

SOUTH AREA MEETING

Pines Middle School

August 28, 2024

Carmelo Borges, South Area Chairperson

All SAF chairs are required to attend the meetings. Ethics annual training needs to be completed by September.

New Business

Strategy and Innovation Policy 8010 School Boundary

Dr. Valerie Wanza

Board Workshop on redefining schools 8 clusters for elementary schools, 2/3 middle schools. The board has not decided to close any schools but asked the superintendent to identify a minimum of 5 schools to close for the 25/26 school year. This is an opportunity to look at what can be done for the under-enrolled schools. It allowed the community to see the importance of the enrollment of the schools. What can we do differently to attract enrollment back and change. We have to ensure that we have the product that the public wants. The interest and the need of society has changed. School choice and school boundaries policy to be reviewed.

Mr. Beck , Director Demographics policy Policy (5000) now 8010

Policy Assigning and School Choice and Closure of Schools policy change

The policy was too specific. Changes to policy because it was too specific, language was problematic when consolidating closing schools, since it said schools would not close if it has a negative impact on any demographic group of students. Problematic because we are a minority district, with 76% Black and Hispanic students. It would be hard not to impact Black or Hispanic students.

2 board workshops and will go back to the school board meeting September 10th for a vote.

Question & Answer

More concrete recommendations. Looking at data of schools enrolled below 70% of capacity, 66 schools as of now.

Currently looking at all schools below 70% enrollment according to School Board recommendations. Also, has to be an adjacent school that has capacity, so it takes it to 40 schools that have that capability.

Dr. Wanza stated school performance is not a primary factor, ex. A school. This is a way to solve our own problem. The dates in September and October will be set. Redefining through problematic options should happen continuously. Will work with clusters of schools.

Carmelo Borges

DAC motion passed unanimously retain policy 5000 24/25 school year. South Area Chairs felt It does currently give the superintendent ability what he is intending to do without removing certain voices from the discussion. Linda Ferrara made a comment to pause until clusters are met with. Made a motion to support DAC motion, Laurel Garfinkel second motion, all voted in favor- motion passed.

Mr. Beck, the new process designed to school's whatever challenges arise. The existing policy was too specific. The school board wasn't taking recommendations of committee because it wasn't working.

Policy 6100 School choice, motion from DAC- school board adopt an earlier application window for all school choice options, update obsolete language, remove the second window from applications that exceed the available seats, retain all removing language, solicit advisory on procedures, share the timeline by October 1 of each year and establish an application window of 30 days or less.

Dante Fulton Collins, Director of Choice and Charter Management, shifting open enrollment window is being addressed. This motion came from Central Area Advisory where principals were concerned that parents were sent award notification after some

private institutions and charter schools. This policy will allow notification by winter break in phase 1. Allow applications in any phase.

Carmelo, certain schools will not open on second window because they received enough applications.

Q

It takes 45 days to process applications. This only happens when there are more applications than seats available.

Proposing that first wave be completed by winter break.

Carmelo

Cell phone ban, students understand the reason for the ban, during instructional time. Language specifies instructional time even though it's not. Concern from parents not able to reach student if change in plan for pick up. APP'S for clubs, students will not be able to access for cancelations etc. Suspending students for using of phone, removal of phone would be acceptable. The committee is against suspending children for cellphone violations. Concerns were not addressed before the policy was implemented.

Linda Ferrara, IEP's, 504's adhered to and not jeopardizing anyone's health. School sponsored activities shall be at the discretion of the principal to include in the policy as acceptable usages, No community input, upset a lot of parents. State of Florida did pass a house bill no phones during instructional time to align with House Bill.

Metal Detectors Policy 2010, Day 1 delays cleared up later in the week. It was not expected because the settings that students did not have to remove items; however, they did have to. However, they did work out problems and now working properly. Sensitivity settings concerns because of vapes, pocket knives etc. A kit was given to each school to simulate a weapon.

Laurel Garfinkel- Question about kit is being used daily to check settings.

Are staff going through metal detectors? Answer is no.

Issues with schools

AC leak

Carbon monoxide leak

No AC in several schools

Checklist for schools prior to starting school year.