

ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: August 26, 2013

AGENDA ITEM No. 13-08-(2)-18

ACTION ITEM: (Y/N) N

SUBJECT: Collaboration Meeting Agenda Topics Discussion

INFO. CONTACT: Donna Coffey, Chair PHONE: 919-732-8126

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Meeting Plan for the County/Schools Collaboration Work Group – September 3, 2013.
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PURPOSE: The purpose of this agenda item is to allow the Board of Education the opportunity to discuss the upcoming collaboration meeting scheduled for September 3, 2013.

BACKGROUND: The next collaboration meeting with the Board of County Commissioners and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2013. A draft meeting plan is attached. Proposed meeting topics include:

1. Joint Planning for Older School Facilities
2. Revisiting the Fund Balance Policy
3. Coordinated Advocacy for Public Education
4. Unfunded CIP items
5. Pre-K Classrooms
6. Preparation for September 2013 Joint Boards Meeting

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There are no direct financial impacts related to the discussion. There may be financial impacts associated with future action by the Board of County Commissioners or Board of Education.

RECOMMENDATION: The Interim Superintendent recommends the Board of Education discuss topics associated with the upcoming collaboration meeting and provide any relevant input.

Draft Meeting Plan
County/Schools Collaboration Work Group
Tuesday, September 3, 2013
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

John M. Link, Jr. Government Services Building, Hillsborough

Expected Attendees (16 + Davenport?): *Work Group Members (9):* Jamezetta Bedford, Michelle Brownstein, Del Burns, Frank Clifton, Donna Coffey, Thomas Forcella, Barry Jacobs, Stephen Halkiotis, and Earl McKee. *Staff (7):* Donna Brinkley, Clarence Grier, Paul Laughton, Todd LoFrese, Michael Talbert, Greg Wilder, and Andy Sachs (facilitator). Resource persons (#?) from Davenport and Company, LLC.

Proposed Agenda

4:00 Convene

- Introductions, as needed.
- Review proposed agenda for today's meeting

4:10 Joint Planning for Older School Facilities

- Presentation by Davenport and Company, LLC, the County's financial advisor for debt issuances, on the County's financial status and debt capacity. *15 minutes*
- Q&A with Davenport, *15 minutes*
- Review and discuss Mr. Jessup's memo on procedures and possible schedule for General Obligation Bond Referendum. *15 minutes*

4:55 Revisiting the Fund Balance Policy

Continuing the conversation from June, to what extent is there a shared interest within the Work Group to revisit the assumptions, qualitative context, and hard data underlying the fund balance policy? What are the next steps on this, if any?

5:10 Coordinated Advocacy for Public Education

Update on Work Group commitment made at June meeting to seek joint advice from the jurisdictions' attorneys on ways to protect local funding against charters, vouchers, ALEC tactics etc. What if any are the next steps on any coordinated effort across the three jurisdictions?

5:20 Unfunded CIP items

Dr. Brownstein asked at the June Work Group meeting for an update on the commitment made by the three jurisdictions at the November 2010 Work Group meeting to resolve this matter (see attached excerpt).

5:30 Pre-K Classrooms

Update from the three Chairs on joint efforts agreed to at June Work Group meeting, “to consult with each other and coordinate next steps after the Joint Boards meeting minutes were made available.”

5:40 Preparation for September 2013 Joint Boards Meeting

- Identify or review goals/agenda items
- Other preparations to discuss?

5:50 Wrap Up

- Meeting and overall process evaluation.
- Check-in on timing for next Work Group meeting.

6:00 Adjourn

Work Group Ground Rules (adopted 1/27/04, amended 4/9/07)

- One speaker at a time.
- Stick to task and topic.
- Listen attentively to the speaker.
- Share the floor.
- It is OK to disagree...please do so respectfully.
- Raise and discuss new ideas, doubts and differences with the group before going public.
- Decisions will be made within this group by unanimous consent among group members (although not necessarily with equal levels of enthusiasm).
- Items will appear on Work Group final meeting agenda only by group decision. Each Work Group meeting will begin with a review by the group of the meeting's proposed agenda.

For proposed September 3, 2013 Work Group agenda item at 5:20

Excerpt from
Meeting Notes

County/Schools Collaboration Work Group
Wednesday, November 3, 2010

John M. Link, Jr. Government Services Center, Hillsborough

Attendees: Work Group Members: Jamezetta Bedford, Frank Clifton, Donna Coffey, Mike Kelley, Tony McKnight, Neil Pedersen, Bernadette Pelissier, Patrick Rhodes. Staff: Clarence Grier, Paul Laughton, Todd LoFrese, Michael Talbert, Greg Wilder. Andy Sachs (facilitator).

[snip]

Update on Schools and County Capital Needs

[snip]

Dr. Pedersen said that the "unfunded" line on the Schools Capital Projects Summary schedule should be renamed or defined more explicitly. Mr. Clifton explained that the "unfunded" line refers to the gap between what the school districts have proposed in their capital plans and what the County has obligated itself to fund. Elementary #11 would not be considered "unfunded" because it is already in the County's debt schedule, for example. Dr. Pedersen said that CHCCS does not ask for funding for many capital projects that it needs because it takes into consideration the County's constraints and wants to communicate its priorities clearly; we would consider those other projects to be unfunded although they are not included in this schedule, he said. Mr. LoFrese added that the CHCCS CIP is based on funding amounts that the County says is available. Perhaps we can use the term "funding differential" or "shortfall from projects listed in a particular year," suggested Dr. Pedersen. Mr. Grier suggested that a separate sheet be added with the schools' "wish lists" and the "unfunded" line on this schedule be seen as a "deficit" in the County's funding of the schools' priority capital projects. Mr. Talbert said that he does not believe OCS has such a "wish list." Mr. Clifton suggested that Mr. Talbert, Mr. LoFrese and Dr. McFarley resolve this issue as follow-up to this meeting, and all agreed.

[snip]