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School Board Workshop
September 16, 2008

Policy 6000.1, Student Progression Plan #1

The School Board has requested that Policy 6000.1 be reviewed and updated quarterly, throughout the year. This review is the first for this school year. The review and update allows staff the opportunity to inform the School Board of new legislative required changes, which must be added to the policy. It also gives the School Board Members the opportunity to review the policy to see if they have any additions or revisions they would like to add to the policy and see the revisions they made the last time the policy was reviewed.

A matrix of all the changes was reviewed with the School Board Members. The following are some of those changes and discussions.

- Clarification of the 150 minutes of physical education each week in elementary school shall be delivered in 30 consecutive minutes per day – Senate Bill 610. (The 30 minutes do not have to be done at one time and can be spread through the day.) Schools are provided resources for the physical education time. The School Board Chair stated that it would be helpful to provide the teachers a day-by-day lesson plan for PE.

- Added Language prohibiting schools from suspending a regular program of curricula for the purpose of administering practice tests or engaging in other test preparation activities for a statewide assessment. There was concern regarding BAT testing and some teachers thought that the 1st test was optional and 2nd has to be done. The Chair informed staff that teachers are saying they need the data from the BAT at the beginning of the year rather than later and thought the 1st BAT test should be mandatory. Staff believes that both tests should be given in order to gather data to monitor each student. This gives the teacher an opportunity to see if their instruction is making an impact. Also discussed was a blackout period during BAT testing. There is a blackout period for field trips during FCAT week. Some schools are going a step further and are not allowing field trips during BAT testing week. The field trip guidelines will be discussed in the future and will be placed in the procedural guidelines and on the School Board's website.

- Removal of the FCAT-NRT tests as an assessment option for elementary and middle school promotion. The FCAT-NRT is no longer offered by the State per Senate Bill 1908. Broward County Schools' Core Curriculum staff is in the process of identifying an appropriate assessment test for 2008-09 to replace the NRT. This assessment was used for promotion of third and other grades. The Sunshine State Standards test is used but is a competency test and should not be the only assessment for promotion. The Alternative Assessment can also be used. The NRT was also used as a district-wide assessment to compare us with other school districts across the country. It is important to know the status of this school district in comparison to other school districts on a national level. It is important that local and out of state parents know where this school district stands as to the rest of the country. Broward County Public Schools has won many awards nationally because of this test. The State removed this assessment because of budget cuts. Board Members were interested to know how much the State was saving by not

supplying this assessment tool. This makes it very difficult for counties like ours, who want to do well, and do not have a comparison test.

Discussion continued about the many changes required by the State per Florida Statute.

- FS 1003.4156-Students who score at level 1 must take intensive reading and students who score at level II may take a content area course with reading strategies embedded or must take intensive reading.

- SBER 6A-1.0955-All courses and grades that are forgiven must be included on the student's transcript. Board Members wanted to know if the best grade could remain on the transcript and the rest of the grades be eliminated. Staff will look into this request.

- Early Admissions and dual enrollment were discussed and Board Members would like more information on this. The Superintendent brought to the attention of the Board that Broward Community College is now Broward College, a four-year college, offering a four-year degree. Board Members would like further discussion on what impact this has on the School District.

- Computer Competency is a requirement for 9th graders. Board Member stated students are not computer skilled in office systems. Students should be offered office system classes. Computer Competency needs to include application knowledge and keyboard skills. Board Member suggested that after completing an application course a certificate of competency would be given to a student. This certificate could then be added to the student's resume, which would show the students' knowledge in a certain application such as Word, Filemaker Pro, or Excel. Staff is requested to contact software companies to see if they have tests and certificates of competency that could be issued to students.

Board Members wanted to have their recommendation, which was made last year, regarding providing a key at graduation for graduation honor cords. This would help parents know what the recognitions are. Staff is requested to place this procedure in the policy and the procedural guidelines.

The policy and matrix of changes can be found on the eAgenda September 16, 2008 workshop.

CCC Update

Board Members requested an update of the photos of the eight schools and the status of their facilities at this time at the May 15, 2008 workshop. The schools in the CCC report are: Blanche Ely High, Boyd Anderson High, Castle Hill Elementary, Dillard High, Martin Luther King Elementary, Miramar High, Park Ridge Elementary and Parkway Middle. Today the Board was shown the CCC Update video showing conditions of selected schools in 1997, 2005 and 2008. Also included with this presentation is a Maintenance Report and Facilities & Construction Management Report regarding the eight schools.

