

## RTTT Update

On Tuesday, September 27 I received a text from Bill Husfelt regarding RTTT (Race To The Top). He asked that INC submit our intent to participate and a budget. My text back indicated that we had sparsely been involved in any RTTT dialog and we were clueless as to the amount of money we could receive and that we even had to submit a budget. Bill and I spoke on the phone and he indicated that he would get with Nancy Boyd on this. I asked him if I could “cut to the chase” and speak directly to the district’s guru on RTTT, Dwan Capes. He made this happen.

On that same day Dawn and I discussed the fact that Meredith and Larry were invited to two meetings. These were introductory meetings about preliminary information. Larry went to a meeting last Friday that had a tremendous amount of information regarding RTTT, but no definite information on how this affected charters. He asked about the amount of money that would be allocated to charters and was informed that they would get back to him.

At the same time he attended that meeting I was in a meeting in Ft. Lauderdale on RTTT and on the future charter school start up grant funds and how they will be allocated. WE found that districts around the state had either included charters weekly or not at all in the process. So, BDS was not a maverick on this. They in fact had not received much guidance from the state to date.

Bill sent me a text with our potential amount of revenue from RTTT. It is \$133,101 from BHCA and \$84,677 for NBH. That totals \$217,778 for 4 years. Don’t get excited. The strings on this money are short and wrapped around the neck.

Step 1: We are compelled to either “opt in” or “opt out” of the entire RTTT program by Oct. 13. Bill said he needed our decision by Sept. 29. Neel and I worked together to sign the letter of intent to “opt in”. I delivered the letter to Nancy Boyd and Dawn Capes in person on Wednesday morning. We have the option to “opt out” at any time, but if we did not “opt in” in the timeline given we could not do so at a later date.

Step 2: We are to complete a budget for the \$217,778. I met with Nancy and Dawn for an hour and a half on Wed. to discuss program components and charter options. There are 14 Program components. BDS and BHCA would have to comply with Program components # 2-10. Out of these BHCA can either join the Local Education Agency (LEA) or opt to design our own or purchase our own programs.

Step 3: The DOE said to wait on submitting the budget to the district. They are providing more information on RTTT in the next few days and they indicated that although BDS was being efficient in getting their plan accomplished early that they are rushing the process and the due dates are the 13<sup>th</sup> of Oct. for the initial application.

Step 4: We need to determine how the allocation of the funds will affect us and a) whether or not we cannot do without the money due to future (seen and unseen) mandates, b) what will the district be compelled to provide and we do not have to pay our pro rata share, c) what will the district provide and

we have to pay our pro rata share, d) what will it cost us to do our own thing that we produce “in house” or purchase commercially.

Step 5: We can determine in the future whether to take the money once we know more about the assets, deficits, and those things we will be compelled to do.

Overall this is a huge amount of money that is part of the debt for future generations. They are creating mandates that we will have to comply with and pay for in some way shape or form. They are providing 4 years of financial resources to maybe better education or to take greater control.

Remember Nancy Pelosi stating that we needed to pass the health care bill first so that we can then find out what is in it. This has been a whirlwind and no one seems to have answers. The FLDOE puts up FAQ's on a daily basis. They indicated that they are getting answers one day and correcting them the next.

So far, we have opted in. I am working on the budget. We will need to pass a resolution on Thursday, October 7 to state:

*Bay Haven Charter Academy, Inc makes a resolution to join Bay District Schools with a formal Intent to Participate in the Race to the Top federal grant program. By signing the intent to participate Bay Haven Charter Academy, Inc agrees to adhere to the applicable requirements in the Memorandum of Understanding tendered by the Local education Agency, Bay District Schools.*

I sent a copy of the MOU subtitled Guidelines for Charter Schools.

Any questions please call.