

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – April 17, 2012

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, at 9:00 a.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, 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

The topic, Board Subcommittee Report – Self Evaluation Instrument & Process, was removed from the agenda and will be rescheduled at a later date.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Budget Update** – Mr. Kevin Smith provided the Board with an update on the Budget. Mr. Smith will forward to the Board the 2006/07 base student allocation information. Ms. Linda Balcombe shared with the Board that an RFP was initiated for major medical coverages and responses were received; that the responses were rejected and a request for approval of those rejections will be presented to the Board on April 24, 2012; and, that direct negotiations will take place with the carriers. Further discussion will be scheduled for the May workshop.
- **SHAC (School Health Advisory Council) and CPPW (Communities Putting Prevention to Work) Grant Updates** – Ms. Peggy Johns and Ms. Lisa Ross presented an update on the grants. Mrs. Lerner suggested that the Board schedule further discussion related to drug use and suicide. Board Members were requested to complete feedback forms and forward those completed forms to Mrs. Beaty.
- **Strategic Plan THE DRIVING FORCE** – The Research and Accountability team consisting of Dr. Nicole Carr, Dr. Behrokh Ahmadi and Dr. Allen Mortimer presented the Strategic Plan. It was determined that due to the fact that measurement tools are constantly changing that it would be best for our district to develop our own measurement tool in order to be better able to determine progress. Teachers and additional subgroups will be added into Priority Objective #3, Graduation, only as internal reporting is accomplished. The “how” for Priority Objective #9, Morale, will be included in the department plans. It was suggesting that community forums might be a tool to share information. Board Members were invited to provide constructive input regarding the district’s Facebook and Twitter pages.
- **Middle School Reform Initiatives** – Mr. Bill Lawrence presented the update on the process and the prioritized needs, as well as the recommendations for the 2012-13 school year. Board Members requested that they receive the list of the five elementary schools that will have AVID in their school next year. Further information will be provided to the Board regarding the percentage of parents who take advantage of moving their children into higher-performing schools. Dr. Stewart will address the Jamerson feeding pattern issue at a later date and separate

from the Middle School Reform Initiatives. This topic will be scheduled for another discussion during a fall workshop.

- **Common Core State Standards** – Ms. Pam Moore, Ms. Signe Webb and Ms. Rose Mack presented an update on the new Common Core State Standards that have been adopted in Florida and forty-four other states. There will be “partnering” meetings scheduled between staff and the business community; updates will be provided to the Board on an ongoing basis; and, the communication piece is being designed.
- **Task Force to Reduce Chronic Disruption to the Learning Environment** – Ms. Donna Sicilian, task force facilitator, presented to the Board an update on the work of that group, including the specific recommendations to establish off-site alternative programs for chronically disruptive students. The sites, once identified, will include transportation for the students being assigned to them. The criterion used for placement of students will be shared with the Board. The Board will receive an update on this in the future.
- **District Organization Structure** – Dr. Stewart shared that he would like the Board’s support to automatically move Mr. Kevin Smith into the position presently held by Mr. Fred Matz with the new title of Associate Superintendent, Finance and Business Services; and, move Dr. Behrokh Ahmadi into the position of Executive Director, Assessment Accountability and Research; Board Members indicated their agreement with these assignments. Dr. Stewart called the Board’s attention to a new box on the chart, OEO (Office of Equal Opportunity) and shared that there is no recommendation to fill that at this time. Mrs. Wikle requested that the Board receive an exact accounting of the money to be saved from this reorganization. Mrs. Cook requested that the Board receive an updated list of those who will serve on the district’s leadership team. Mrs. Lerner requested that the Board receive very specific job descriptions for the attorneys to describe they will work to support the organization.
- **Referendum Communications Update** – Ms. Rita Farlow and Mr. David Cook provided the Board an overview of the district’s plan to communicate information related to the Referendum. Mrs. Wikle shared that she has requested that the Strategic Communications team take a look at the Annual Report and bring back their recommendation as to whether it should continue and if not, how will the information presently contained within that report be shared. Mrs. Cook requested that anyone who was to request a hard copy of the report be given one free of charge. The numbers for PreK – 12 and Vocational/pTEC are to be included in the report.
- **Leadership:**
 - **Superintendent’s Update** –
 - 1) *Harris TIPS Property* – Mr. Michael Bessette presented an update on the Harris TIPS site saying that the appraisal came in at \$400,000 and that we have received an offer to purchase for \$425,000. Discussion continued. Dr. Stewart stated that he will place this on the May 8, 2012 agenda for Board action. Mrs. Beaty will coordinate a visit to the site for those Board Members wishing to view it prior to taking action. Mr. Bessette suggested that should the Board vote that item down, the property would be added to the RFP identifying a broker to handle the Euclid site. Mrs. O’Shea requested that the Board receive information on short-term plans and long-term plans for vacated properties.
 - 2) *Good Friday* – Dr. Stewart shared that after reviewing the high absence rate for students on Good Friday, he will be suggesting that our district staff consider making that day a non-student day, but have teachers on-duty in some manner. Dr. Stewart shared that he would like staff to look at this day along with other days such as

