

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – July 14, 2011

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Thursday, July 14, 2011, at 9:00 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: A discussion on Bargaining was added during the Budget Update; the topic, Organization of the Office of the General Counsel, was removed from this agenda; and, Lastinger was added to Leadership. Mrs. Wikle, referring to the request to have the discussion removed from the agenda regarding the General Counsel’s Office, stated that she would like answers to the following questions:

- 1) **As superintendent, are you comfortable in asking for timely assistance?**
- 2) **What members of the leadership team are authorized to contact the school attorney for legal advice?**
- 3) **How is legal advice from the board attorney communicated to the leadership team?**
- 4) **What ongoing information services (such as newsletters, workshops, Internet websites, etc.) are provided by the board attorney to support the leadership team?**
- 5) **Do we (board, attorney and superintendent) clearly understand that the attorney works for the board of education?**

Dr. Janssen stated that the comments raised at an earlier workshop regarding a “tift” was news to all those concerned; and, that a way-of-work has been decided. Dr. Janssen requested that Mrs. Wikle’s questions be emailed to her.

- **Budget Update** – Dr. Janssen, Mr. Fred Matz and Mr. Kevin Smith presented an update on the budget. Mrs. Krassner distributed a copy of the A05 Budget Status Query for Cost Center 5040 and shared her questions regarding this discretionary amount provided to the Superintendent. Mrs. Lerner requested that the Board receive further details regarding the use of this fund. Ms. Clark stated this example of funds to be used at the discretion of the Superintendent speaks to the concern she has with the entire budget. Mrs. Lerner suggested that the Board have the opportunity at the August workshop to take a look at all budgets. Mrs. Krassner questioned whether there is a tracking system for grant dollars. Mr. Matz stated that the final closing figures on all budgets should be identified by late July.
 - **Audit Report** – Ms. Cathy Davidson presented a clarification of the Audit Report and comments presented in that report by the auditor. Discussion followed by Board Members, Ms. Davidson and Mr. John Just.

- **Transportation** – Mr. Michael Bessette stated that the Seminole High School students who attend classes at SVEC (Seminole Vocational Education Center) will not walk to and from that campus from their home-school campus. Mr. Bessette also shared that the message has been delivered to both the City of Oldsmar and the City of St. Petersburg that the school district can no longer cover any part of the cost associated with the courtesy transportation for the students in their respective cities; and, that those municipalities are now looking at various options to either cover the entire cost or provide an alternative means of transportation for these identified students. Discussion followed by Board Members.
- **Bargaining Update** - Mr. Steve Swartzel and Dr. Ron Ciranna provided a brief update, stating that nothing has substantively changed and the Board Members are welcome to individually contact either of them to discuss or offer a suggestion. Mr. Swartzel stated that any further discussion will take place in an executive session. Discussion followed by Board Members, Mr. Swartzel, Dr. Ciranna and Mr. Robinson. Mrs. Lerner stressed the need for Board Members to be updated more often; and, expressed her concern with the reduction in the supplement provided to teacher through the referendum dollars and how that was communicated. Ms. Clark requested that the Board receive a list of the members on the BLT (Bargaining Leadership Team) and who they each represent. Mrs. Wikle requested that the Board receive a summary following each of the BLT meetings and that the information also include a list of those who were present and those who were absent. Dr. Janssen suggested that the updates be sent to the Board through Friday Update. Mrs. Krassner requested an update on the furlough days. Dr. Ciranna stated that this is still uncertain; that it will be until the books are closed; and, that the issue is also a bargaining one. Mrs. Lerner requested that the Board receive copies of the current contracts with the various employee groups.
- **Five-Year Plan** - Mr. Fred Matz and Mr. Michael Bessette presented a brief overview of the Five-Year Plan and how projects are prioritized. In response to a request by Mrs. Krassner, Mr. Matz shared information on the amount of dollars the district has lost as a result of charter schools, specifically PECO dollars. Mrs. Lerner emphasized the need to equitably assess and address the needs and projects for the older schools. Mrs. Wikle commended Mr. Bessette for the job he is doing; and, noted that the minor renovations scheduled for Palm Harbor University High School is item #63. Mrs. Krassner stressed the need for principals to be made aware of their school's ranking and the need to have equity in technology across the district. Ms. Clark, noting the financial issues related to the five-year plan, questioned when the district would begin to consider borrowing dollars or bonding in order to perform needed capital outlay projects. Mrs. Lerner and Mr. Williams expressed their concern that the projects for both Largo High School and Pinellas Park Middle School have been delayed multiple times. There was consensus from the Board that the Superintendent and her Cabinet would review alternative sources of funding for the capital projects, including but not limited to bonding. Their review and input will be brought to the August or September workshop and discussion will include the following: pros and cons of bonding, what bonding will mean to both Largo High and Pinellas Park Middle; and, what is the recommendation regarding this from the Superintendent and her team. Mrs. Lerner stated that it should follow the Board's decision-making process. Mr. Matz continued to review the list of projects and stated that this will be brought to the Board at the September meeting for their action. Mrs.

