



Board of Directors Meeting

8:00 a.m., September 22, 2011

Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.

Hosts: Ormend Yeilding & Debbie Clements

- Present:** Betsy Bell, Renee Burke, Debbie Clements, Suzan Coddington, Linda Downing, Deni Gorden, Cathy Hertz, Eric Houston, Joe Losch, Ryan Mahaffey, Jim McIlrath, Jennifer Michaels-Gesundheit, Patti Reilly-White, Rick Roach, Rob Roache, Eddie Sanabria, Leah Shepherd, Rich Sloane, Doug Storer, Josh Truitt, Jim Waters, Ormend Yeilding
- Staff:** Tracy Eckhoff, Twanna Scroggins, Heath Wells, Cindy Williams
- Guests:** Kathy Palmer (OCPS Chief of Staff)
- Excused:** Travis Blue, Alan Fidelo, James Lawson, Connie Lorthridge, Tim Myers, Kevin Noonan
- Absent:** Tobi Allen, Eric Dodson, Melanie Fernandez, Rosina McVicker, George Novo

Call to Order

Eddie Sanabria convened the meeting at 8:05 am. He began by thanking Ormend Yeilding and Debbie Clements for hosting breakfast. He also welcomed Kathy Palmer (OCPS Chief of Staff) as a guest. Eddie reminded board members to sign their Board Agreement if they had not already done so.

Adoption of Consent Agenda

Eddie commented that as part of the consent agenda, the board was approving the Foundation's annual audit. Joe Losch shared that the Finance Committee is exploring the best use of the Foundation's remaining student scholarships, and the board will hear more about this as the year progresses. Jim Waters asked that the minutes reflect he was re-elected to the board at our May 19, 2011 meeting. Cathy Hertz moved to adopt the consent agenda as amended and Doug Storer seconded. The motion passed unanimously as amended.

Board Appointments

Eddie welcomed three new board members: Betsy Bell (Orlando Magic), Suzan Coddington (Jill S. Schwartz & Associates) and Linda Downing (Valencia College).

School Board Update

Rick Roach reported that as Ron Blocker will be retiring in 2012, OCPS is conducting a superintendent search to find a candidate that will lead OCPS to becoming the top performing district in the nation. Ormend asked what he meant by "top performing" district. Rick responded that this means that all kids will graduate high school. This will be challenging as graduation requirements become tougher. Assessments are much more rigorous and all students will be required to take at least one virtual class. Furthermore, students will be required to take chemistry or physics and Algebra 2.

Jim Waters asked how the search for superintendents in Seminole and Osceola counties might impact Orange County. Rick thinks that all three districts are unique and that they will draw different candidates.

Rick also shared that the school board just approved a \$3.3 billion budget. He mentioned some interesting research conducted by Fund Education Now that shows if you back out funds allocated for the class size amendment, current funding is at the 1999 level. Orange County is fortunate because voters passed the millage increase that helped the district stave off dire budget cuts (i.e., teacher layoffs).

OCPS Administration/Superintendent Search Update

Kathy Palmer talked about the district's search for a new superintendent. The Orange County School Board has retained an executive recruitment and development firm to assist them in managing the search for a new school district leader. The firm, McPherson & Jacobson will conduct focus groups with principals, teachers and staff, students and PTA representatives. They will also talk with elected officials, chamber/EDC representatives and the Superintendent Search Advisory Committee. Finally, open forums for the public will be conducted in different learning communities along with an electronic survey open to all members of the community.

The goal of all these focus groups is to gather input around what the community thinks is important in their next superintendent. The school board will then review all the data with the search firm and a brochure and application packet will be developed. The board is hopeful that they will have a decision by April 2012.

Golf Tournament Update

Doug Storer reported that the golf tournament raised \$125,000. Doug also recognized Eric Houston and Turner Construction for their title support of the tournament. Eric presented Turner's \$10,000 sponsorship check.

