

MEA Bargaining 2023-2024
Session #1

Thursday, August 1, 2023

Those present: Rick Bailey, Pat Barber, Kara Carney, Willie Clark, Ben Geiger, Silvana Ianinska, Helen King, Brian Kirchberg, Rob Lyons, Gina Malinak, Melanie Newhall, Bruce Proud, Joe Ranaldi, Rachel Sellers, Jon Syre, Bill Vogel and Dawn Walker.

Dr. Vogel introduced Dr. Wysong.

Dr. Wysong thanked everyone for coming to bargaining in August. Excited to get started. Look forward to successful process.

Vogel – other individuals will be joining periodically.

Wysong – New deputy Derek Jensen starting next week.

Caucus began at 12:39 p.m. Meeting began at 1:39 p.m.

Teams introduced themselves.

Vogel – new legislation. Heard rumors to ease restrictions on our ability to negotiate salaries for teachers with experience. Only change we saw was % we had to place on starting salary. Didn't affect us because we are over \$47,500. Disappointed. We wanted to see a change in legislation because that's been a priority for us.

Proud – states that they wanted to reduce restrictions for experienced people to receive funding. May be a change we can take advantage of.

Vogel – anxious to see if there is a way to work with that. Also have to deal with voucher bill/statute. Impacts budget. Rachel to give brief overview of process. Questions you still have – Rachel and Gina have done an outstanding job pulling together data.

Sellers – overview of FEFP handout that was presented to SBMC.

2023-2024 FL DOE FEFP 2nd Calculation

53,767 FTE. Increase of 1630 FTE. Out of 53,767 – voucher is 3274. District FTE to 50491.

32 virtual students. Drops to 50,465.

Charter school FTE expected to increase by 1397. 9,654.

District's FTE drops to 40,811 in 23-24.

Vogel – when will state decide what amount of voucher \$ will come out of budget?

Sellers – if county doesn't have enough students to enroll, money goes back to state, not district. State decides where voucher money goes.

BSA – 5139. Base funding 299 million divided by funded weighted FTE is how you get 5139. Discretionary BSA when take out FTE that will decrease. But another thing that occurred – district used to receive

categoricals. Not in its own separate bucket anymore. Still have to pay for reading instruction. \$2.8M. Instructional materials - \$4.3M. Money is now in BSA. Classroom supply in BSA. Classroom teacher and other person salaries - \$17.7M. district still needs to pay, now in BSA. BSA drops to \$4791.86. only an increase of \$204 over last year. District still gets ESE allocation – money also gets pulled out for vouchers. DJJ dropped. Mental health increased, but probably isn't going to fit the bill, but it's a slight increase. Safe schools increased. Student transportation increased but some of that has to go to vouchers, too. 55% funded by state. 45% funded by district. SAI is now Education Enrichment. Lost proration of \$400,000 in last calc. gross funding to \$349M. \$20M increase from prior year. 5 categorical - \$23M. Mandated increase – FRS rate increased significantly by \$4M from last year. Hitting costs across the board. Mandated growth – difference in increase between district's increase in FTE of 702 x BSA = 3.6. mandated increase of \$7.7M. \$457M total funding less 30 million for vouchers = \$427M. Differential increase of \$392M. Decrease in funding of \$7.9M. but we still have funds to operate. Voucher program and rolled up categoricals make it look like the district has gotten more funding. State funding this year \$185.9 million, last year it was \$195 million. Local funding – property taxes. Income coming from that is why we are sitting in same place as last year. Local funding made funding where it is for this district for this coming year.

Vogel – state makes changes rolling categoricals in and have to use money the way it was intended.

Proud – several boxes have flexibility. Which ones?

Sellers – the five categoricals – reading, instructional materials, TSIA, classroom supplies, funding compression and hold harmless. They talked about flexibility but written in statute still need to meet specifications. To say that it's flexible is interesting. Last year those were \$23 M. Same cost this year is \$27. Difference is in TSIA. That difference is FRS increase required by state. Family Empowerment Scholarships (FES) – see rise in FTE between last year and this year's projections. First count is in October.

Vogel – think 10-day count will be critical this year.

Sellers – hope to get count on day 8.

Vogel – right now we have no way of knowing how many families taking family empowerment scholarships.

Clark – we don't know, families may be making this decision this week.

Vogel – real unknown this year. Every year brings new challenges. Wait and see. 8 or 10 day count will help us. Any numbers we can help you with?

Proud – most of it will have to wait and see what voucher numbers really are.

Sellers – voucher money will never come back to district.

Proud – struggling with BSA allocation reduction with separation of FES being taken out and how they calculated BSA.

Sellers – these buckets all include FES until takeout in blue box.

Vogel – looks like private schools getting \$7300/student. Is that because they are getting our money and voucher money?

Sellers – BSA is for all students – voucher, district, charter, virtual school

Proud – have to look at it some more to figure out calculation of BSA with or without. I just don't see it. Data from state didn't look like it was reducing district share.

Sellers showed Bruce how she calculated the numbers.

Vogel – any other questions, please let us know. We have always been successful knowing where we are, agreeing on budget numbers before we get started.

Proud – ok

Vogel – only other thing else I have is looking at calendar dates. Unless you have anything else.

Proud – Bill, can we have a short caucus?

Vogel – sure.

Caucus at 2:13 p.m. Reconvened at 2:36 p.m.

Proud – ready to talk about dates.

Vogel – think we can meet on 8/8

Proud – dates we had were Thursday the third at 4. Next week not good.

Vogel – can we go early?

Barber – they're at work.

Proud – then we have 8/14 or 8/16.

Vogel – 8/7 or 8/8 won't work?

Proud – there are people who won't have time for that.

Vogel – 8/14 is next time? 8/16 AFSCME is bargaining all day.

Barber – Come on down. We can't go until 4:45. Double feature!

Vogel – no way earlier on 8/3?

Proud – IB training, other district training they're scheduled for.

Vogel – we can do 8/14, can we block off 8/21 and 8/28?

Barber – not 8/21.

Proud – 8/14, 8/16, 8/28 and for MEA to meet at 4:45.

Vogel – would like your proposal so we can work through it. See what we can do to move it along if we can. If you need other information between now and then, give us a call.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45.