



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

11:30 a.m. – Wednesday, November 19, 2014  
Ron Blocker Educational Leadership Center

**Present:** Debbie Clements, Alan Fidelo, Lillian Gonzalez, Deni Gorden, Cathy Hertz, Eric Kepfer, Latria Leak, Ivan Lefkowitz, Joe Losch, Ryan Mahaffey, Jim McIlrath, Jennifer Michaels, Eddie Sanabria, Rich Sloane, Ormend Yielding

**Staff:** Cindy Williams, Twanna Scroggins, Francine Ferrara, Jeanne Smith

**Guests:** Dr. Barbara Jenkins, Scott Bridgeman, Diane DiFebbo, Stephanie Schnettler

**Absent:** Tobi Allen, Angel de la Portilla, Teresa Donaldson, Bill Gordon, Pam Gould, Eric Houston, Kristine Iannuzzi, Michael Ison, Bryan Long, Sherry Magee, Michelle Radcliffe, Joyce Romano, Lisa Willis

---

### **Call to Order**

Cathy Hertz called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m. She announced the resignation of Jim Waters from the board. In his absence, she thanked him for his service and hopes to recognize him at a future meeting. There are now 29 members on the board.

Note cards along with names and addresses of some major donors were given to each board member. Each board member was asked to write thank you notes to their assigned donors before the end of the meeting. The cards were designed by FryHammondBarr.

The communications committee has been meeting and should be ready to present the rebranding concept in January.

### **Consent Agenda**

Cathy asked for a motion to accept the consent agenda. Alan Fidelo made the motion, seconded by Eddie Sanabria and the motion was passed unanimously.

### **Program Spotlight**

Cathy introduced Stephanie Schnettler who is the District's K-12 STEM coach for physical sciences. She updated the board on the Quality Teaching initiative sponsored by Lockheed Martin.

There are 29 physical science teachers participating from 25 schools in the District. Physical science is a foundational course, offered in middle (8th grade) and high schools, where students are introduced to chemistry and physics. Usually, at the middle school level, there is only one teacher per school who teaches these subjects so the training and collaboration among all the teachers becomes critical.

Chemistry supplies, valued at approximately \$1,000 per kit, are used in the program. Each kit can be used for up to 45 different activities. There are training opportunities offered from text book

publishers and Flynn Scientific, the company who creates the chemistry kits, used in the program. Additionally, OCPS lead teachers offer workshops covering teaching strategies, pre-tests and posttests and lab strategies for use in the classroom. Teachers also use Edmodo, an online collaboration tool, to exchange ideas and share best practices.

In January 2015, physical science students will participate in the Lockheed Martin STEM Design Challenge. The Design Challenge connects teachers to the community. Lockheed Martin engineers will write the challenge, and facilitate the process at the schools. Finalists from each middle school will go to Lockheed Martin for the final competition. Lockheed Martin engineers will serve as judges. Teams will be given a tour of the facilities.

Stephanie concluded by noting the response from the teachers regarding the program has been very positive.

### **Audit Update**

Our auditing firm, CliftonLarsonAllen had representatives, Scott Bridgman and Diane DiFebbo presented a top level overview of the recent audit. The audit opinion was unmodified and reflective of GASB standards. The Foundation's financials are now representative of the other education foundations in the state.

Three areas were highlighted:

- Net position-majority of the funds are unrestricted
  - The decrease year over year is due to the prepaid scholarships being moved to Valencia College.
- Investment earnings are positive.
- Operating revenues are trending upward.

The communications letter had a few first year adjustments and the management testimonials were reasonable. The biggest issue was reclassifying from FASB to GASB.

Cathy Hertz asked the board to allow the Finance Committee to approve the audit after further careful consideration. Joe Losch moved to accept this request, and the motion was seconded by Deni Gorden. The board unanimously accepted the motion.

### **OCPS Update by Superintendent Dr. Barbara Jenkins**

Cathy introduced Dr. Jenkins. Both Dr. Jenkins and Cathy took a moment to thank Duke Energy for their consistent support of the Foundation and Orange County Public Schools. Debbie Clements presented the Foundation with a \$50,000 donation.

Dr. Jenkins announced that the district recently was named a co-winner of the Broad Prize and spoke about the presentation in New York. The district was awarded \$500,000 to be used for scholarships.

She began her presentation by reviewing the governing structure of the district and its mission and vision statements. These statements were last approved five years ago and will likely be discussed at length in the next year. There will be focus groups and members of the Foundation board will be asked to participate in the groups.

Currently, there are 192,000 students, 13,557 teachers and 8,300 administrative and classified personnel working within the district. It is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest school district in the country. The ethnic makeup of the district is 36% Hispanic, 30% white, 27% black, 5% Asian and 2% other ethnicities.

Over 70% of the students qualify for free and reduced lunch and nearly 7,000 families are identified as homeless. The mobility rate is approaching 30%.

OCPS has high academic success with the number of A and B schools outpacing the state overall. There are 34 magnet programs with many of them collaborating with community businesses.

OCPS is on the National AP Honor Roll. Nearly 16% more students are taking AP classes this year compared to last year. There has been an 18% increase in the pass rate this year as well. Black and Hispanic students are participating in higher numbers and are increasing in their pass rates as well. Overall, the district has an 87% graduation rate.

Dr. Jenkins spoke more about the Broads and their commitment to public education. The process to becoming a finalist for the award was rigorous. It included focus groups and a week-long site visit. The nominees were sent to a jury to become finalists. The announcement was made in the fall. The presentation of the award was in New York City and the key note speaker was Tony Blair. Arne Duncan presented the award to the co-winners, Orange County Public Schools and Gwinnet County, Georgia. The award for OCPS was \$500,000 in scholarships to be given to students who show the highest rate of improvement over their high school career. Teachers are also incented through the prize to encourage students to participate.

The OCPS finance division is the recipient of the Governor's Sterling award, recognizing organizations as role models for organizational performance excellence.

Dr. Jenkins gave an update on the latest technology investments for the schools. The goal over the next three years is to have a 1:1 ratio for students and devices. The plan has a \$229 million dollar price tag. The half-penny sales tax funds will go towards this goal.

The 1 mill property tax was recently approved by voters by a notable 76% yes vote. These funds go to repair, remodel and rebuild schools in the district.

The Philanthropic Strategic Plan (PSP) continues to lead contributions to the district for many needed programs including the Foundation's Read2Succeed program. To date nearly 5 million dollars has been secured.

Dr. Jenkins concluded her presentation by updating the board on the Florida State Standards and elaborated on the districts most pressing initiatives at this time which include:

- Expanding career and technical education
- Increase restorative justice
- Increase minority achievement
- Adoption of digital curriculum
- Implementing the Florida State Standard
- Implementing the Florida State Assessment

Cathy Hertz asked Dr. Jenkins about the Foundation's role with the district in the future. Dr. Jenkins responded that she did not see any change in the vision and mission of OCPS but certainly changes will be made in the initiatives and strategies. She noted the importance of the Foundation's role in the PSP and the needed contributions to ongoing conversations.

### **Chairperson's Comments**

Cathy reminded everyone about Giving Tuesday on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and encouraged each board member to participate by sending out information through social media about this opportunity. Graphics and copy points are available for this purpose.

**Adjournment:** The meeting ended at 12:45 p.m.