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School Board Workshop
November 25, 2008

Boundaries #3

Staff came before the School Board to continue the discussion regarding the new process for setting boundaries based on the Federal, State and local statutory agreements. The Board directed staff, at the November 12, 2008 workshop, to bring back suggestions to amend the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) and the Level of Service (LOS) 110% standard at district schools.

It was suggested to amend the adopted LOS to 120% of permanent FISH capacity to include use of relocatable classrooms. This would provide flexibility of schools to meet LOS, minimize boundary changes to meet LOS, and may help the number of schools meeting class size and LOS simultaneously. There were a few cons, such as schools may become overcrowded, it violates the state law and may encourage developers to use relocatables as a mitigation option. Other suggestions: reduce the existing school boundary to a smaller area and also enlarge the existing school boundary.

There is an emergency clause in the agreement that allows relocatables to be used in emergency situations. After the discussion, the Board Members would like staff to explore the different options, possibly amend the Interlocal Agreement, and to clarify what emergency situations would be allowed to use relocatables for schools to meet LOS.

The Plant Survey, a state examination of the amount of space available in the school district, is almost completed and, due to declining enrollment over several years, Broward will not be allowed to build new schools or additions. Once completed, a spot survey can be requested for schools and areas that are overcrowded, such as Falcon Cove Middle and Cypress Bay High in the western part of the county, which need new schools and additions. If the spot survey or new construction is denied, the Board Members will make necessary decisions for boundary changes over the next few years to alleviate overcrowding.

One measure that helped overcrowding at Cypress Bay High School was capping the enrollment, which was done last October 2007. As of July 1st enrollment capping at the school will be cancelled. The affected students of the capping would then be allowed to return to Cypress Bay, which are those students who moved into the area after October 2007 and were required to attend Western High School. Reassignments to this school will not be allowed and addresses will be verified.

Board Members reviewed several schools, which in the 5-Year Plan have additions that were scheduled to be constructed. Due to lower enrollment, many of these schools do not need new additions and will still meet LOS. Board Members wanted to make sure that relocatables were not being used at schools that had additions cancelled; that they were able to make LOS without relocatables. Staff responded that was correct.

Even though the Board Members agreed that many additions were not needed at this time and contracts had to be cancelled, they were concerned that some work had been started. Board Members wanted to know the status of each contract and the amount of dollars that had been spent. Staff will retrieve that information, which can be used for a spot survey request showing money that has already been spent and the need for a new school or addition.

The discussion continued with a three-year comprehensive boundary plan, Phase One, Phase Two and Phase Three, which are the recommended boundary changes for schools that will not meet LOS in the next three years.

Board Members wanted staff to stay on alert that Magnet schools do not become overenrolled and asked for a list of these schools. Board Members also requested reassignment data. Due to class size and LOS requirements, reassignments will be minimal.

Board Members requested staff to look at possibly moving programs to schools to avoid boundary changes such as a VPK. Also look at ESE or cluster programs, which have government funded transportation. Board Members also stated that these programs should only be moved to schools that were close to the home schools and still in the same community.

The Federal program No Child Left Behind also changes students' numbers at schools. Students that are a "D" school for two years may transfer to a selected "A" school thus making the receiving schools overcrowded and not making the LOS required by the Interlocal Agreement not to mention the fuel used for the transporting of students.

Board Members asked what they can do at the State Level and may need the legislature or the Governor to intervene because of NCLB. It is important to inform the State how the Federal NCLB program conflicts with the State and local laws.

Due to the State and local requirements, boundary adjustments will have to be made. Board Members requested staff to keep the community informed of possible future changes so everyone is on the same page and there are no surprises. Due to the State's financial situation, loss of students, and local government agreements, the Board is being very proactive and delaying boundary changes until a full grasp of home building and the purchasing environment is achieved. When boundary changes are necessary, the Board requests that students are phased in moving the lower grades first, such as high school freshman so students can graduate at the school they started at. Board Members suggested delaying the roll out of the boundary community meetings until January in order to complete the Plant Survey and request spot surveys.

The Superintendent will come back to the Board in December with his initial boundary recommendations.

Material for this presentation can be found on the eAgenda November 25, 2008 workshop.

Student Code of Conduct

Staff came before the Board to present changes to the Student Code of Conduct. The first changes that were presented are required by the State. The following are those revisions:

-Students between the ages of 14-18 that are dropping out or have accumulated 15 unexcused absences within 90 calendar days will result in their driver license or learner's driver license suspended or not issued. Staff recommendation is to revise the language in the Code to clarify students will lose all driver privileges.

- Update Code, "Section VII – Privacy of Student Records," to account for new contact information and changes in legislative language.
- The State suggested creating two separate Code books for elementary and secondary students. Staff's recommendation is to revise the Code language to make it understandable for elementary age students, wherever possible; incorporate additional visual aids appropriate for elementary age students; and delineate those sections which relate only to secondary students.

Staff then went over the changes requested by the School Board Members.

- Identification badges required for secondary students. Staff will determine the cost impact and process utilizing existing equipment. If cost neutral, it will possibly be implemented in 2010-2011 school year. The Student Advisor stated that all high schools except two are using their own ID badges. Best practices will be gathered regarding the use of ID badges. Board members would like the ID badge to be the same across the District and multi-purposed, for example, being used to purchase food or other supplies at school.
- Develop a Student Code of Ethics. Staff will be reviewing the Student Rights and Responsibilities Curriculum Guide and video and will bring back a recommendation at the February Workshop.
- Add the Discipline Matrix to the Code of Student Conduct. Staff will include the Discipline Matrix in next year's Code of Student Conduct.

