

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – September 20, 2011

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, September 20, 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. John A. Stewart, Interim Superintendent, Mr. James F. Madden, Deputy Superintendent; Mr. David Koperski, Associate Counsel; and, Mr. James A. Robinson, General Counsel.

- **Administrators Evaluation Instrument and Teacher Evaluation Instrument – Value Added Method Portion** – Ms. Lisa Grant, Ms. Claudia Guerere (Research Specialist) and Mr. Octavio Salcedo (Director of Testing) presented the proposed instruments and explained the value-added method. Mrs. Lerner questioned whether support staff and teachers are represented in the administrator’s evaluation process. Dr. Stewart stated that it would be appropriate to add such input to this instrument. Ms. Grant suggested that it could be added as a metric. Mrs. Wikle requested that the following two questions be incorporated into the process: How has this been used in the past and do we have benchmarks from those using it Mrs. Lerner requested that students have an opportunity to provide input into the teacher evaluation process; and, that best practices be researched on this additional input. Mrs. Cook questioned how many times during the school year will teachers receive information on the value-added portion: Ms. Grant stated that she is working with Ms. Pat Lusher in forming a district wide process to accomplish this. Ms. Grant stated that this will come to the Board at their September 27th meeting and will go to the state by September 30th. Dr. Behrokh Ahmadi discussed the Pearson Grant. Mrs. Krassner encouraged staff to research best practices in other counties in order to come up with the best possible cost saving efforts. Mrs. Lerner expressed her concern with using Pearson. Mrs. O’Shea questioned whether our district will be able to develop our own tests: Dr. Ahmadi responded in the affirmative. Mrs. Cook suggested having a test bank. Mrs. Wikle requested that Board Members receive the following information: How much is it going to cost the district to comply and how much will be provided through state funds: Mr. Swartzel will get that information for the Board.
- **Update on Redistricting** – Mr. Marshall Touchton, Demographer, presented the districting being proposed by the County Commissioners and that, should the Board adopt those lines for theirs, it would not remove any of the sitting Board Members from their present district. Mr. Touchton also shared that the proposed lines would individually represent an equal number of K-12 students. Mrs. Cook requested that the Board consider mirroring the County Commissioners at-large seats and, requested that the Board Members receive further information on this possibility. This item will come to the Board for their vote at the December meeting by resolution.
- **Student Assignment- Proposed Revisions to Procedures for District Application Program Handbook, Osceola/Thurgood Transportation and Feeder Pattern, Policy 5120 -**

- Mr. Madden, Ms. Dee Burns (Director, Student Assignment) and Ms. Judith Vigue (Director of Advanced Studies & Academic Excellence) presented an update on the proposed revisions to the Procedures for District Application Program Handbook, including the Osceola High School and Thurgood Marshall Fundamental Middle School transportation and the Jamerson Elementary feeder pattern to Thurgood Marshall. Board Members requested further information regarding the courses offered at both Jamerson and Thurgood Marshall that substantiate a feeder pattern between the two schools. Mr. Lawrence stated that he will forward to the Board the results of the survey monkey that was completed regarding transportation, opening/closing times, etc. for these schools. Board Members had suggested that a disclaimer be included in the applications that would caution parents up front that the opening/closing times of a school are not guaranteed to remain the same each year. Dr. Stewart stated his agreement with a direction of some Board Members to conduct a survey of the parents who have or are selecting Thurgood Marshall for their children to determine why they selected that school, in an effort to ensure the integrity of the program remains. This data will be brought back to the Board at their October workshop for further discussion. Dr. Stewart shared with the Board that a priority identified at the September 6th workshop was middle school reform; and, that he has told his Cabinet members that it is coming off the back-burner. Mr. Madden and Mr. Touchton presented information as to how school capacity is determined and the potential need for rezoning to alleviate the overcrowding at some of our schools. Mr. Touchton stated that should that become necessary the intent would be to begin the process early enough to receive input from families. Further discussion on the handbook will be scheduled for the October 4, 2011 workshop.

