

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Final Adoption of Revisions to School Board Policy 1341, Use of Broward County School Facilities for Non-School Purposes

As stated herein, School Board Policy 1341 governs the use of Broward County school facilities for non-school purposes by other groups or organizations. On January 25, 2011, major revisions made to the Policy were adopted by The School Board of Broward County, Florida (SBBC). However, efforts to address lingering issues in the Policy led to several School Board workshops on the Policy.

These workshops were held on the following dates: April 24, 2012, November 13, 2012, June 18, 2013, May 13, 2014, and finally on May 26, 2015. Upon the conclusions of the workshops, the SBBC on November 3, 2015, adopted revisions to the Policy. Subsequently, the adopted Policy and revisions thereon were promptly communicated to the following four (4) categories of users, School Allied Groups (SAG); Government Organizations; Non-Profit Corporations and 501(c)(3) Organizations; and Other Organizations; whose usage of District school facilities are governed by the Policy provisions.

As stated herein, the SBBC during adoption of the Policy, directed that the Policy should be rescheduled before it to make certain corrective measures to address issues pertaining to the provisions governing the use of school facilities by SAG, and to further revisit the payment of rental fee by Non-Profit Corporations and 501(c)(3) Organizations; most specifically, if this fee can be discounted. Hence this Policy is being scheduled for this meeting, and corrective measures, recommended by School Board Policy 1341 Committee, to address these issues, are contained in this Board item.

A consistent goal in the adoption of revisions to the Policy has been to ensure that the provisions of the Policy are implemented District-wide in a comprehensive and consistent manner by all school principals and facility directors. To this end, the District in December 2014 acquired an Event Management System (EMS) for the purposes of enabling a uniform and comprehensive application of provisions of the Policy District-wide.

The EMS is a computerized tool that provides a fully interactive, real-time access via the internet or the District's intranet, and allow the District's customers or a potential lessee to use a standard internet browser to view event schedules, browse facilities and search for spaces that could be available for rent at school facilities. Additionally, the system would enable tracking and auditing of the school leases, and has query capabilities to enable retrieval of critical data regarding the leasing and utilization of the school facilities, including revenues derived from the rental of school facilities.

Earnestly in 2015, District staff commenced the installation, training, and implementation of the EMS in pertinent District departments, in all elementary, middle, and high schools, and technical colleges. Today, the EMS has been installed at all the District departments, schools, and technical colleges; subsequently, all pertinent personal at these various locations have received training in the EMS and are currently utilizing the EMS. Also effective July 1, 2016, the EMS should become available for utilization by web users (outside parties).

Also as stated herein, a discount of twenty-five percent (25%) is recommended to be applied to the rental fee due to Non-Profit Corporations and 501(c)(3) Organizations. This recommendation is based on providing a discount that is half of the fifty percent (50%) discount that the Palm Beach County School District (PBCSD) provides to such organizations. It should be noted that in their review of this issue, the School Board Policy 1341 Committee recommended that a discount of twenty percent (20%) should be applied to the rental fee due to Non-Profit Corporations and 501(c)(3) Organizations. The Committee's recommendation was based on the fact that The School Board of Broward County, Florida (SBBC) currently grants a discount of twenty percent (20%) to municipalities who have a Reciprocal Use Agreement with the SBBC in the payment of energy fee whenever they utilize school District facilities. However, staff believes that the twenty-five percent (25%) discount recommended herein is reasonable, consistent, and pertains to the same issue, which is the payment of rental fee for use of District facilities by such organizations.