

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY  
RETREAT-APRIL 7, 2015

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, along with the Superintendent, conducted a retreat on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 9:00 a.m., at the Kane's Headquarters, 5700 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Florida.

Present: Mrs. Linda S. Lerner, Chairperson; Mrs. Peggy L. O'Shea, Vice-Chairperson; Ms. Janet Clark, Mrs. Carol Cook, Ms. Rene Flowers, Mrs. Terry Krassner, Dr. Ken Peluso, Members; Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent; Dr. William Corbett, Deputy Superintendent; Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney and Ms. Melanie Marquez Parra, Director, Strategic Communications.

The retreat was facilitated by Dr. Mary Beth Corace, Director of Strategic Planning and Policy.

Mrs. Lerner welcomed the participants and acknowledged the great location.

Dr. Corace shared the intention of the retreat was to continue strategic thinking; setting the direction of the district; considering the Big Ideas; and to review Quality Concepts and the use of quality tools; all of which are integrated in our daily work. She reiterated that all these are in place as evidenced by the AdvancED accreditation.

The stated purpose of the retreat:

1. Understand Pinellas County Schools *culture* through Quality Concepts 4.0
2. Understand the use of Quality fundamentals in our District
3. Understand how the use of a system's perspective improves Board Governance, Leadership, Management of Operations, and Teaching and Learning
4. Understand the role of leaders in a Quality system
5. Understand current work within the system

Participants utilized several quality tools to guide discussion and illustrate their use: Continuous Improvement consensogram, Quality Tools consensogram, High Performing Education triangle and three Affinity Diagrams (Clear Direction, Methods, and Integrated System).

During the training, she encouraged the use of quality tools as they relate to education and to incorporate them in our work. There are always opportunities for improvement. For example, by using PDSA (Plan, Do, Study, Act) in the development of lesson plans, teachers will develop better lessons and they will infuse the Florida State Standards across all curriculums with the idea of continuous improvement.

Dr. Corace also reviewed W. Edwards Deming's 14 points for total quality management. Several ideas/concerns were shared by board members during the conversations that occurred during this review:

- The desire to be continually informed of district initiatives as they need to have current information due to their presence in the community.
- The suggestion that the district website might be a good location to have in depth information for high school students about graduation, post-secondary options and specific resources to accomplish those goals.
- The importance of early intervention; although the District may be paying initially the end result is cost effective.

- Request to know how new leadership is given training in quality concepts and the use of quality tools. It is mentioned on our job descriptions, but what is the process to insure that it is occurring? What are the District's specifics about Quality that we want them to know?

Dr. Grego stated that he wanted to compliment the Board for the value they place on adult education, ESOL, technical education and an array of programs that embrace successes for our varied student population. He shared that there are many good things happening in our district including attendance at events where the voice of the customer is heard and it is powerful. He shared his determination to be fiscally responsible. The five year capital outlay plan will be brought forward at an upcoming workshop. It will include plans to address our aging infrastructure and the need to upgrade school properties. The federal stimulus money will cease and the budget will need to reflect that reduction in funding. The budget will be discussed in detail at the June workshop.

He also shared a plan to regionalize the district by dividing it into four geographical areas. Each area will have a group of administrators and staff who are specific to that area. Each area will have an area superintendent, ESE staff, transportation staff, operations manager and human resources staff that will work together. This will provide "one voice" and more of a connection to the community.

The School Board Retreat evaluation results are as follows:

*Pluses:*

- Engaging, great review of the accreditation report
- Power Point outstanding!
- So well prepared!
- Change of environment was extremely nice!
- Great retreat-thanks!
- Great progress
- Irwin Novack's lunch
- lunch
- Great facility, nice lunch, thank you Irwin
- Really appreciated the activities to get us out of our seats, thinking and talking items through
- Excellent presentation and handouts
- A better of understanding of the qualitative tools used internally for the planning process

*Opportunities:*

- Time for discussion of current issues
- More time for board discussion of issues
- Would have liked more time for discussion
- Needed about one more hour
- Time to use tools on specific issues (2)
- Very basic quality info
- Use of microphones if acoustics are not good. Multiple people talking at once so I couldn't hear all the comments.

No official actions were taken by the Board at this retreat. The retreat between the School Board, School Board Attorney, Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

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Chairperson  
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Retreat 15April07

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Secretary