

## **SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – February 8, 2011**

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, following the School Board Meeting. The workshop began at 12:53 p.m. and was conducted in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4<sup>th</sup> Street S.W., Largo, Florida.

Present: Mrs. Carol J. Cook, Chairperson; Mrs. Robin L. Wikle, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Janet R. Clark, Mrs. Terry Krassner, Mrs. Linda S. Lerner, Mrs. Peggy L. O’Shea, Mr. Lew Williams, Members; Dr. Julie Janssen, Superintendent; Mr. James F. Madden, Deputy Superintendent; and, Mr. James A. Robinson, General Counsel.

The following topic was presented and discussed during this workshop session:

- **Zoning Changes** – Mr. Madden presented a brief history of zoning changes. Mr. Madden’s PowerPoint presentation was e-mailed to the Board Members. Ms. Dee Burns, Director for Student Assignment, and Mr. Marshall Touchton, Demographic Specialist, presented the proposed changes for elementary, middle and high school zones. The following is a summary of the comments presented regarding the proposals for high schools:

**A. Zoning - High Schools** - The following is a summary of the comments presented regarding the proposals for high schools:

- Mrs. O’Shea stated that she believes it is time to look at municipal lines for the coming year’s zoning.
- Mrs. Lerner expressed concern that many of our schools are named after cities; but, yet much of our district is really under county jurisdiction.
- Mrs. Wikle stated that the north side of Curlew is zoned for Palm Harbor but yet this area is really part of Dunedin.
- Ms. Clark suggested that the Board think the changes through thoroughly before finalizing any lines.
- Mr. Williams stated that what concerns him is that the Board seems to tweak the lines during each discussion; but, that it is important to reach what is considered the best decision and remain with that.
- Mrs. O’Shea stated that she is strongly in favor of zoning Palm Harbor as a community; but, would be fine with waiting a year to do this.
- Mrs. Lerner, agreeing with Mrs. O’Shea, requested that the Superintendent and her staff tell the Board what really has to be done for this coming year. Mrs. Lerner stated that no one actually knows what impact the program changes proposed for next year will truly have on the enrollment at each school.
- Dr. Janssen stated that she truly believes this is the plan with which the Board should go forward.

**B. Zoning** – Middle Schools - The following is a summary of the comments presented regarding the proposals for middle schools:

- Mrs. Krassner requested that the Board receive information as to how long the bus rides will be for the students impacted by the proposed changes if the Board votes to go forward with them.
- Mrs. Wikle suggested that just the one section be moved into Safety Harbor, leaving the other suggested areas as they were.
- Mrs. Krassner requested that effort be taken to allow those students closest to Fitzgerald Middle to attend that school.
- Ms. Clark requested an update on what is happening at John Hopkins Middle.
- Mrs. Lerner requested information on the magnet program at Hopkins – the real capacity and the goal for the number of seats.

**C. Zoning** – Elementary Schools - The following is a summary of the comments presented regarding the proposals for elementary schools:

- Both Mrs. O’Shea and Mrs. Lerner expressed concern with the language in the proposal that seems to contradict present policy pertaining to students whose families will be affected by the proposed changes that will result in them having an older sibling in one school, with the incoming sibling being zoned for a different school and whether or not transportation will or will not continue for that family.
- Mr. Williams stated that we need to make sure that what is done does not remove magnet opportunities in some of our schools which result in making those schools racially identifiable.
- Mr. Touchton offered to send the link for the maps to those Board Members wishing to use Google Earth to see the proposal clearer.

**D. Summaries for each level** –

- Elementary - The Board seemed ready to have the Superintendent move forward with her recommendations.
- Middle –The Board requested that the Superintendent include the proposed changes to the north county middle school proposal.
- High - The Board has asked that the Superintendent bring her best recommendation for high school zoning back to the Board.
- All levels of recommendations will be brought back to the Board for a second reading at the March 15, 2011 Board meeting.

**E. Language Concern** – Proposal vs. Policy

- Mr. Robinson distributed copies of Policy 5120, as submitted to the Board at their January 11, 2011 meeting.
- Mr. Madden and Mr. Robinson emphasized that opportunities for students to move into a different school other than their zoned or present school is always based on space availability.
- Dr. Janssen suggested that she bring clearer language back to the Board at the March 15, 2011 meeting.

➤ **Leadership**

- Visit to Braden River High School/ Career Connections Program – This visit is being arranged by the Education Foundation. The date of availability for a majority of our

Board was identified as February 24<sup>th</sup>. This will be communicated to the Education Foundation.

- Mrs. Lerner suggested that the Board and Superintendent invite the Foundation to travel with them to visit a similar program in Hillsborough County. There seemed to be consensus to schedule a conversation on this at the Board’s March 8<sup>th</sup> workshop. Mrs. Wikle agreed to complete a topic request form to have this discussion scheduled.
- Further discussion on zoning will also be scheduled for the March 8<sup>th</sup> workshop.
- Ms. Clark submitted a workshop topic request form to have “Opportunities for Public Input at Board Meetings” a subject to be discussed by the Board. Board Members agreed to have this placed on the March 8<sup>th</sup> workshop agenda.
- Mrs. Cook distributed a summary from Board’s recent retreat and requested that Board Members review the list to see if all important items have been captured. This will be discussed further during their Leadership Discussion at the March 8<sup>th</sup> workshop.
- Mrs. Cook stated that a request has been submitted from the Value Adjustment Board to have the Board select a new citizen representative to serve on VAB in place of Mr. Earnest Williams who has found it necessary to resign. Board Members are to make contact with those they know may be interested in serving in this capacity, share with them some insight as to the responsibilities associated with this service and then submit the names of those interested to Mrs. Beaty. A decision will be made by the Board at their February 22, 2011 meeting.
- Board Members planning to go to Tallahassee for the FSBA New Board Orientation and the Days in the Legislature are to get their arrival and departure dates to Mrs. Beaty before leaving today. Following this session, Mrs. Cook spoke with Mrs. Krassner and Mr. Williams to share the meeting and training schedule for those days.
- Board Members will determine their summer meeting and workshop schedule during their March 8<sup>th</sup> workshop.

No official actions were taken by the Board at this workshop. An audio recording of this workshop is filed in the Board Office archives. This workshop adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Secretary

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