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THE SCHOOL BOARD OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA
Landings Administrative Complex
1980 Landings Blvd.
5:30 p.m.

April 18, 2006 Informal Hearing

Call to Order (Chair)

Richard Milburn Academy Presentation

Board Questions/Staff Input

1. [DECISION ON RENEWAL OF RICHARD MILBURN ACADEMY CHARTER](#)

Description

N/A

Recommendation

That the School Board refuse to renew the charter of the Richard Milburn Academy based upon the good cause reasons presented by the Superintendent at the School Board's March 8, 2006 workshop.

Minutes:

(Board Member Frank Kovach absent)

Called to Order: 5:28 p.m.

Mike McHugh, Executive Director, Pupil Support Services, welcomed and introduced the Chair of the Board of Richard Milburn Academy. The Chair of RMA, Houston Conley, introduced the president of RMA of Florida, Inc., Robert Crosby and Mrs. Edna Bailey, Area Director of Richard Milburn Academy of Florida.

Robert Crosby, President of RMA, presented a power point presentation. The power point presentation consisted of:

Measurable objectives: Student attendance, student performance, student behavior in school activities, satisfaction with RMA, success and students who are gainfully employed.

An analysis of goals, fiscal management, financial results, qualified teaching staff, staffing and RMA's platform for future success was presented by Mr. Crosby.

Two of RMA's students and parents spoke in support of Richard Milburn Academy.

There was discussion and questions with Board members, district staff and Richard Milburn Academy staff.

Board Member, Laura Benson, stated that she takes extraordinary pride in this district in the professionalism of the staff. The uniqueness of the district staff compared to other districts around the state is that our staff goes above and beyond what is required under the state law in the 5% hold back. It is disbelief that the anyone could ever suggest that the staff could skew information or attempt to provide data to this district that in any manner, way, shape or form is intended to make someone look bad. The staff has an excellent relationship with every Charter school in the district. The staff supports the Charter schools as a partner with the school district and to suggest otherwise would be incorrect.

Board member, Kathy Kleinlein, stated she concurred with Mrs. Benson. Mrs. Kleinlein stated that she did not believe the best defense was a good offense. FCAT numbers and comparisons have to be done according to the state. The district staff uses the same criteria for the Charter schools as the state uses for the district schools. The data cannot be manipulated. Mrs. Kleinlein stated she was upset with what seemed like an attempt on the district staff's professionalism and accuracy.

Board member, John Lewis, stated that he has been supportive of Charter schools. Overall, the School Board has to look at the effectiveness of all the Charter schools and that the funding is being used in the capacity that it should be used. Sometimes the Board has to make tough decisions. If what the Charter schools are doing is not aligned with what the state requires and with what the district needs, but more importantly, will it help all the students that are in the organization and objectives have not been met, the Board has to say no.

Chair, Carol Todd, stated these are very difficult decisions. The Board has a responsibility to ensure that the Board provides the most appropriate education for all of the students in the district and that she cannot support the renewal of the RMA Charter. The Chair encouraged the parents that were present at the meeting to meet with district staff, so the staff can begin the process of helping the parents with their children's placement for next year.

Motions:

That the School Board refuse to renew the charter of the Richard Milburn

Academy based upon the good cause reasons presented by the Superintendent at the School Board's March 8, 2006 workshop. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Laura Benson
Second: Kathy Kleinlein

Laura Benson - Aye
Kathy Kleinlein - Aye
John Lewis - Aye
Carol Todd - Aye

Adjournment

2. [ADJOURNMENT](#)

Description

N/A

Recommendation

N/A

Minutes:

The Chair adjourned the Richard Milburn Academy Informal Hearing at 5:25 p.m.

We certify that the foregoing minutes are a true account of the Richard Milburn Academy Informal Hearing held on April 18, 2006, and approved at the regular Board meeting on May 2, 2006.

Secretary

Chair