB and have dropped a grade or two because of it. Many people do not associate being a Title I school as being positive since Title I schools are designated as low income and receiving free or reduced lunch. Staff at the schools will also need to be sensitive to this.

The Stimulus dollars for Title I schools have very strict requirements and must be used in a very exact way with strict accountability reporting to the Federal Government. Part of these dollars must be used to save and create jobs. 94 positions were saved and an additional 91 positions were added.

This money will be used to improve the level of these schools and students. Board Member wants to see a difference in the Title I schools in the next few years because of the added Stimulus dollars and requests staff to evaluate them at the end of this period. Staff is requested to bring these results back to the Board showing what has been done with the Stimulus money.

There are also Stimulus allocations for IDEA, which have strict guidelines and accountability reporting. The IDEA dollars will save and create 64.5 positions.

Other stimulus allocations are for IDEA Preschool, and Title II D Technology.

Regarding the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund for education, Broward received 90.8 million for K-12 education and 4.3million for Workforce development (Technology Centers.) This funding was used by the State to plug holes in their budget. This was not extra money on top of what the State gave us. This was actually less than what the District would normally receive from the State.

2010-2011 subsequent allocations will depend on the Florida legislature and the ability to qualify. This is not an automatic allocation.

There is a misunderstanding by the community about the Stimulus dollars and how they were used by the State to balance their budget. Staff is requested to write a synopsis in layman's terms on the distribution of the Stimulus dollars by the State and send it to the Board, who in turn will send it to their constituents requesting them to contact their legislators.

The Superintendent is requested to utilize Capwiz, which is a software advocacy solution for organizations to contact state and federal elected officials by email, fax, mail and hand deliver constituent letters. Capitol Advantage is the name of the software company.

Material for this presentation can be found on the eAgenda June 23, 2009 workshop.

District Educational Facilities Plan (DEFP)

Staff came before the Board with a follow-up presentation to the June 9, 2009 workshop. At the June 9th workshop staff spoke about the reduction in millage to 1.5, the devastating affect on the School Districts 5-year plan, and the inability to get bonding for the construction.

Staff went over the previously budgeted projects and said there are no new planned construction projects, no significant funding for technology programs, no new buses or vehicles, and no new funding for energy management upgrades.

Board Member asked if we were purchasing playground equipment. This year the State will not allow School Districts to use capital funds to purchase playground equipment, which has been done in previous years. There is no other funding, which can pay for new playground equipment. It was requested that the School Board appeal this Florida DOE decision and requested it to be part of our legislative platform. This creates a have and have not situation at our schools. Schools, which do have playgrounds and schools, which do not.

There are many projects that were previously budgeted, but once the millage was reduced and property values declined some of these projects will be delayed until funding is resolved. A total of \$1.8 billion in projects are not being done, which were to be completed over the next 5 years.

This includes facility construction and renovation, new school buses, new technology, and energy saving projects. Due to no new projects, staffing will likely be reduced in 2010-2011. The State recently approved the revised Educational Plant Survey and is not allowing any new student capacity addition projects in Broward County (i.e. new schools and classroom additions). These project cuts are included in the \$1.8 billion in total projects that are not being done.

At the last workshop staff brought forward five options regarding the millage. At that time the Superintendent suggested taking option 3 which allowed the district to raise property taxes by .25 mills with a Super Majority vote by the Board. The County Property Appraiser release June estimates of the taxable property values, which did not decline as sharply as originally projected by the State. As a result of the new estimate the Superintendent has decided not to pursue this option. It would only generate \$36 million and would be a one-time funding. Bonds need to be supported by a long term funding source. Relying on one time funding would be viewed negatively by bond rating agencies. Bottom-line, the burden of school district capital outlay funding should not be placed on the Broward County property holder via a higher tax; the burden must be placed on the State. Raising taxes is the wrong thing to do at this time.

Staff is requested to prepare a synopsis in laymen's terms that can be sent out to the public using Capwiz and other communication tools regarding the millage, the required local effort, and why we are not able to put in that playground or finish that school project. The School District is in a financial crisis and needs the public to know. A Town Hall meeting will be scheduled near the start of the 2009-10 school year to further update the community.

All of the Board Members understand that because of the reduction in millage and property values, many projects will not be done. The overall DEFP package presented today is the way it will be presented at the Public Hearing scheduled for July 22nd. Board Members requested individual meetings with staff to fine tune the DEFP and understand that there are no funds to add projects. Staff will contact the Board to set up the meetings next week.

The material for this presentation can be found on the eAgenda June 23, 2009 workshop.

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