

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
JAMES F. NOTTER, SUPERINTENDENT**

Telephone (754) 321-2600

Facsimile: (754) 321-2701

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2007
LOCATION: KCW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
TOPIC(S):
-Audit Review General Counsel
-Student Code of Conduct Update
-School Calendars #II
-School Board Members' Requests for
Workshop/Retreat Items

New Property Tax Amendment Discusson

The Chair informed the Board that the House and Senate did pass a Property Tax Amendment. The Board requested information regarding the amendment in simple bullet format and in laymen terms to respond and inform their constituents. Also in this information the Board would like statements showing how this tax amendment will affect the School District, even though the state has said that education will be held harmless. The Broward Education Coalition should immediately reinitiate the strategy to inform the public of the Property Tax Amendment and potential impact on education.

Audit Review General Counsel

Mr. Edward Marko, School Board Attorney, explained to the Board that General Counsel represents the total Board Corporate. General Counsel also supports various staff that may be subpoenaed and would need legal guidance assisting the school district under the requirements of the law. The School Board Attorney provides legal services to the School Board in the preparation and conduct of cases concerning matters such as: contracts, exceptional student education, bidding, civil rights matters, and constitutional issues. The General Counsel office business functions refer to contract review and development, real estate transactions, bids and purchasing, charter school contracts, equal education opportunity issues, employee wage garnishments/income deduction orders, proceedings concerning student and employee discipline, and in-service presentations to name a few. Mr. Marko also spoke about the Legal Service Committee and their purpose. This committee formulates a process for the selection and recommendation of special counsel, recommends contract terms for employment fee structure, and reviews the School Board Attorney's contract. The Board wanted General Counsel to be more active in its role regarding the review of construction contracts and include a form which would be signed off on showing that the review of said contract was complete, that the contract was consistent with the five-year plan, district goals, or policy, and that it was consistent with the board item. The Facilities/Construction and Operations, Deputy Superintendents are the first to sign off on such contracts and then they go to General Counsel for further review. There must be a partnership between Facilities, Operations and General Counsel with open communication, a check and balance, to ensure contracts that come before the Board for their approval are complete and consistent. The Board suggested that the General Counsel office should hire or designate one person who would review construction and land

purchase contracts. Board Members wanted to involve the legal staff more with all our departments, think globally on legal issues, and determine what are the legal implications of each issue. The Board wishes to encourage the broad utilization of this department; proactive global to practical implications of issues.

Student Code of Conduct Update

The School Board had a discussion about the Code of Student Conduct for the 2008-09 school year. There were several issues to be discussed for possible revision to the Code. These issues were brought forward from the Code of Student Conduct Committee, which reviews all concerns brought forward from principals, teachers, parents, students, staff members, etc. Committee representatives also have input on Code issues, which are brought forward at their regular scheduled meetings (e.g., District Advisory Counsel (DAC), English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL), Leadership, and Student Government). A web survey is also made available for widespread community feedback. These issues from the committee are then brought to the Board to receive their input. Some of the issues for 2008-2009 are teeth grilles, tucked in shirts, saggy pants, “I” to “F” after 45 days, make up work: grade and credit, media release forms, ID badges and cell phone use on busses to contact parents. The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding these issues and made suggestions such as: clarification needed regarding securing pants at the waist. A belt is not required; a button can be closed in order to keep the pants secured at the waist. Students should be able to use their cell phones on their bus to contact their family. This could be a safety issue. The Board’s suggestions will be brought back to the next Student Code of Conduct Committee meeting for further discussion.

School Calendars II

The Board directed staff to go ahead with the calendars and felt they did not need to further discuss this item.

JFN:vh/jd