Presidents' Day, etc. Mrs. Lerner requested that the memorandum written on this matter by previous Board Attorney, John Bowen be forwarded to the Board.

- 3) *Dr. Wayne Blanton and Pinellas Education Foundation meeting* – Dr. Stewart shared that some of the Education Foundation leaders extended an invitation to Dr. Blanton to meet with them on May 3rd to discuss the superintendent's search. Concern was expressed by Board Members that this meeting should not be private; that other stakeholders should have the same opportunity; and, that some Board Members would like to be present during that discussion. Dr. Stewart will share the Board's concerns with Mr. Boehm and Dr. Blanton and provide follow up to the Board.
 - 4) *Timeline for Savings For Classrooms* – Dr. Stewart shared that he would like to use a process similar to that used with the FADSS study. Dr. Stewart stated that he has asked Mr. Bessette, Mr. Kelton, Mr. Matz, Mr Lawrence and Mr. Ciranna to look at the recommendations and be prepared to present their input as to what is doable and what would be the associated costs, along with what would not be doable and what could be suggested as a substitute option. Dr. Stewart stated that Ms. Linda Balcombe will be presenting information to the Cabinet regarding the FSBA purchasing consortium. This information will also be shared with the Board at their May workshop.
 - 5) *School Lunch* – Dr. Stewart shared that he has instructed the Area Superintendents to share with their principals that the end-of-the-day lunch period will no longer be an option. Dr. Stewart will provide the Board with the number of schools that presently follow that option.
- **Lew Williams Project** - Mr. Madden provided the Board with an update on the Lew Williams Project.
 - **DMAC Appointment by Board** - Mr. Madden reminded the Board that they will need to take formal action to appoint or reappoint their representative to DMAC. Mr. Madden shared that Ms. Dorthy Whitlock is willing to continue in that position should they so desire. This will require Board action at the April 24, 2012 meeting.
 - **General Counsel Vacancy** – A one-hour workshop discussion will be scheduled for April 24, 2012, prior to the Regular Meeting of that day.
 - **Superintendent Search** – Items to be contained in the brochure and the ad were reviewed. An action item will be brought to the Board at their April 24th meeting for final approval.
 - **NAACP Banquet Ad** – The Board Members decussed and decided that they would not place an ad in this year's banquet program.
 - **Student Recognition Event** – Mrs. Cook requested that the Board have a committee of their own to discuss and determine how subsequent student recognition events are handled and exactly what the Board wants to accomplish out of these events. It was decided that the subcommittee members who originally worked on meeting presentations, Ms. Clark, Mrs. Cook and Mrs. O'Shea, meet to determine that direction.
 - **Public Presentations Policy** – Mrs. Lerner encouraged the Board Members to review this policy. This discussion will be scheduled for the June workshop.
 - **Printer Use** – Dr. Stewart presented a brief update on the revisions proposed for the purchase and use of printers throughout the district. Mr. Norm Kelton stated the issue is really who is buying the ink and that there is no way to monitor the many printers that are located throughout our district in order to make this area more cost effective and efficient. Mrs. Lerner requested that the Board receive a one-page summary of the

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proposed changes. Mr. Kelton will send a link to the Board to further explain the changes.

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 5:00 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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