All schools had a walk through to see what needed to be done and work orders were written. 32.5% of the projects still need to be done and projects will be completed in 2009. The total dollars that will be spent on all eight schools is \$312.8 million.

There are eleven more Eastern schools that the school district will be awarding replacement school contracts to in the next two weeks. Some of these schools are: Stranahan High School, which will be one of the first green schools in the county, Northeast High School, Miramar High School, Hollywood Hills High School, Oakridge Elementary, Margate Elementary, Northside Elementary, Walker Elementary, and the Dillard Museum, totaling 350 million dollars.

Board Members wanted to make sure that the community is kept well informed about the different projects that are being done. There will be a new Construction Website that will show the projects that are being done and the status of these projects in real time, which will help answer questions the School Board Members and the community may have.

The video and presentation can be found on the eAgenda September 16, 2008 workshop.

Legislative Program 2008-2009

The School Board's District Lobbyist strongly recommended the Broward School Board adopt a much more modified 2009 legislative program and the District's legislative efforts next session focus on survival and adequate funding. This year, the School District did very well because of good planning last year for an anticipated reduction in funding. Now the School District will have to start preparing for next year. The economy continues to slide and the State will again have insufficient revenues to meet its needs. The State is facing a budget shortfall, which will continue next year.

Broward School Board will be actively involved as a member of the Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards and many of Broward's legislative issues will be reflected in the Consortium's Legislative Program. Broward School Board Members have always been some of the most active in the legislative process among the 67 school districts.

Florida's public school districts have received unprecedented cuts in funding during the past year. The Florida Legislature must adequately and appropriately fund its public school programs so school districts may provide competitive salaries and benefits for teachers and meet the constitutional requirements of Class Size Reduction, operations and capital outlay needs, but not at the expense of the basic Pre-K-12 educational program.

Other legislative program initiatives being pursued:

- Cost of Living Adjustment – a study on the difference in cost of living among school districts and implement a fair and equitable funding formula to address this issue.
- Local School Construction Millage –restore local optional school construction millage to the full 2 mills.
- Categorical Programs – increase funding for Safe Schools, transportation, instructional materials and supplemental academic instruction due to higher costs.
- Pre-Kindergarten – provide funding for a high quality Pre-Kindergarten program.
- Mitigate Revenue Shortfalls using recommended strategies.
- School Construction-provide adequate school construction funds for new schools, facilities/replacement, school maintenance, class size reduction and additional costs associated with building environmentally efficient schools (green schools.)

Other substantive issues include FCAT grading formula, Class Size Reduction, charter school exclusivity, exam exemptions, middle school grading.

The School District opposes legislation that would:

- Break up large school districts into smaller districts.
- Dictate how school districts spend their funding which, would hamper their ability to address the unique needs of the individual student populations.
- Expand voucher programs.

Over the years, the Department of Education has required that school districts meet certain requirements and provide certain services for which districts are not given sufficient funding.

These are referred to as unfunded mandates. Identified unfunded mandates are estimated to cost the district approximately \$22 million in general fund dollars plus \$31.7 million in capital funds.

Board Members would like a planning session with established business partners, DAC, PTA, and all the legislative partners to discuss the Broward County's legislative program so everyone is on the same page. This meeting will be planned through the Office of Government Relations and notification of the planning session will be announced after the election in November.

The complete Legislative Program can be found on the eAgenda September 16, 2008 workshop.

Policy 1001, Policy and Rule Making (2nd Reading)

At the School Board Workshop on June 16, 2008, the Board requested General Counsel to review the revisions that had been discussed for Policy 1001. During the review process, additional sections of the policy drafts were revised to more closely align the policy with statutory terminology and address aspects of rulemaking that had not previously been addressed.

Staff presented the revisions to the Board with explanation and rationale. The process for a rule change or policy change would first go to the Superintendent Executive Leadership Team, and General Counsel. Then it would be brought to a workshop with the Board to discuss and identify if any looping needed to be done. If there are any changes made another workshop would be scheduled to further discuss. Once all changes were made the final rule or policy would go to a Public Rule Development Workshop where the public is invited and may give input. This meeting would be advertised. Any changes arising will again be reviewed by the Board at a workshop. Then the final policy or rule will be brought to a Regular School Board meeting for approval.

The Board found this process lengthy and wanted some options on whether or not to have public input for small changes or revisions such as revisions due to a Florida Statute. General Council is requested to meet with School Board Member to hear concerns. After hearing concerns staff will bring Policy 1001 to a workshop for further discussion.

JFN:jd