

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – March 13, 2012

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at 1:30 p.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4th Street S.W., Largo, Florida.

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

Mrs. Lerner requested, and Board Members agreed that a report from the Board’s subcommittee for the Superintendent’s Search provide an update during today’s Leadership Discussion. This item was added to Leadership Discussion on this agenda.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Budget Update** – Mr. Kevin Smith provided an update regarding budget matters. Mr. Steve Swartzel provided an update on legislative issues, including a comparative of Base Student Allocation from the 2004/05 school year to the 2012/13 school year. Mr. Bill Lawrence agreed to furnish the Board Members with additional information regarding the shortened day. Mr. Swartzel will supply the Board Members with a summary of the education bills proposed during this legislative session with a detailed listing as to how the members of our delegation voted on each.
- **Disposition of Closed School Properties** – A report was presented by Mr. Michael Bessette, Ms. Ginny Pannill and Ms. Debbie Forster regarding closed schools and the interest expressed by outside groups to either lease or purchase those properties. Mr. Bessette and his staff will send to the Board a list of land banked sites, as well as schools that are closed but did not appear on the list that was distributed due to the fact that they may be needed again. All leases are to be brought back to a Board workshop following negotiations. The Real Estate Department and General Counsel will proceed with negotiating a sales agreement for Harris Tips and a lease for North Ward Elementary, which will be brought to a workshop. Other properties to be considered for leasing are Clearview Avenue Elementary, Curtis Fundamental (former), Gulf Beaches Elementary, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center. An RFP to identify a broker to handle the sale of the properties will continue to be developed with the goal of listing for sale at least the Euclid Center.
- **Specialist and Administrative Appraisal Forms** – Ms. Lisa Grant and Ms. Kim Leitold presented an update to the Board on the proposed appraisal instruments for administrators and specialists. Next steps: The Professional Development team will bring a summative of the composition of the assessment tools to the Board at their May workshop; implementation will take place in the 2012/13 school year; the PowerPoint presented today will

be sent to the Board; and, Board Members who have questions are to send them to Donna Winchester.

- **Purchasing Process** – Ms. Linda Balcombe, Director of Purchasing, presented for discussion our district’s policy and that of Miami-Dade County Schools, specifically the portion addressing local preference. Ms. Balcombe shared that much outreach is being done to local vendors; and, that a workshop is being held next week for local vendors in order to explain our district’s purchasing processes to them.
- **National Education Alliance Agreement** – Dr. Stewart shared that he had received a call from Mr. Rod McElveen, Director of Corporate Development – National Education Alliance, who would like to offer the district a complimentary corporate membership to the Alliance that will benefit our employees and their family members wishing to further their education. Dr. Stewart stated that one of the concerns brought forward was that the Alliance should not use our logo on their website; that he has shared that concern with the Alliance; and, that they are fine with not using our logo. Discussion took place. Both Mr. McElveen and Mr. John Thatch responded to questions from the Board. In response to Ms. Clark’s question, the Alliance’s representatives stated that there will never be a fee applied to Pinellas County Schools for their services.
- **Leadership:**
 - **Superintendent Search** – Mrs. Lerner, chair of this subcommittee, shared that Dr. Stewart plans to leave the district by December 31, 2012; that the subcommittee has reviewed the two processes used in 2003 and 2008; and, the subcommittee recommends that the Board move forward with forming an agreement with FSBA (Florida School Boards Association), to perform the search. Mrs. Lerner suggested that the Board schedule a workshop at the earliest possible date to work with Dr. Blanton from FSBA to begin the search process. Discussion took place. Dr. Stewart will bring an agenda item to the March 20, 2012 meeting to have the Board take action to contract with FSBA to assist the Board in performing their search for the next superintendent.
 - **Superintendent’s Update:**
 - Climate Survey – Dr. Stewart reported the 2012 climate survey is now completed and was distributed to the Board yesterday. Dr. Stewart stated that the comments submitted by staff were forwarded to the Board today; and, were sent to the principals to be shared with their staff. Dr. Stewart stated that the survey will be open to employees for a longer period of time next year.
 - RTI – Dr. Stewart shared that he has asked that a committee be formed to review the delivery of services method presently in use by the district. Dr. Stewart requested that Mrs. Lerner serve on that committee; and, shared that he has asked Dr. Einsel and Mr. Koperski to serve as co-chairs of that committee. Board Members agreed to have Mrs. Lerner serve as the Board’s representative to that committee.
 - Reappointment of Principals – Dr. Stewart stated that it is important to put the right people in our schools; and, that he has stressed with the Area Superintendents that such decisions are critical.
 - Diversity in FADSS report – Dr. Stewart stated that there is an absence of diversity mentioned in the report; that it should be implied in everything we do; and, that the proper placement for that would be in the Strategic Plan.
 - Melrose Elementary – Dr. Stewart shared that he plans to bring a recommendation to the Board that beginning with the 2013-14 school year, Melrose begin serving 1- to 4-year-olds as well as students in grades K-3. Dr. Stewart referenced his March 9, 2012 e-mail that informed the Board Members of these plans; that this is an appropriate site

for early learning initiatives such as the Lew Williams Project. Dr. Stewart also shared that he has directed district staff to put in a bid on Head Start in an effort to have a bigger impact on kids. Dr. Stewart commended Mr. Gilzean for using his influence regarding Head Start; and, shared that he has asked Dr. Einsel to discuss these changes with the Melrose staff.

- Editorial Board – Dr. Stewart shared that he will be visiting with the Tampa Bay Times Editorial Board on March 21st regarding the FADSS report and the Savings to Classrooms initiative.
- Leadership’s top initiatives – Dr. Stewart shared that the following are high priority for the district’s leadership team: Execution of the FADSS study; support for schools dealing with chronically disruptive students; building a data warehouse with accessible data; completion of a Strategic Plan; and, building of a comprehensive development plan.
- **Mr. Robinson** announced that he will be leaving the district at the end of August 2012; that he is grateful to each of the Board Members, especially to Ms. Clark, Mrs. Lerner and Mrs. O’Shea who were there for him in difficult times. Board Members will discuss at their April workshop the forming of a subcommittee to begin the search process.
- **Mrs. Cook** requested that the Board Members put the date of the April workshop, April 17, 2012, on their calendar as the first student recognition meeting following their workshop on that date. The date for the May workshop, May 15, 2012 will serve as the second student recognition meeting. Mrs. Lerner requested that the Board serve cookies and punch to the parents and students. The student recognition meetings will take place at 6:00 p.m.
- **Mrs. Wikle**, referencing a recent article by Rebecca Catalanello, Tampa Bay Times, and suggested that the Board Members may wish to remain around the Board table for a few minutes following each meeting should the media have questions they wish to present to Board Members. Mrs. Wikle shared that she is not willing to forego the opportunity to socialize with the other Board Members following a meeting and clarified that the refreshments available to them in the back room are paid for by the Board Members and the staff who partake.

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 5:07 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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