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**SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP
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Environmental Strategic Study Plan

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, (SBBC), with the help of Miller Legg, has outlined a strategic plan goal that includes a focus on environmental initiatives to ensure that all projects in the District adhere to responsible environmental stewardship. In May of 2007, the School District began developing the Environmental Strategic Plan. The purpose of this document is to communicate the SBBC's ongoing and future green initiatives. Being the largest owner of land and facilities in Broward County, the SBBC is taking the lead in being a model environment steward educating today's students for tomorrow's world. This Environmental Strategic Plan (ESP) refers to those administrative, procedural, educational or operational steps taken to promote/implement policies or actions that support responsible environmental stewardship. This ESP is the team effort of the Operations, Facilities & Construction Management and Curriculum Departments and Area Superintendents' Offices working together to achieve the roadmap to responsible environmental stewardship.

Some of the objectives, actions steps and areas of focus are listed below.

- Align schools initiatives with the district's green goals.
- Provide incentives/grants/funding to schools and teachers.
- To enhance science and research education.
- Restore indigenous/native habitat.
- Accept and fully integrate U.S. Green Building Council, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) criteria and "green initiatives" into the SBBC facilities design and construction operation.
- Implement innovative administrative, operational, and contracting procedures that continue to serve the SBBC's environmental stewardship efforts such as field lighting systems and water management and conservation programs, which reduce utility costs.
- Align resources and combine efforts with the Broward Department of Environmental Protection to provide incentives to schools, students and teachers in an effort to promote environmental programs.
- Encourage teacher and student participation in projects focused on environmental issues that incorporate technology for research, collaboration, communication and multimedia presentation of learning.
- Develop an internal and external outreach program promoting environmental stewardship.

Consensus exists between departments on several SBBC focus areas, as listed above, on how departmental action steps will continually align with the SBBC's commitment to "green initiatives" and cross department efforts to facilitate that commitment. The complete presentation can be found on the School Board website, browardschools.com on the eAgenda under December 18, 2007 workshop.

Presentations from South Plantation Environmental Science & Everglades Restoration Magnet Program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, LEEDS Program and Broward County Water Management, NatureScape Broward were made regarding the great programs and initiatives that exist today in Broward County Public Schools.

Comprehensive Performance Contract

The Energy Conservation/Utility Management Department's efforts are to minimize expenditures of the School District's utility bills so more financial resources go to the classroom and students. This goal can be accomplished by reducing operational costs through reduced energy consumption, lower trash and water costs and provide facility improvements to district schools, which yield a return on investment of 10 years.

In 1998 the School Board issued a Request for Proposal with responses by Energy Service Contractors and in 1999 the Energy Audit Agreement was signed by the School Board, which began with eight assigned schools. In 2001, Energy Service Agreements were approved. In April 2001 selected vendors began construction on Phase 1 school renovations. Phase 2 renovations began in October 2004 and Phase 3 renovations began in October 2006. Some of these renovations are: Chiller replacement, thermal storage, lighting retrofits/controls expansion of energy management systems, trash compaction and water conservation/irrigation control. From May 2001 to present the SBBC has reduced its utility bills and operational costs by \$12 million thru performance contracting.

The program's goals are to maximize utility cost savings, maintain saving initiatives and yield the greatest return on investment and continue this programs so that all schools participate equally.

New Criteria for Reassignments

The Reassignment Office staff explained to the School Board Members the existing policy for reassignments. Approval and requests for reassignments have declined over the years. The public is understanding the reassignment dilemma. Because of the Class Size Amendment reassignments are only considered in extreme emergency conditions through the Hardship Committee. The composition of the Hardship Committee was discussed and the reasons that were accepted for a hardship reassignment. In this day of class size reduction, No Child Left Behind and concurrency, the School District needs to clarify policy 5000 and 5001 regarding students moving into critically overcrowded schools and be able to enforce it. Reassignments stay in affect, for example, 3rd through 5th grade, but do not continue to the feeder pattern middle school. For that, another reassignment would have to be requested. There are limited reasons for approving a

hardship request, which are in policy 5001, such as a documented medical, emotional or psychological reason, a sibling situation, or a child of a permanent full time School Board employee desiring to attend the school where the parent works. Staff will come back to the Board with policy change recommendations in the future so the School Board has another opportunity to discuss possible revisions.

State of Florida Audit

The Office of the Chief Auditor came before the School Board to give a current status on the report entitled “Auditor General’s Report #2007-164R-Broward County District School Board Financial Operation and Federal Single Audit for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2006.” The eleven findings, recommendations and current status, as of November 2007, were presented to the Board. The District will continue to work on these recommendations. The School Board discussed salary overpayment. Staff advised the School Board that the new payroll system would take care of this issue. Other areas addressed were proper fingerprinting and background checks, relocatable inspections, annual property inventory and improved accountability, surplus items, and safeguarding the district assets. Staff will continue to monitor and correct the findings.

JFN/jd