4-E Board Report **August 5**, 2002 Page 1 of 4

POLICY 7.134

4-E I recommend the Board adopt the proposed new Policy 7.134, to be entitled "Encouraging Large Schools to Subdivide into Schools-Within-a-School."

[Contact: Dr. Joseph Orr, 649-6888]

Adoption

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- At the first reading for development on June 17, the School Board approved the proposed Policy, with an amendment. The <u>bold italic</u> text in lines 45-46 is based on the amendment.
- Fla. Stat. § 230.23(20) mandates that the Board must adopt a Policy *encouraging* (but not requiring) large schools to subdivide into a "school-within-a-school" operational program for the 2002-03 school year and thereafter. The statute limits these programs to being operated *within existing resources*.

CONSENT ITEM

4-E Board Report August 5, 2002 Page 2 of 4

PROPOSED NEW POLICY 7.134

1		ENCOURAGING LARGE SCHOOLS TO SUBDIVIDE
2		INTO SCHOOLS-WITHIN-A-SCHOOL
3		
4		
5	1.	The School Board recognizes the Florida Legislature's findings that smaller schools
6		can be created within existing schools without increasing administrative and
7		construction costs, and that smaller schools may provide benefits of reduced
8		discipline problems, truancy, and gang participation; reduced dropout rates;
9		improved teacher and student attitudes, student self-perception, and academic
		achievement; and increased parental involvement.
10		<u>achievement, and increased parental involvement.</u>
11	2.	Pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 235.2157(2), a school on a single campus which operates
12	<u> </u>	as a school-within-a-school, as defined by section (3) below, shall be considered a
		"small school" if each unit located on the single campus falls below the student-
13		
14		population limits listed in paragraphs (4)(a)-(e) of this Policy.
15	3.	The term "school-within-a-school" shall be defined as an operational program that
16	<u>.</u>	uses flexible scheduling, team planning, and curricular and instructional innovation
10		to organize groups of students with groups of teachers as smaller units, so as to
17		functionally operate as a smaller school.
10		Tunctionally operate as a smaller school.
19	4	As mandated by Fla. Stat. § 230.23(20), the School Board hereby adopts a policy
20		of encouraging (but not requiring) schools to subdivide into "schools-within-a-
21		school" for the 2002-03 school year and thereafter, if such schools fall within the
21		following categories:
22		tonowing categories.
23		a. elementary schools with a student population of more than 500 students.
23		
24		b. middle schools with a student population of more than 700 students.
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25		c. high schools with a student population of more than 900 students.
26		d. any school serving kindergarten through grade 8 with a student population of
27		<u>more than 700 students.</u>
28		e. any school serving kindergarten through grade 12 with a student population of
29		more than 900.
20	5	A school within a school shall approto within evicting recourses, as required by S
30	<u>5.</u>	A school-within-a-school shall operate within existing resources, as required by §
31		<u>230.23(20), Fla. Stat.</u>

4-E Board Report August 5, 2002 Page 3 of 4

32	6.	When planning for and implementing a school-within-a-school, the school principal
33		shall advise and counsel with the Area Superintendent and School Advisory
34		Council to develop a program patterned after one of the following models set forth
35		<u>in Fla. Stat. § 230.23(20), or a similar model:</u>
36		a. An organizational arrangement assigning both students and teachers to
37		smaller units in which the students take some or all of their coursework with
38		cohorts in this group and from the teachers assigned to this smaller unit. A unit
39		may be grouped together for either one (1) year or on a vertical, multiyear
40		basis.
41		b. An organizational arrangement similar to that described in paragraph (a), with
42		additional variations in instruction and curriculum. The smaller unit usually
43		seeks to maintain a program different from that of the larger school, or of other
44		smaller units. It may be vertically organized, but is dependent upon the school
45		principal for its existence, budget, and staff. The District's career-education
46		centers may be an example of this model.
47		c. A separate and autonomous smaller unit formally authorized by the school
48		board or superintendent. The smaller unit plans and runs its own program, has
49		its own staff and students, and receives its own separate budget. The smaller
50		unit must negotiate the use of common space with the larger school and defer
51		to the building principal on matters of safety and building operation.
52	7.	Unless otherwise specifically authorized by the School Board, when a school-
53		within-a-school is created, the school principal shall maintain oversight of all
54		portions of the school site, consistent with School Board Policy 1.014 and Fla. Stat.
55		§ 231.085, although the immediate supervision of the smaller unit may be
56		delegated to another administrator.
57	8.	The establishment of a school-within-a-school will be carried out consistent with
58		Article IX of the Classroom Teachers Association Collective Bargaining Agreement,
59		or other applicable collective bargaining Agreement, if said Article or Agreements
60		are deemed applicable.
61		
62	ST	ATUTORY AUTHORITY: §§ 230.22(2); 230.23(22), Fla. Stat.
63	LA	WS IMPLEMENTED: §§ 230.23(17), (20); 235.2157, Fla. Stat.
64	<u>HI</u> :	<u>STORY: / /02</u>

Legal Signoff:

The Legal Department has reviewed proposed Policy 7.134 and finds it legally sufficient for development by the Board.

Attorney

Date

Summary of Estimated Cost form (*if prepared*)

Publication of Development Notice

Publication of Adoption Notice