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School Board Workshop
September 2, 2008

SCHOOL CALENDAR - 2009-2010

Due to State mandate of establishing the start date of school, which can be no earlier than two weeks prior to Labor Day, there is not much discussion from the community regarding the school calendar.

The calendar scenarios presented to the Board are similar with vacation breaks generally following the semester breaks. The Board did recommend that Calendar 1A would be their choice.

Board Members had a few requests and asked staff to return with feedback from the community. One request was the possibility of adding one more day, Wednesday, to the Thanksgiving break. Staff was requested to find out how many school districts in Florida take the Wednesday off and the whole week off for Thanksgiving. If the District took the whole week off, would there be after care available for parents during this week? Staff must also make sure that this would not impact hurricane makeup days. Staff is requested to gather this information and bring back for the next calendar workshop discussion.

Board Members also asked why Columbus Day is not a day the School District has off. Staff responded that this day was brought up to the calendar committee and since it is not a day the Teachers Union requests off, it was not considered.

This year, Easter Break includes the Passover holiday, so, Broward County's parents can plan for either of these holidays.

There was also discussion regarding when the FCAT would be given. As educators, the best time would be to have a date which best maximizes the 180 days of instruction. The Board stated they were not happy with the test vendor and the amount of time it takes them to grade the FCAT and get the results back to the School District. It was suggested that this should be put out to bid to get a better vendor. The Board would be interested to know who the vendor(s) are.

Staff is requested to have the calendar scenario available on-line to get feedback from parents. Once the data is collected, staff is requested to bring the calendar back for further discussion at a workshop.

The material for this presentation is on the eAgenda for the September 2nd workshop.

Anti-Bullying Policy 5.9 Procedural Manual

The Board approved Policy 5.9 Anti Bullying and the Procedural Manual was developed to further guide principals, staff, parents and students on how interpret this policy.

The purpose of the Anti-Bullying Policy 5.9 Procedural Manual is to:

- Provide further examples to clarify definition and policy requirements.
- Provide specific procedures that must be followed for fidelity of implementation.
- Address questions that come up.
- Provide forms and materials for implementation.
- Provide ongoing updates to procedures based on implementation needs.

The initial document was drafted by the Subcommittee of the Anti bullying Tasks Force. This draft was used as part of the Principals training in August, which provided input, feedback and has been added to the existing document brought forward to today's workshop.

The policy and procedural manual are designed to ensure that every school has staff that has been trained and are supported in their school's efforts to provide awareness, intervention training, and instructional strategies on prevention, including violence prevention, for each staff, parent, and student in the District and to direct follow-up when incidents are reported and/or occur.

Board Members requested a few changes to the document and were very pleased with the procedural manual. Board Members were interested if Principals had any issues with the original draft and would like to see what they were. Staff is requested to do a comparison matrix, which would show the original draft, the changes, and the rationale for the document presented today.

Board Members requested that discussions regarding bullying be scheduled at town meetings, at District Area Councils, PTA, SAC and other parent groups to inform parents, answer questions and give support.

The Student Advisor recommended having forums for students after school to discuss bullying. There will be designated student ambassadors who will schedule the forums and give presentations on bullying. Staff will be meeting with the Student Advisor to further explore this idea.

The Anti Bulling Policy and Procedural Manual can be found on the eAgenda September 2, 2008 workshop.

Commissioner's Letter Regarding The Smart School Institute of Technology and Commerce High School

The Superintendent received a letter from the Florida Department of Education regarding the status of the Smart School Institute of Technology and Commerce High School. Prior to the 2007-08 school year, the State Board of Education and the School Board took steps to address the continued failing status of this school. As part of the action plan recommended by the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 1008.3.3(1). Florida Statues, the School Board was to close the school if it received another F for the 2007-08 school year. Planning for this possibility, the School Board and the Smart School agreed that if the school received one more F, good cause would exist for the District to terminate its charter with the School. Due to the continuing failing performance during the 2007-08 School year the School Board has scheduled

a Special School Board meeting to vote on closing The Smart School Institute of Technology and Commerce High School.

The Superintendent of Schools has had discussions with the school, and every avenue has been looked at to see if the school could continue to be open. More importantly, is the smooth transition of the students to other schools if it is voted to close Smart Charter High School. Broward County Public Schools stands ready to assist the students in transitioning to new opportunities in higher performing schools with minimal disruption. The District empathizes with the students and families impacted by the closure of this Charter High School, which will dramatically impact the community, students and their families who must find another school option.

There are several options being looked at as choices for the students. These choices will be further discussed at the Special School Board meeting on September 8 2008, 11:15 a.m., at the Kathleen Wright Administrative Building.