The Student Code of Conduct committee had further suggestions to bring before the Board for discussion.

- Make the Media Release form its own signature page and revise the options for families to choose from. Board Members agreed and requested that the showing of student artwork be added to this release form. At this time, there is no mechanism for parents to opt out regarding artwork.
- IDEA eligible and 504 students who refuse to participate in AES are considered unexcused absence and not eligible for make up work. The committee will be aligning School Board policies 5.5, 5.8, 5006, 5006.1 and 5006.3 to address IDEA eligible and 504 students as required by law.
- Clarify that suspensions are eligible for make up work for credit and grade. Students cannot be impacted academically for behavioral issues. Language will be revised to allow suspended students to make up work with specific time limits.
- Define "class day" for make up work due dates. Board Members stated that if a student does not meet every other day then the student should be allowed an extra day to make up work. The Attendance Committee will bring a recommendation at the February Workshop.
- Align bullying definitions in School Board policies 5.8 (Code) and 5.9 (Bullying) clarifying the definition using very strong language regarding cyber bullying, and remind them of the cyber case in recent news as an example.
- Add language notifying students that possession of electronic devices during standardized testing such as the FCAT, may result in invalidation of test scores. Board Members agreed that a statement that possession of electronic devices during all standardized testing must be emphasized and students should leave their devices outside the testing room. It should also be stated at the beginning of the test so students have the opportunity to remove their electronic devices and bring them to the front of the room.

Board Member requested that schools would not post the names of students who are taking BAT tests. This creates the opportunity for students to make fun of those students who are taking the test.

Staff will return in February to continue the Student Code of Conduct discussion. The material for this presentation can be found on the eAgenda November 25, 2008 workshop.

Calendars #2

The purpose of today's discussion was to review public feedback on the proposed calendar for 2009-10. Also discussed were other district's practices for days off during the week of Thanksgiving.

Some school districts in Florida take the whole week off and some school districts take the Wednesday off before Thanksgiving. Board Members discussed both options and determined that if more days were taken off for Thanksgiving, the school year would have to be extended or Winter Break would be shortened. Students have to attend school 180 days a year. Board Members decided that there would be no change for the Thanksgiving Break for the 2009-10 year.

Other staff issues and recommendations brought forward for the 2009-10 school year

-The proposed calendar has the first quarter ending on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 with Early Release Day on Thursday, October 29 and Planning Day on Friday, October 30, 2009, which creates unbalanced quarters. The recommended solution: change the date of the first quarter to Thursday October 22 and have Early Release Day on October 22 and Planning Day on October 23, 2009.

-There is a one week gap at the end of the current 2009 Summer Term prior to the first planning day for the proposed 2009-10 school calendar. The recommended solution: to extend 2009 Summer Term for Community Schools and Technical Centers for four days for students. School Board Members agreed with the recommendations.

Material for his presentation can be found on the eAgenda for the November 25, 2008 workshop.

Broward Legislative Delegation Meeting

The Broward Legislative Delegation is getting together December 1, 2008 for their annual meeting, to be held at Atlantic Technical Center. At this meeting Broward County Schools Office of Government Relations will be presenting the Broward County Public Schools 2009 Legislative Program.

This is the time that School Board Members should speak about their concerns. Specifically, asking if State Legislation Statutes could be tweaked so that School Districts will not be hurt so badly, such as class size. School Board Members had the following cost saving suggestions for the State:

- Take away some of the unfunded mandates and use that money elsewhere where it is needed.
- Stop the performance pay program if the State cannot pay for it. Last year Broward Schools had to pay for it.
- Stop innovative ideas that have a price tag.
- Do not adopt a new textbook if is not needed, such as math textbooks.

Staff stated that this is the worst funding year that they have seen and they expect it to get even worse next year. The State is planning budget cuts still to this school year. Because the School District is not funded correctly and public school construction has stopped, employment and the economics of the county are being impacted.

The Broward County Public Schools 2009 Legislative Program and educational funding talking points can be found on the eAgenda November 25, 2008 workshop.

Financial Budget Update

Due to the loss of funding from the State, \$94 million less than last year, and the impact to the Broward Public Schools construction program, many projects have been put on hold. The loss of funding also led to cuts in individual school budgets, district administration budgets, a hiring freeze, restrictions on overtime and other reductions. Broward County expects further budget cuts for 2008-09 from the State.

The reduction of the millage has and will have a huge impact on the school district's capital funding, which is used for construction. Less funding hurts the school district's credit rating; it hurts construction companies, employment, and bank lending. The State's cutting of funds has a direct impact to the health of Broward County, its schools and communities.

The Board is very concerned about the impact of the State's under funding to the school district and, because of the District's plans to borrow from COPs to balance the budget, our credit rating will be questioned. The Chief Financial Officer said that there should be no problem regarding the District's credit rating, because there will be a responsible plan to pay back the borrowed funds. The school system will also take at least \$15 million from the \$100 million in its rainy-day funds reserve, which will also help balance the budget.

School Board Members wanted to make sure all other avenues are being looked at and that every cost saving mechanism is being used. Staff will do everything that is possible to reduce costs. At this time there are 275 employment positions less than last year.

The budget situation is extremely hard to explain to the public. Board Members would like staff to provide them with the specifics on the budget, such as possible employment cuts and construction loss that have and will occur for the next coming years until the State of Florida turns its economics around.

Our local businesses should be calling the State to let them know how under funding hurts education but also is hurting the entire state's economics.

Material for this presentation can be found on the eAgenda November 25, 2008 workshop.

JFN/jd