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School Board Workshop
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Boundaries IV

The purpose of the Boundaries IV discussion was to review existing choice seats, phase one of the school boundary scenarios, the Superintendent's initial boundary recommendations and preview the School Capacity Planning Tool.

Staff spoke about the four areas, North, North Central, South Central and South choice seats and the reasoning for keeping them. All choice seats help with the enrollment at schools in these areas.

Staff and the Board Members had a further discussion regarding the Interlocal agreement Level of Service (LOS) and the requirement of 110% Student enrollment at each school. This means using 100% of the school capacity with the added 10% allowing for flexibility and a buffer on the enrollment numbers. This requirement will cause a loss of students and FTE dollars at those schools affected due to decreases in enrollment. Loss of dollars may mean loss of programs at schools. On the positive side, this change will ultimately cause increased use of technology in schools such as video conferencing. Students will be able to participate in programs not held at their schools through video conferencing and at the high school level, virtual school.

Staff reviewed the Superintendent's initial boundary recommendations, going through each one for Board Member's feedback. The criteria used for establishing school boundaries using projected enrolment within traffic analysis zones (TAZ) are:

1. Must meet Level of Service (LOS) by each school's deadline date.
2. Must meet class size requirement.
3. Consider proximity and natural barriers such as major roads and waterways.
4. Feeder pattern alignment to maintain community cohesiveness by allowing students to matriculate as a group to the next level.
5. Additional data showing demographic characteristics.

Board Members asked why more schools were brought forward for boundary changes this year than were brought forward at the last boundary discussion. The Board had decided at the November 25th boundary discussion that they would prefer that more schools be moved forward this year so that next year the number of schools would not be so large, which would cause a large amount of confusion within the communities. The schools brought forward for this year are schools that do not meet Level of Service by their deadline date involve movement of one school to another as apposed to domino boundary changes impacting multiple schools. All

boundary changes are for the schools that do not meet the Interlocal Agreement and Level of Service (LOS) mandated by Broward County and their municipalities.

Some schools will have an opportunity to have a spot survey done by the State to see if that particular school has room to build an addition or an area can build a new school due to over enrollment. The spot survey does not necessarily mean that a new school or addition will be built. The reality is, there are thousands of student seats available throughout Broward County. If the state does not allow any additions or new schools to be built after a spot survey is done, boundary changes will have to be made.

All of the Superintendent's scenarios will be presented to the community for their feedback at the January 9th, 10th and 14th, 2009 community meetings, locations to be announced.

Staff will meet with Board Members to give training to use the new school capacity Web site, which has all school facility and enrollment information. The Web site will also be available for the community in the near future.

Material for this topic can be found on the eAgenda December 11, 2008 workshop.

Homework Policy

The revised Homework Policy was brought forward for further review by the School Board Members as a result of feedback from the Board and the public. Staff went over Board Member suggestions and the revised policy.

Several points were made by the Board and suggested further recommendations.

- Page 5, Revised Policy, q. Allow ESE and ESOL students more time to do their homework. Board Member pointed out that the IEP might define homework conditions, so this should be explained in the procedural manual for Principals and teachers to plan accordingly.
- Add to the policy reference to teachers creating a mechanism or system to communicate the homework assignment.
- Communicate to schools via the procedural manual or teachers' guide regarding homework assignments over vacations such as, Winter Break, Thanksgiving and Spring Break. To place in the teachers' rules how teachers should collaborate between each other to ensure the homework workload is not too large. The Principal and department head should communicate this at the beginning of the year regarding specific holidays and align these practices to support the Board's instruction.

The procedural guide was reviewed, which further clarifies different areas of the policy. School Board Members requested the following to be added to the guide.

- Have sensitivity to students not being able to access a computer within the school day. Teachers to make sure if homework is on-line that is also available in hard copy.
- Technologies other than computers can be used to access homework assignments such as ipods and cell phones.
- Clarify, review homework to provide timely and appropriate feedback, page 3, c.

-Add to statement. Be considerate of other school activities that may be going on during homework assignments on a case-by-case basis, page 3, j.

After revisions have been made, the Homework policy will go before the Board for the first and second reading. Once approved, the policy will be placed on the Broward Schools website, making it a featured link, "Breaking News."

The material for this topic can be found on the eAgenda December 11, 2008 workshop.

2009 Federal Legislative Program

Staff came before the School Board to discuss the 2009 Federal Legislative Program starting with what happened in the 2007 session of the 110th Congress. The 2007 session's work to reauthorize No Child Left Behind was not completed, but could be taken up again in the 2008 by the 111th Congress. There were a few small funding gains for education.

The second session of the 110th Congress was busy with the Presidential campaign and produced little education legislation. No substantial K-12 legislation was passed out of the hundreds of education bills introduced.

The District's 2009 Federal Legislative Program contains many of the same issues that were included in the 2007 Program which were never addressed. The proposed No Child Left Behind programs changes align with several of the provision of President-Elect Obama's various education proposals.

A few of the School District's 2009 Federal Legislative programs are:

1. Federal Education Spending. To increase the federal investment in public education and to fully fund (NCLB) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IFEA.)
2. Technology in Schools. Congress to continue to support the Universal Service Fund Program (E-Rate), which provides schools and libraries discounts to networking and telecommunications technologies.
3. Medicaid Reimbursement. To continue and make permanent the moratorium on the implementation of regulations to cut school based Medicaid reimbursements. This moratorium stops cuts to medically needy school children shifting from federal financial responsibility to local school budgets.
4. Early Education. To continue to increase funding for the Head Start Program to provide for services to more eligible students and take action on the Providing Resources Early for Kids Act. Improving the quality and enhance the availability of state funded preschool programs.