- **Pinellas Education Foundation Initiative** - Mr. Craig Sher, Chairman, Pinellas Education Foundation (PCF), introduced Mr. John Letvin, Consultant. Mr. Sher presented a brief overview of the initiative taken on by the PCF and identified business people to identify cost savings within the district in order to support teachers and students in the classrooms. The specifics were provided to the Board Members through a PowerPoint presentation, which was also sent to the Board in hard copy. Mr. Sher invited the Board Members to attend their committee meetings.
- **Budget Update** – Mr. Fred Matz and Mr. Kevin Smith provided an update to the Board regarding the budget; and, shared that the responsibility for unit allocation has been moved from Curriculum and Instruction to the Budget Department.
- **American Productivity and Quality Center (APQC) – Walter Pownall Service Center** – Mr. Michael Bessette presented an overview of the improvement plan formulated by and for the Walter Pownall Service Center team.
- **Legislative Platforms – Pinellas County Schools and The Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards** – Mr. Swartzel presented the draft platforms for both the district and the Consortium. A subcommittee of the following Board Members was formed to formulate a possible plan of action to be taken by the Board with the Legislators regarding district matters: Mrs. Cook, Mrs. O’Shea and Mrs. Wikle. Mr. Swartzel will work with this committee.
- **Update from the Board’s Subcommittee – Performance Auditor** – The subcommittee, comprised of Ms. Clark, Mrs. Lerner and Mrs. Wikle, presented an update on this initiative. Dr. Stewart stated that the Chief Finance Officer and he will work to identify the funding necessary for such a position. Dr. Stewart also shared that Pinellas is presently eleventh in the state in administrative cost; and, that his goal will be to move us to fifth.

➤ Leadership Discussion

- Dr. Stewart provided the Board Members with an update regarding the following:
 - He has met with those in the Communications Department and a decision was made that each of the three administrative positions will have separate responsibilities and each will be a direct report to the Superintendent. Dr. Stewart also shared that he may be contacting the Florida Association of District School Superintendents to request a study and a recommendation for a flow chart, noting that FADSS generally has access to grant dollars for such.
 - He requested that the Board agree on the maximum length of time that can be required of staff in responding to a Board Member's request for information. Board Members agree that amount of time to be one hour. Beyond that, the Board Members must bring their request to the entire Board to acquire support for their request.
 - He requested that all questions or requests for information, including those related to the agenda books, be directed to Donna Winchester who will coordinate the efforts of staff in responding. The process to address e-mails to the Board Members will continue to move through the Board Office.
 - He stated that he will be bringing to the September 27th meeting his recommendation of Dr. Charlene Einsel as the Chief Turnaround Officer; and, that he will eliminate the position, Principal on Assignment. Dr. Stewart shared that one responsibility he has given to her is to operationalize homework centers at schools with struggling students.
 - He shared that his plans are to conduct principal and administrators meetings once a month, but dismiss the principals by noon to return to their schools.
 - He stated that additional information was received on September 12, 2011 on Dr. Figlio's report; and, Dr. Stewart stated that there is potential but that he wants to go slowly on this.
 - He stated that Mr. Bill Lawrence and Charlene Einsel will assist in monitoring the district's partnership with the Lastinger Center for Learning to see how it is helping our teachers impact students. Dr. Stewart assured the Board that closing the achievement gap is a high priority. An update will be provided to the Board in October.
- Centennial Update – Mrs. Sharon McNeal updated the Board Members on the upcoming events to celebrate the district's 100 years.
- Mrs. Cook stated that the following items related to the district's PTAs will be researched further: insurance coverage for mechanical rides and the requirement of a monthly review of bank statements by two individuals who are not signers on the account.
- Mrs. Wikle stated that she will be attending a WorkNet meeting tomorrow and plans to share with them the districts mission and vision.
- Mrs. Lerner shared that she was asked for a status of the recommendation to reduce the number of substitute teachers needed by rewarding teachers for perfect attendance. Dr. Ron Ciranna stated that staff has decided that this incentive will not be implemented; and, that a communication piece will be sent to principals to share with their faculty.
- Workshop topics were identified for the October 4th workshop, as follows: Student Assignment, Professional Development System Draft and Superintendent Search – report from the subcommittee and discussion of the input received by the public on

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September 27, 2011. Dr. Mary Beth Corace will be asked to assist in facilitating the portion on the superintendent search/next steps.

- Mr. Williams stated that he will be completing a workshop topic request form to ask that the Board schedule a discussion on overage students.

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 4:09 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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