



**Strategic Planning, Goals, Accreditation Workshop Minutes
Tuesday, May 30, 2006 –11:00 a.m.
School Board Meeting Room
Stuart, FL 34994**

Members Present

Lorie Shekailo-Chair
Dr. David Anderson
Susan Hershey
Nancy Kline
Dr. Sara A. Wilcox, Superintendent

Members Absent

Laurie Gaylord-Vice-Chair

Staff Present

Ruth Pietruszewski, Cathleen Brennan, Delores Calloway, Rodger Osborne, Linda King

Public

Press

PBPost – Mike Bender

Stuart News – Kelly Tyko

MCEA – No representation

AFSCME – No representation

Call to order by the Chairman and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States

Dr. Sara A. Wilcox requested that Linda King give the Board an insurance update at the end of the workshop.

1. Strategic Plan Update: Goal Setting and Strategies (COPY ATTACHED)

Delores Calloway, Director of School Improvement & Curriculum, reviewed the existing strategic plan. She reviewed the goals asking Board members to look at the goals and decide if they would like to maintain those goals, or update them. She pointed out that the completion date for most of these goals was June 2006. The three goals were:

Goal #1-All schools in Martin County will be “A” schools

Goal #2-To ensure adequate student stations are available to meet class size reduction requirements and enrollment growth projections, while providing a consistent level of facilities and services throughout the Martin County School District

Goal #3- Develop and implement a continuous process of evaluating and improving the school district’s business operations

Board members discussed goal #1. Sue Hershey questioned the data tool on page 1, Item G, and page 3, Item E. Delores said it had been a mistake. The data tool listed was Clearview, and the district was currently using Performance Matters. Delores said she would correct the materials. Dr. Sara A. Wilcox suggested the district look at Science, if the Board wished to keep all “A” schools. She suggested looking at the information school by school. She stated that overall the district did not do as well in the lower 25%. Dr. Wilcox suggested focusing on elementary science and teaching reading through science. She suggested working with the lower 25%. Board members decided to retain goal #1 of all “A” schools and to update the strategies to maintain that goal.

Goal #2 was discussed by Board members. Sue Hershey asked Dr. Wilcox where the district stood on class size reduction. Dr. Wilcox explained that Hank Salzler was hand calculating and analyzing the figures. Hank assumes the district will have to increase the number of class size reduction teachers. She stated that the district would do everything possible to make the target. Nancy Kline asked how the budget would be affected. Dr. Wilcox said setting up classes and hiring teachers would impact the budget. Dr. Wilcox stated she will still try to give employees good salary increases, since she felt it was essential to give raises when everyone was affected by increased gas prices and insurance costs. Sue Hershey asked where the district stood on the master plan. Dr. Wilcox discussed the master plan and the capital budget. Dr. Wilcox suggested that the capital budget be looked at carefully, and that Board members

1. Strategic Plan Update: Goal Setting and Strategies (Con't)

focus on compact efficient school designs, considering energy consumption and the cost of construction. Dr. Wilcox explained that large open spaces increases both the energy budget and the capital budget. She reminded Board members that borrowing the \$40 million COPS decreased the capital budget. Lorie Shekailo asked if the new energy manager would be able to look at the designs and give recommendations on their energy efficiency. Dr. Wilcox felt Lorie's idea was excellent. Board members decided to retain goal#2, look at the strategies and update them. They decided to add that the energy manager would look at designs for feasibility of energy savings.

Goal #3 was discussed and Board members decided to retain goal#3. Lorie Shekailo pondered who would head up the Business Improvement team with Darrell Miller leaving.

2. District Accreditation Orientation (COPY ATTACHED)

Delores Calloway discussed the difference between District Accreditation versus Individual School Accreditation. She explained that District Accreditation tied in with everything that was being done with school improvement. Delores discussed the costs savings of going to the District Accreditation as opposed to staying with the Individual School Accreditation. She stated that if the District changed to District Accreditation, all schools currently on Individual Accreditation would be put on the same time line. She gave a brief history of accreditation. She informed Board members that 21 districts in Florida had achieved or submitted documentation for District Accreditation. Delores remarked that Volusia County was the first District in the state of Florida to seek and achieve District Accreditation. Delores presented a power point presentation from SACS CASI titled, "District Accreditation Orientation for Martin County School District." Board members discussed the pros and cons of changing to District Accreditation. Delores conveyed that District Accreditation means that all the schools in the District would be accredited. Delores stated that District Accreditation shows a common thread and shows a unified effort. SACS CASI is in the process of unifying with the North Central Association (NCA) CASI and the National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE). The unification will result in the creation of a 30-state network for accreditation and school improvement with the national and international focus. Sue Hershey asked Delores Calloway if our school district would be able to compare data with the other 30 states. Delores said that she would check into that issue. She reviewed the strategic objectives and standards to achieve accreditation. She explained the three tiers of accreditation. She familiarized Board members with the three major elements:

- Meet requirements as expressed through accreditation standards and criteria;
- Engage in a continuous process of improvement;
- Demonstrate quality assurance;

Delores listed the steps to achieving District Accreditation. She provided a framework on the quality assurance review and articulated the school visit process. The power point summarized that District Accreditation supported the systemic approach to achieving results through improvement; was an integrated process that supported accountability requirements and served to strengthen efforts to meet such requirements; and provided recognition for the system and its schools, students, teachers, and the community. Board members were in favor of District Accreditation. Delores Calloway would prepare a Board agenda item for an upcoming Board meeting.

+ Insurance (COPY ATTACHED)

Linda King, MCSD Risk Manager, and Julie Sessa, MCSD Director of Facilities, were asked by the Superintendent to update Board members on current property insurance issues. Linda King delivered bad news to the Board members and Superintendent. She discussed the current insurance market and combinations of insurance coverage and limitations. She warned that premiums were higher, coverage was lower, replacement costs were higher, and property values were higher. She updated Board members on the District's current insurance limitations and coverage. This year the district's deductible is 5% for each location. She informed the Board about the capacity problem. Dade County renewed their coverage on May 1st and purchased a huge amount creating a shortage. She explained the different insurance options and limitations. Changing the renewal date of the School Board's property insurance was discussed. Linda King considered the possibility of self insurance; however, there was not enough time left to accomplish self insurance this year. She stated that the item needed to be researched, and if the district chose to become self insured, compliance would have to be met with Florida statutes. She provided Board members a comparison of school district property insurance in other Florida counties. She provided Board members with a spreadsheet showing insurance renewal increases, limitations, and hurricane losses. Board members discussed the impact of increased insurance costs on the District budget. Sue Hershey suggested finding out if the group could be expanded to include the City and the County. Board members discussed the insurance dilemma and brainstormed on the issue.

3. Open to the Public

No one from the public requested to speak.

4. Open to the Board

All Board members abstained.

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There being no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

CHAIR (Lorie Shekailo)

SECRETARY (Sara A. Wilcox, Ph.D.)