The 22 recommendations for what needs to be corrected in the No Child Left Behind Act, when Congress reauthorizes it, is unchanged from the 2007 Federal Legislative Program.

School Board Members requested the following to be added to the Federal Legislative Program.

1. Include in the he Federal economic stimulus package funds to modernize and renovate public schools and for the purchase of technology. The funding should be specifically directed to school districts.
2. Impose a moratorium on the six state pilot programs for NCLB "flexible accountability" which were approved and implemented by Secretary Spellings.
3. Enact a moratorium to prevent the new Title I regulations from taking affect.
4. Place a moratorium on the NCLB Title I sanctions until Congress reforms and reauthorize the law.

School Board Members are concerned regarding students who transfer to Choice schools; the Title One dollars do not go with them. This creates a burden on the receiving schools, which are sinking because they are not receiving additional dollars. Board Member asked that an analysis be done regarding the sending and receiving schools and the dollars they are losing.

The complete 2009 Federal Legislative Program material is available on the eAgenda December 11, 2008 workshop.

Exam Exemption Waiver (2)

The Board stated last workshop that they wanted to make the Exam Exemption Waiver standardized across the School District. High Schools would continue to have the option to write their own waiver.

Staff brought the discussion to the District High School Principals, who gave their suggestions for standardizing exam waivers for the District.

Principals based the exemption on FCAT Scores as well as course grades and suggested having options for schools. The Board did not think that FCAT should be used as a basis for exam exemptions and were opposed to having so many options.

The Board Members requested that staff go back and look at the exams exemptions throughout the district and develop criteria for exam exemptions to be included in Policy 6000.1, which is going before the Board, December 16, 2008. An addendum will be proposed for Policy 6000.1 to add the exam exemption for final exams and mid terms with parental permission. Exam exemptions will not be permitted for mid-term exams in AP, IB, Dual-Enrollment, and AICE courses.

Schools who do not wish to implement exam exemptions based on course grades could still write their own waivers. If a school does not want to allow exam exemptions that will be included in Policy 6000.1, they will have to write a waiver to the policy.

Material for this topic is located on the eAgenda December 11, 2008 workshop.

OPEB Investment Policy

The School Board of Broward County, Florida has established the Broward County Public Schools OPEB Fund. The fund provides for funding on non-pension post employee benefits for employees who meet the age and service requirement outlined in the School Board's plan documents.

Staff came before the Board to update them on the progress and status of the fund and to be prepared to take advantage of any opportunities once the financial crisis ends.

The purpose of the fund is to achieve long term growth of fund assets by maximizing long term rate of return on investments and minimizing risk of loss to fulfill the Board's current and long term OPEB obligations.

The framework building blocks for the fund have not been impacted by the current financial crisis because of the existing investment policy. It is the same framework used for a pension fund.

Material for this topic is available on the eAgenda for the December 11, 2008 workshop.

Financial Market Update

Staff came before the School Board to give a financial update. A financial update is scheduled every month for the School Board in order to stay current with the State's budget crisis.

To review, the State cut the Broward County Public Schools 2008-09 budget by \$94 million last year and another \$34 million as of December 10, 2008. A total of \$128 million. Another \$40 million is projected to be cut this year at the Special Legislative session. Another \$120 million will be cut from the 2009-10 budget. The projected overall decrease in funding will be \$288 million.

Because of the decrease in service, tourism business, and tax loss funds for the state have decreased. This recovery is expected to be long term.

After the holiday, the Superintendent will disclose where the \$40 million from this year's budget will come from. Cuts will have to come across the entire School District and this includes athletics and other programs.

All cost avenues are being looked at such as a 4-day work-week during summer and scheduled breaks and contract issues.

The next scheduled Financial Market Update is scheduled for the January 27, 2009 workshop. The material for this presentation is available on the eAgenda December 11, 2008 workshop.

Policy 1001, Policy Rule Adoption and Rulemaking

Staff brought for review the revised policy, which included School Board Members' recommendations.

Board Members requested that there be a procedural guide with this policy. During this discussion Board Members still had a concern regarding the public workshops and the procedure for creating a new rule.

The Superintendent made a suggestion to shorten scheduled workshops to accommodate the public workshop that would be held immediately after. After much discussion, Board Members stated that they like the existing method to approve rules; the new or revised rule would go before the Policy Review Committee and then before the Board for a first and second reading. The Board directed that the Old Policy Review Committee would now be called the Public Workshop, which would be advertised and would allow public input from all interested stakeholders.

Staff will make the Board Members' suggested revisions and will bring back for further review.

This draft policy is on the eAgenda December 11, 2008 workshop.

Policy 5202, Gifts: Solicitation and Receipt

The Board Members concerns from the last workshop reading are reflected in the changes made to this policy. This policy for staff prohibits gifts, which would be those that would influence employee performance or there would be an appearance of impropriety. Board Members follow the rules of elected officials.

Board Member did have a concern and wanted to make sure the policy was clear enough that a band or club could solicit funds or contributions for the group.

Staff is requested to look at the fundraising policy to make sure that it is permitted and functional.

Board Members also thought that management should not be accepting any gifts for any reason to not cause questioning and to keep them on the same level with staff.

A procedural guide is requested for this policy so that supervisors would be aware and reminded that accepting gifts could be perceived as improper.

This policy is on the eAgenda December 11, 2008 workshop.

JFN/jd