

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – May 16, 2011

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Monday, May 16, 2011, at 9:10 a.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4th 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 changes were made to the agenda: Feedback from Audit Report – moved to June 21, 2011; and, Teacher Appraisal System – moved to June 21, 2011

- **Budget Update** – Dr. Janssen began the workshop session by showing a video to demonstrate that the focus must remain on children and families. Dr. Janssen, Mr. Fred Matz, Mr. Kevin Smith and Dr. Ron Ciranna presented an update on the district's budget.
 - **Transportation** – Mrs. Krassner requested that the Osceola High and Thurgood Marshall Fundamental Middle be separated. Mr. Williams stated that the issue is that the times for Thurgood will be changed; and, that he would like a survey submitted to and completed by parents on this change. Mrs. Cook clarified that transportation will be continued for both schools for the 2011/12 year, with this being reconsidered for the following year. Dr. Janssen stated that both the City of St. Petersburg and the City of Oldsmar will be contacted regarding the costs of providing the buses requested by these municipalities. Mr. Bessette added that the district staff will be renegotiating with both cities, requesting that they pay the full costs of these buses, rather than a portion of the costs.
 - **Energy Services**
 - **Substitutes** – Dr. Janssen stated that the recommendation will be to reward perfect attendance by teachers with \$100; but, that this must be bargained.
 - **Health Insurance** – Dr. Janssen stated that some of this recommendation will have to be negotiated; and, that staff is trying to identify additional opportunities in order to increase the proposed \$5 million.
 - **Staffing Model** – Dr. Janssen stated that principals are being asked to submit their plans for reductions in staffing. Mrs. Lerner expressed the importance of schools having the ability to staff according to their specific needs. Ms. Clark stressed the importance in staffing models for psychologists and social workers. Mr. Williams requested information regarding the total dollar savings with the elimination of STARS assistants. Dr. Janssen stated that .7 Media Specialists positions are being restored to the middle school model using referendum dollars. Mrs. Lerner questioned whether consideration was going to be presented regarding twelve-month employees: Mrs. Cook responded saying that should she wish this to be considered, place it on the list of items to be considered. Information on reducing twelve-month employees was sent to the Board through Friday Update. Mrs. Wikle questioned

what the model will be for Guidance Counselors at the high school level: Mr. Lawrence responded that it will mirror the Assistant Principal model for this level and that there is no recommendation to change their extended duty days. Dr. Janssen stated that the latter point made by Mr. Lawrence could be looked at though. Ms. Clark questioned the justification for full time support staff for Magnet Coordinators; and, requested that this be reconsidered. Mrs. Krassner expressed her concern with the full time technology positions from function 6500 and 8200. Ms. Clark and Mrs. O’Shea requested clarification as to what the Tech Zone positions are and the duties for those individuals. Mr. Just responded. Dr. Janssen requested that the Board allow her and staff to look closer at this model.

- **C & I**
- **Human Resources** – Mrs. Lerner expressed her concern that the Board has not yet received the information requested regarding the Lastinger project, the cost and number of employees benefitting from the project. Dr. Janssen stated that this information should be sent to the Board within the next day or two. Ms. Clark questioned where professional development dollars come from: Mr. Ciranna responded that a majority of the professional development dollars come from Title II (Part A, Teacher & Principal Training). Mrs. Wikle questioned whether teachers who receive their masters degree through Lastinger are expected to continue to teach at those Title I schools. Ms. Clark questioned whether there is a contract for those teachers to sign with that directive. Answers regarding Title I and Lastinger will be forwarded to the Board.
- **Budget & Finance** – Mrs. Krassner questioned whether there are twelve-month support employees working in Transportation Department when bus drivers are not. Mrs. Cook requested clarification as to what the duties for those employees during those summer months. Mr. Dave Richmond, Payroll Department, responded to these questions during the afternoon session.
- **MIS**
- **Institutional Service** – Mr. Bessette stated that he plans to reduce the number of energy coaches from 3 to 2. Mrs. Wikle requested a brief update of the properties being considered for sale/lease. Mr. Bessette responded that the Board had given a “head-nod” on two pieces and that appraisals are being sought on both.
- **Superintendent**
- **Other/ MUL (Mandatory Unpaid Leave)**
- **Areas of concern brought forward by Board Members** – 1) Staffing for magnet programs; Technical Specialists/Media Specialists & Guidance Counselors positions, extra duty days, and responsibilities; Staffing for elementary schools, including STARS Assistants, school psychologists and psychiatrists; Transportation staffing needs; Transportation agreements with the cities of Oldsmar and St. Petersburg – results of negotiations to be brought back to the Board at a future workshop;
- **Transportation for Thurgood Marshall** – Direction taken was to continue the transportation to Thurgood Marshall for one more year with a change in start times.
- **Tech Zones & Equity in Technology**
- **Miscellaneous** - Use of cliff reserves; reducing the Superintendent’s discretionary budget; reducing the number of regional offices and location of same; drivers education – will be discussed for subsequent years; Schools Police & SRO budgets – information to be brought to a workshop discussion; out-of-county travel – discussion

for long-range planning; reduction in months worked for all employees – 12-month to 11 month and 11-month to 10-month;

- **Topics to be moved to another workshop date** – Superintendent’s Evaluation Instrument & Process; Teacher Appraisal System – Board Members with questions should send those to Donna Winchester or Lisa Grant prior to workshop discussion; Feedback from Audit Report- financial; Performance Auditor
- **Public Participation Policy** - Mrs. Cook presented an overview of the proposed policy. Discussion followed. This proposed policy will be brought to the Board for two readings.
- **Leadership Discussion**
 - FSBA Master Board scheduling – Discussion moved to June 21, 2011
 - Schedule June retreat – Discussion moved to June 21 2011
 - Quality Conference in Orlando – Mrs. Wikle questioned if any Board Member planned to attend.
 - Board Self Evaluation Subcommittee – members identified as Mrs. Wikle, Mrs. O’Shea and Ms. Clark
 - Redistricting – Update provided by Mrs. Cook
 - Topics for June 21, 2011 workshop to include – Performance Auditor, Redistricting, Update of Budget issues

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 4:44 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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