Krassner stressed the importance of sharing the information regarding this loss of PECO dollars with our legislators. It was decided that this could become a part of our legislative platform, as well as a request made to have it a part of the FSBA platform.

➤ **Policies –**

- **2120 School Improvement and Academic Accountability** – Dr. Allen Mortimer and Mr. Bill Lawrence presented an overview of the proposed changes. Mrs. Wikle requested that the individual plans include some sort of statement that the plan has been approved by the school and district staff. Mrs. Lerner and Mrs. O’Shea requested that a summary be provided if something really different or unique has been included in the plan: Dr. Janssen responded that this could be done. Mr. Williams questioned whether it is expected or required that each school have a School Improvement Plan team: Dr. Janssen responded that it is required. This policy will be brought to the Board for further discussion at the August workshop.
- **0.169.1** – The subcommittee to review this policy will meet and bring to the Board at their August 23, 2011 workshop a proposal for the revisions of this policy.
- **5500** – Ms. Clark, referring to the section that states, “Staff members will model core value behaviors....”, stated that students should be doing something in return, i.e., modeling those same core values. Mrs. Cook agreed. Mrs. Lerner, referring to lines 51-54 on page 4, Special Acts, suggested that the wording, “which will lead to disciplinary consequences” be changed to “may lead to...” Ms. Clark suggested that students may record a situation to show to the school administrator; and, suggested that wording be included that would allow that to be done. The wording on line 53, page 4, “video recording or” will be removed from this section. Mrs. Cook requested that lines 39-40 be moved to before section A. Mrs. Krassner, referring to page 5 – Cellular Telephones, etc., stated that she would like the policy to read that cell phones that are confiscated will be returned to the student at the end of the day as a safety issue. Ms. Clark, referring to line 12 of this section, stated that the use of “may” on line 12 indicates that the discipline could be administered differently, school-by-school. Mr. Robinson stressed the importance of the policy being applied consistently across the district and stated that it would not be any liability issue if the phone was confiscated. At this time, the Board took a recess from 12:28 to 1:05 p.m. Following their recess, the Board Members agreed to leave the wording as it was presented on line 12 referring to violations with cellular phones, “Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the cellular telephone, ...”; and, to add the following wording offered by Mr. Robinson, “If the cellular telephone, ECD, or electronic device is confiscated, it will be released/returned to a parent unless an alternative arrangement is agreed to by the principal (or designee).” Mrs. Wikle questioned whether the administrative team recommending these policies seeks input from principals: Dr. Janssen responded in the affirmative. Mr. Williams also questioned the process used. Mr. Ward Kennedy stated that he will provide the Board with a flowchart to demonstrate the process used. Mrs. Cook, referring back to lines 51-54, II, suggested that the wording be changed as follows, “...posting to the internet or disseminating any recordings of fighting or acts of bullying, assault, or battery, whether staged or real.” Board Members agreed. Ms. Clark, referring to Policy 2250, questioned why the language was so specific to Melrose Elementary.

Dr. Janssen responded. Mrs. Lerner, referring to the Lastinger partnership project, questioned whether other colleges or universities could be involved. Mr. Bill Lawrence responded. Mr. Williams stated that he is hearing from administrators that they are not sure this is the best thing to do and are questioning why the district is involved in Lastinger. Dr. Janssen stated that she believes 100% that this is the right thing to do.