Orange County's Got Talent

Leah Shepherd outlined the plan for Orange County's Got Talent. This event will showcase the talent of OCPS students/teachers and be modeled after the America's Got Talent television show. It's scheduled for May 12, 2012 at a central location (i.e. – Loch Haven Park area). Revenue generated from ticket sales and sponsorships will support OCPS arts' programs and the Foundation. Leah will be spearheading this effort, but could use help with soliciting judges (preferably with some local notoriety), recruiting an emcee, developing qualifications/guidelines and seeking sponsorships.

Read2Succeed Update

Jennifer Michaels-Gesundheit provided an update on Read2Succeed program enhancements. Based on feedback from teachers, we have added more focus and materials to the program. Mentors will be paired with two students and target reading fluency during their sessions by incorporating a research-based curriculum called the Six-Minute Solution. Progress will be tracked through formative assessments such as the Florida Assessment of Reading Instruction (FAIR). The students will also learn how to graph their success.

Jim Waters asked about how we can impact students through 10th grade because of the sharp decline in FCAT reading scores between the 3rd and 10th grades. This issue is addressed in the Foundation's Literacies goal in the strategic plan.

Strategic Plan

Eddie reviewed the key points shaping the Foundation's future and asked the goal team chairs to present the action plans.

Goal 1 – Literacies First

Jennifer Michaels-Gesundheit presented the action plan and highlighted that the goal was to incorporate literacies through all curriculum areas. The goal would target the elementary level and grades 6-9. Debbie Clements suggested we collaborate with other organizations working on the same issue such as the Adult Literacy League.

Goal 2 – Learning Support

Cathy Hertz shared that the action plan focuses on recognizing, rewarding and replicating the great things our teachers are doing in the classroom. The team concluded that the best opportunity for the Foundation in this area is through building awareness and expansion of the Teacher Grant Program. Debbie Clements commented that the teacher grant check presentations verified how important the program is to the teachers. Doug Storer suggested that we look for donors to fund grants at individual schools as well as district wide teacher grant funders such as Progress Energy.

Goal 3 – Quality Teaching

Doug Storer reported for the Quality Teaching team. The focus of this group is to fund a master teacher program to support professional development for teachers. The team will be meeting with folks from Seminole County to learn about how they are implementing the “master teacher” concept. Jennifer suggested we consider paying for substitutes so teachers can attend professional development opportunities. This recommendation was sent to the team for discussion.

Goal 4 – Community Engagement

Cindy Williams presented on behalf of Alan Fidelo. During the first year, the action plan is focused on the development of the Philanthropic Strategic Plan (PSP). Once the PSP is developed, then broader discussions around increasing family and community discussions will occur. The PSP outline was presented. The team is now working with the district’s legal department to create a draft agreement giving the process and committees structure. Once the goal team approves the agreement, it will go to the school board and FOCPS board of directors for discussion and ultimately approval.

Adjournment

Eddie closed by encouraging members to attend the Consortium of Florida Education Foundation’s Central Florida Regional Roundtable luncheon scheduled for Tuesday, October 25 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm at the CFE Federal Credit Union. Jim Waters also thanked board members for taking The Voice survey and indicated that the results should be out soon.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Williams
Executive Director

Important Dates

September 26	Superintendent Search Focus Group, 7:30 pm, Legacy Middle and Olympia High
September 27	School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., ELC
September 27	Superintendent Search Focus Group, 7:30 p.m., Jones High and Freedom High
October 3	Superintendent Search Focus Group, 7:30 pm, Wekiva High
October 11	School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., ELC
October 13	Finance Committee, 8:30 a.m., ELC – E
October 20	Executive Committee, 11:30 a.m., ELC – E
October 25	Central Florida Regional Roundtable, 11:30 a.m., CFE Federal Credit Union
November 17	Foundation Board Meeting, 8:00 a.m., Turner Construction