2007-2008 Update to the Citizens concerned about our Children Settlement Agreement (CCC)

The CCC Settlement Agreement Status Report, 2007-08 provides information regarding the extent to which District, Area and school staffs of Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) have met the conditions stipulated by the August 1, 2000, Citizens Concerned about our Children Settlement Agreement. There are nine conditions of the CCC Settlement Agreement, each with established standards and indicators to address the terms of the agreement.

Information was collected from surveyed school staff, which identifies each school's status for the standards under select conditions and school district level data analysis regarding measures related to select conditions. Information gathered by the on-line survey, combined with the result from the Annual Customer Survey, were used to identify progress made by the school's staff and to identify gaps that need to be addressed on selected indicators. All BCPS are included with the exception of Charter Schools, as these schools are not addressed in the CCC agreement.

The nine conditions with indicators were reviewed to show where we are today in meeting these standards.

Condition 1, Textbooks: The purchase of one core textbook for every child for Reading, Mathematics, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies for elementary, middle and high schools. The School Board is implementing a new Electronic Textbook Tracking System at all schools, which will help to retrieve this information. Board Members requested a matrix showing which schools and classes have or do not have books for every child. Previous data determined that all students did not have core textbooks. Once the electronic textbook tracking system is in force, this data will be more easily available.

Condition 1, Indicator 1.2, Access of Textbooks for Home Use. This item now includes electronic textbooks. The District and school staff will communicate information about all avenues available to access textbook materials. One such avenue is the textbook is placed on a CD. The student only needs access to a computer with a CD drive and would not need access to the internet. Many dollars would be saved by placing textbooks on CD's and is a future goal to use more technology moving into the 21st century.

Condition 1, Textbooks, Indicator 1.7 Textbook Replacement Plan Student Obligations. Not all books are returned at the end of the school year, thus leaving a deficit of books for the next year. Schools are transitioning from a local to a central tracking of books, which will help to know how many books a school has at the end of the year. It was suggested to have an amnesty day, when students could just return books they did not return at the appropriate time to a drop off box. This would allow the student to not have to pay back fees and the school would have books for their students.

Condition 2, Technology, Condition 3, Standards of Service and Condition 4, AP and Honors. Course indicators have been met or have exceeded the established standard.

Condition 5, Athletics Extracurricular Activities. Athletic Facilities - meeting District standards and are in satisfactory condition are in 81.2 % in compliance. Athletic facilities repairs and upgrades are included in the 5-year Capital Plan. Extracurricular Activities, such as Youth Crime Watch, Future Educators of America, School Newspaper and Chorus, 68.9% of schools met the indicator. Athletic & Student Support is contacting schools that lack extracurricular activities. Schools are to report their remediation steps to Area Offices and Athletics & Student Support.

Condition 6, Media Centers Learning Resources will generate monthly reports of schools out of compliance and Area Directors will help to follow up.

Condition 7, Disciplinary Actions, Board Members stated that the Discipline Matrix is not being honored. Board Members requested an accountability plan. A new on-line Discipline Management System will align code of conduct violations with discipline matrix consequences. Full implementation of this system will start with the 2008-09 school year.

Condition 8, Five Year Capital Plan including ADA compliance. All facilities constructed by the District since enactment of the ADA Accessibility Guidelines are in compliance. For building construction prior to 1993, the District is completing work to ensure student have access to all facilities. A District wide facility ADA Survey is in progress to accurately determine which facilities are fully compliant. The survey started in July 2008, and will be completed in 2009.

Condition 9, Student Reassignment, all conditions have been met using Policy 5000, 5501, 5003 and Policy 5004.

A CCC Annual Report Tool has been developed for the CCC Annual Report and data will be more available on a week-to-week basis, which will help locate schools that need help and attention.

The CCC Annual Report can be found on the eAgenda September 2, 2008 workshop.

BRITE Update

The implementation of BRITE is a huge success. The original project model was implemented as originally planned with a successful delivery of training utilizing Distance Learning Technologies.

The District closed its financial records on time and no requests for extensions were needed, as is common for other school district implementations across the nation. All payrolls in the new system have been successfully completed and delivered.

The District now moves from implementation to the stabilization phase, which will resolve remaining open items and provide temporary to permanent solutions.

From day one, IBM and KPMG highly skilled consulting teams helped the SBBC deliver this enormous and complex project.

The SBBC BRITE success story is due to many factors, such as:

- Performing 16 weeks of extensive testing.
- Using remedy software to log, track and manage help desk phone calls.
- Utilizing advanced training technologies such as, Elluminate, Camtasia PowerPoint, and BECON videos.
- Developing a repository website of useful information, such as training materials, training simulations and business practice bulletins.
- Developing the BRITE Lite Program for additional support to schools and departments.
- On-site visits to ensure procedures were followed.

The School Board is very happy and thanked staff for their very hard work for this enormous accomplishment for the school district.

JFN:jd