- **Policy Amendment - Process to follow** - Discussion took place and the following was the finalized process to be followed:
 1. Policy amendment is defined as an amendment to policy, new policy, or a repeal of existing policy. Policy amendments are to be submitted to the Director of Planning and Policy.
 2. The amendment will be put into the policy amendment format.
 3. The Director of Planning and Policy will request input from various stakeholders. The General Counsel may be consulted throughout the process.
 4. The Director of Planning and Policy will send the policy amendment to the Deputy Superintendent and submit the amendment to the next scheduled cabinet meeting for input and approval.
 5. The policy will be submitted to the General Counsel for approval as to form and legality.
 6. The policy may be placed on a workshop agenda for Board discussion.
 7. The policy will be placed on a regular meeting agenda for Board approval of a public hearing and authorization of advertisement.
 8. Substantive changes to the policy amendment made at the first reading should be done by Board vote. Prior to the meeting, Board members should contact the General Counsel and/or the Director of Planning and Policy with proposed changes so they can prepare a written statement that will be distributed to all Board members.
 9. The policy may be placed on a workshop agenda for Board discussion before the second reading.
 10. The proposed amendment is submitted by the Superintendent for final adoption at the public hearing (second reading). Changes can be made by the Board at the second reading by Board vote. Board members should contact the General Counsel and/or the Director of Planning and Policy with proposed changes so they can prepare a written statement that will be distributed to all Board members.

- **Communications Audit Report & Plan** - Dr. Janssen and Mr. David Cook presented the report and the plan for reorganization. During this discussion, Mrs. Wikle brought forward the concern with the inequity in administrators' salaries. The Board will schedule of discussion of their philosophy pertaining to this at a future retreat. In looking at the proposed new logo, Mrs. Wikle suggested that "100% Student Success" be added to that: Board Members agreed.

- **Student Assignment – Timeline** – A brief presentation was made by Dr. Janssen, Dee Burns and Marshall Touchton. Individual meetings will be scheduled for each Board Member with Ms. Burns and Mr. Touchton. Dr. Janssen clarified for the Board that staff is hoping to identify all concerns or questions the Board Members might have regarding the process in order to come back to the Board with clear recommendations. Further discussion will be scheduled for the August workshop.

- **Technology Plan** – Mr. John Just will send, via e-mail, clarification regarding the technology plan changes.

➤ **Superintendent's Evaluation Instrument & Process** – Mrs. O'Shea and Dr. Ahmadi presented information, stating that the changes discussed on June 23rd have been incorporated and that the materials and the instrument will be e-mailed to the Board on July 21, 2011. A workshop was scheduled for July 26, 2011 at 4:00 p.m., prior to the Board meeting, to allow the Superintendent to review with the Board the materials to be considered during their evaluation of Dr. Janssen.

➤ **Leadership Discussion**

- FSBA Master Board Update – The training session will be conducted on Tuesday, August 30, 2011; the topic will be The A+ Plan for School Boards/Part I: How School Boards Impact Student Achievement; and, Mrs. Beaty will work with the Superintendent to identify a location. Mrs. Beaty will transmit this information to FSBA.
- A Board workshop will be scheduled for Tuesday, October 18, 2011.
- Board Members agreed to schedule a joint meeting with SRR on Thursday, November 17, 2011.
- Mrs. Krassner stated that she continues to struggle with the money being spent on the Lastinger project; and, that she believes it is a lot of money to benefit a few people. Ms. Clark stated that her problem is not being able to see the bigger picture and how all things tie together, i.e., Lastinger, Ford Grant, etc. Dr. Janssen stated that she will put that together and send to the Board. Mrs. Lerner requested that an item be prepared that demonstrates exactly how much is being spent on each part of the program. Mrs. Lerner questioned who is being paid supplements for IB, STEM, etc.; and, suggested that the Board take a bigger look as to how supplements are being paid. Mrs. Wikle stressed the need to know how Pinellas is benefitting from Lastinger, i.e., trend data. Both Mrs. Cook and Mr. Williams stated that they want to know how many students are benefitting and how are they benefitting from from the Lastinger partnership. Ms. Lisa Grant stated that she will send to the Board a visual presentation on Lastinger with a link to the data base, as well as a summary of professional development dollars before the July 26th Board meeting. It was decided that this information pertaining to Lastinger will be sent to the Board through Friday Update. Ms. Grant will send an update on Lastinger to the Board each month through Friday Update.
- Centinial Celebration – Dr. Janssen and Mr. David Cook presented a brief summary of the activities planned for the celebration. The kickoff is scheduled for September 24, 2011. Dates and other details will be forwarded to the Board Office.
- Dr. Janssen congratulated Gibbs High School for receiving a grant to have a health clinic constructed on their campus
- Dr. Janssen stated that the Board Members have been invited to a lunch at Rumbas by Mr. Simons, World Billfish Serries, LLC. on July 25.
- Michael Bessette stated that the appraisals are coming in on selected district-owned properties. This information will be presented and discussed at the August 23, 2011 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 4:35p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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