

MINUTES
School Board Workshop
February 1, 2011

This workshop, held at the St. Johns County School Board Administrative Center, 40 Orange Street, St. Augustine, Florida, was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Bill Fehling. Dr. Joyner called roll; all board members were present. Also in attendance was School Board Attorney Frank D. Upchurch, III, district staff, community members and media representatives.

Opening Comments

Mr. Allen reported receiving several phone calls regarding the middle school athletic association's inappropriate tee-shirts and lack of available scholarships. He also complimented Mrs. Darlene VanLengen on her work with Care Here patient coordination. Mr. Mignon announced that Pedro Menendez High School's Tony Steward will announce his college choice live on ESPN tomorrow. He also commented on the recent spelling bee. Mrs. Slough spoke about Senate Bill 736. Mr. Fehling agreed with Mr. Allen's remarks regarding the middle school athletic association. Dr. Joyner reported on our college readiness results, noting that we're at the top of the state. He also reported that the Career Academy Showcase was a success with 7th and 8th graders and their parents in attendance. He stated that Standard & Poor's reports our budget is down 25% since 2007. Mr. Weiss reported on the health plan earnings. Mrs. Wright inquired if a reply was received regarding Dr. Joyner's letter to the Governor.

School Board Standing Rules

Mrs. Slough asked that these rules be reviewed as the latest copy is dated November, 2004. Several rules were discussed, and it was decided that updates be made. Mr. Upchurch will prepare updated document.

Human Resources Department Update

Mrs. Cathy Geiger presented information on Human Resources issues, noting their mission statement and their recently-compiled "to do" list. A discussion on "associate substitute" positions followed. Mrs. Cathy Weber presented information on pre-employment practices and health insurance plans. Mrs. Geiger reviewed our online application system, noting there were 7,857 applicants last year. She reported that the approximate date of Sungard replacing the PATS system is September, 2011. Mr. Joe Purvis, Director of Transportation, presented an update of our transportation department. Mr. Forson reported that in the last transportation audit, only one item was noted. Mrs. Carol Holtz spoke on the risk management department items—safety, workers compensation, property and liability insurance. Mr. Fehling thanked Mrs. Geiger, Mrs. Weber, Mr. Purvis and Mrs. Holtz for their efficiency and professionalism, noting that the board members rarely get inquiries about Human Resources issues.

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New Fingerprint Contract

Mrs. Weber presented information on contracting out our fingerprinting services to Field Print Fingerprint Service. Electronic results would be sent directly to district staff.

Safety Plan

Mrs. Holtz spoke on the updated St. Johns County School Board Safety Program. Questions and comments by the board followed. Mr. Weiss noted that this will be a component of next year's audit.

Impact Fees

Mr. Forson highlighted the impact fee statistics. Mrs. Nicole Cubbedge presented information on the proposed impact fee changes. Mr. Allen noted that he supports this change and reported that studies show impact fees do not deter building. A discussion on vacant land taxes followed. It was noted that this will be included in the February board meeting agenda.

School Board Rule 7.052 Discussion

Mr. Upchurch proposed changes to this rule, noting that the current rule calls for board approval for gifts over \$5,000.00; superintendent approval for all others. Proposed rule would allow principals to approve gifts up to \$3,000.00; superintendent's approval on gifts valued at \$3,001.00 to \$10,000.00, and board approval on any gift over \$10,000.00. It was decided that board members will receive emails indicating all donations. Mr. Upchurch noted it will not be advertised before March 10, 2011, so changes may be made prior to then.

Race to the Top

Dr. Joyner congratulated Mrs. Pam Stewart for our approval of release of funds. Mrs. Stewart replied that it was a group effort. She updated the board on recent requirements. Dr. Joyner noted Mrs. Stewart is now president of Florida Organization of Instructional Leaders (FOIL), who has been asked by FADSS to assist with the end-of-course exams.

Closing Comments

Mr. Mignon reported visiting Mrs. Forson's kindergarten class, stating he was so impressed with the classroom learning activities. It was decided to cancel the February 22nd School Board workshop. Dr. Joyner reminded all of the February 10th School Board meeting.

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Superintendent

Chairman

Date Approved