September 27 2010 Retreat

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Board Retreat - September 27, 2010
5:00 p.m.
Superintendent's Conference Room
4204 Okeechobee Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34947

AGENDA

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Superintendent's Report

1. School Board Superintendent Targets Draft 2010 2011
   Attachment: AP IB AICE COURSES 2010.pdf

Minutes:

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Special Meeting (Retreat) - September 27, 2010

MINUTES

On September 27, 2010, the School Board of St. Lucie County held a special meeting/retreat at the School Board Office in the Superintendent’s Conference Room.

PRESENT:

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School Board members and Superintendent Lannon met to review the 2010–2011 Superintendent and School Board Targets draft document created as a result of discussion at the Retreat on August 6. Chairman Ingersoll led the discussion which consisted of a review of each Target as stated in the draft as follows:

1. **Target 1:** Increased proficiency in Reading, Math, Writing and Science: Discussion confirmed this target as consistent with the discussion on August 6 and should be included in the 2010–2011 Targets as stated.

2. **Target 2:** Increased learning gains for the lowest quartile of students in Reading and Math: Discussion confirmed this target as consistent with the discussion on August 6 and should be included in the 2010–2011 Targets as stated.

3. **Target 3:** Decreasing the percentage of students who are chronically absent (20+ days): As requested at the August 6 Retreat attendance data for the 2009-2010 school year was provided for discussion. There was discussion about the trends in absenteeism and the increase in absenteeism on early release days throughout the school year. Mr. Lannon proposed a board workshop on the calendar to provide direction to staff regarding the board’s goals and parameters for the calendar. The calendar committee could then be tasked with identifying strategies that meet the goals and parameters. A request for staff to compile early release days information from peer counties in terms of enrollment size (25,000 to 50,000 students) was also made. There was also a request for disaggregated attendance data for 2009 – 2010 by AYP subcategories. After the discussion it was confirmed this target as consistent with the discussion on August 6 and should be included in the 2010 – 2011 Targets as stated.

4. **Target 4:** Increasing the percentage of AYP criteria met: There was discussion and confirmation that the target was developed with input
from Dr. Owen Roberts to ensure alignment with the differentiated accountability plan. It was confirmed this target as consistent with the discussion on August 6 and should be included in the 2010 – 2011 Targets as stated.

5. **Target 5:** Increasing participation in advanced coursework as well as the percentage of students passing the end of course exams: Board members were provided with 2009 – 2010 information regarding the numbers of students enrolled in advanced courses and the percentage of students passing the end-of-course exam in each course. The information was discussed including the concern that the data reporting timeline for exam pass rates doesn’t align with the Targets timeline making it difficult to assess progress. There was also discussion about focusing on increasing student participation in recognition of the benefits of exposing students to the content of the rigorous coursework. After discussion there was consensus that this Target be proposed as increasing student participation in advanced coursework in the 2010 – 2011 school year by five percentage points as compared to 2009 – 2010 participation. The percentage of students passing the end of course exams will be listed as a special project and the rate will continue to be published as an academic indicator in the annual indicators report.

6. **Target 6:** Implementing small learning communities in High Schools: There was discussion about the full implementation of the small learning communities at all high schools as a part of the High Schools of Excellence Initiative. Dr. Carvelli asked if Alternative Education schools will also be participating and Mr. Lannon said that the alternative schools will be treated as a small learning community as well. After the discussion it was confirmed this target as consistent with the discussion on August 6 and should be included in the 2010 – 2011 Targets as stated.

7. **Target 7:** Implementation of the Speakers’ Bureau: There was discussion about the timeline and consensus around modifying the timeline for implementation to February 1, 2011.

8. **Target 8:** School Ambassadors’ Program: There was discussion about this target pertaining to the “Adopt-A-Schools” program rather than as stated in the draft. There was also discussion and consensus around modifying the timeline for the implementation of the “Adopt-A-Schools” program to February 1, 2011.

9. **Target 9:** “Learn About Your Schools” Initiative: Discussion confirmed this target as consistent with the discussion on August 6 and should be included in the 2010 – 2011 Targets as stated.

10. **Target 10:** Design and Implementation of the Ambassadors’ Program: There was discussion about including this as an additional target with a timeline of design and implementation by June 30, 2011.
After discussion there was consensus regarding inclusion of this Target as an addition to the draft from August 6.

11. Target 11: Board Members’ Induction Program: There was discussion about working with new board members in an induction program but modifying the draft timeline so that the induction activities begin in January, 2011 and continue through the calendar year. Mr. Lannon shared with board members that, just after the primary election, he invited all four candidates to meet with key department heads and all of the candidates have made arrangements to meet with district staff. There was also discussion about involving FSBA in the board induction program/ training and the possibility of using FSBA resources including their informational booklets regarding board members roles, technical information and budget information, especially given the challenges of the upcoming budget cycle. There was also discussion about exposing new board members to the complexities of their role in community-building and the understanding that student health and nutrition are also areas that must be focused on in terms of student need so that students can learn. After this discussion there was consensus regarding this Target with the modified timeline.

12. Target 12: Discussion confirmed this target as consistent with the discussion and should be included in the 2010 – 2011 Targets as stated.

To bring closure to the Targets discussion Chairman Ingersoll restated each Target with suggested modifications. The Targets will be presented for school board vote on the October 12, 2010 agenda.

After discussion regarding proposed targets, Mr. Lannon briefly commented on his focus on closing the achievement gap. Current achievement gap information was provided to board members for their information. There was also discussion about the national media coverage on NBC and its “Education Nation” programming. It was noted that many of the initiatives being discussed nationally are also being pursued locally in St. Lucie County Schools. With no further items for discussion Chairman Ingersoll adjourned the September 27 retreat at approximately 5:58 p.m.

Note: If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the School Board regarding any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings. For this purpose, an individual should ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, at his/her own expense, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based (Sec. 286.0105 F. S.). In compliance with ADA requirements, special needs can be reasonably accommodated by contacting the School Board of St. Lucie County at least ten (10) working days prior to the meeting. Contact the Board’s Assistant by phone 772-429-3914, fax 772-429-7559, or harrisonc@stlucie.k12.fl.us. Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) is available at 772-429-3919. This agenda may be amended from time to time on an as needed basis.