

At this time the Superintendent's Informational Reports were presented to the Board.

[The Chair relinquished the gavel to the Vice Chair during this portion of the meeting.]

GAVEL TO VICE CHAIR

## **A-1 SUPERINTENDENT'S INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO THE BOARD ON SELECTED TOPICS**

112,508  
HEARD SUPT.'S  
INFORMATIONAL  
REPORTS

### **♦ Legislative/Budget Update**

Ms. Iraida Mendez-Cartaya, Assistant Superintendent, OIAGA and Community Services, provided the Board with a legislative/budget update. In addition to presenting the timeline of events of the 2009 legislative session, she reported that two major issues remained outstanding relative to the education budget – the TRIM notice and the plan to shift 0.25 millage from capital to operations. Ms. Mendez-Cartaya stated that the Dade Delegation was in the process of sending a letter to the Speaker of the House urging for the restoration of the millage to 1.75, if not to the full 2.0. She also said that once a resolution was reached on the finance package, further legislative updates would be presented to the Board.

Following, Superintendent Carvalho announced his planned meeting in Tallahassee tomorrow, to discuss the TRIM issue which he reminded the Board was promised to be addressed this legislative session, as a result of the School Board's voluntary withdrawal of its lawsuit against the state. With regards to the millage transfer, Mr. Carvalho said it would not be beneficial to South Florida or Miami-Dade County and would, in fact, create a \$54 million hole for the district. This he said would potentially affect the capital program and the maintenance and construction workforce.

### **♦ Success Academy Update**

Ms. Ellen Wright, Assistant Superintendent, Differentiated Accountability, presented the Board with an update on The Success Academy. She reported that the Academy surpassed expectations with its student participation; and that the nine Intervene schools – their teachers, support staff, the District staff and the Parent Academy staff – were to be congratulated for making the Academy a success.

Students will begin to withdraw their funds from the South Florida Educational Federal Credit Union on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. An appeal process will be implemented for any attendance discrepancies regarding incentive earnings. The payment procedures for The Success Academy would be as follows: for each session a student attended, he/she would receive an incentive earning of \$10 per session at the elementary level; and \$30 per session at the senior high level. Included in The Success Academy was a financial literacy class for students to learn the basic principles of money management. Therefore, if students received consequences for absences during the Academy, for every day a student did not attend a session, their account was reduced by \$10 or \$30, respectively.

Concluding, Ms. Wright stated that the overall goal of the Academy was to provide students with the remediation enrichment needed for the FCAT and to increase student achievement. Students received 132,356 hours of instruction at the nine Intervene schools during the winter recess and on Saturdays.

Following, members of the Board entered into discussion with the Superintendent about the reports presented. Among the concerns/questions raised were the following:

- What impact will the loss of the extra .25 mill have on our ability to borrow tax-free money or interest-free money from the government through 2018? [Dr. Feldman]

Superintendent Carvalho explained that the availability of interest-free construction money through loans from the Federal government was another way the district could get funds. However, with the transfer of the quarter mill, districts such as Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties would lose their capacity to capitalize on these interest-free loans, which he indicated would have been about \$230 million for Miami-Dade.

- In preparing for the worst-case scenario, will the Board be provided with any type of document indicating which construction projects and maintenance programs may be negatively impacted? [Dr. Feldman]

Mr. Carvalho responded that at the conclusion of the legislative session it was his intent to schedule a Board workshop to fully apprise the Board of the specific impact that the quarter mill transfer, as well as the declining property values and receipts, will have on the Five-Year Capital Program. It is also his intent to address the impact on specific construction projects.

Mr. Torrens informed Board members that any new construction projects would, essentially, come to a halt. The district would then look at prioritizing the most needed repairs with the remaining funds. Nevertheless, there would be a drastic impact, if this shift were finally approved by the Legislature.

- Would it be premature to share this information with the communities that might be negatively impacted by a sudden loss of new construction and renovations? [Dr. Feldman]

Mr. Torrens responded in the negative and indicated that the district was communicating with any interested parties, upon being contacted in this regard.

Dr. Feldman then requested that the Superintendent compile and publish, at his discretion, the list of projects that could be endangered should the quarter mill transfer take effect.

- When should The Success Academy students expect to receive their incentive pay? [Dr. Pérez]

Superintendent Carvalho stated that those payments would begin on Friday, April 24th, beginning at the elementary schools and then graduating to the senior high schools.