

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – May 15, 2012

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, May 15, at 1:00 p.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4th Street S.W., Largo, Florida.

Prior to the workshop, the School Board Members participated in a FSBA Master Board Training Session from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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, School Board Attorney

The following topics were discussed:

- **Revised Job Descriptions** – Dr. Ron Ciranna presented several job description revisions to the Board for discussion. Through that discussion, it was determined that the Board would prefer that a phrase, “advanced degree in related field” be added to the description for Chief of Human Resources; and, that further discussion will take place on the job description for the Elementary Reading/Language Arts Specialist. Dr. Ciranna shared that he has asked that the topic, Revised Job Descriptions, be added to all future Board workshops until all changes that result from the FADSS study are approved by the Board.
- **Professional Development Systems Update** – Ms. Lisa Grant and Ms. Pam Moore presented for the Board an update on the changes taking place in the area of professional development.
- **Real Property – Update on Closed Buildings and Update on the Lew Williams Project** – Mr. Madden, along with Mr. Michael Bessette and Ms. Debbie Forster, presented an update on the district’s vacated sites and how those sites may be used to house the Lew Williams Project, as well as programs such as Head Start and Early Head Start. Mr. Bessette also provided a brief update on the MLK center and the newly-formed non-profit wishing to reopen that center. Discussion followed and it was decided that Dr. Stewart will make sure his staff understands that the agreement with any lease will include a clause to disallow subleasing; that the lease presented for approval should not be for more than three years; and, the cost of the lease should be more than what was presented today. Mr. Madden presented an update on the work to implement the Lew Williams Project. Additional information on the Project will be brought to the Board at their next workshop. Dr. Stewart and his staff will provide the Board with an approximate cost of implementing the project, as well as the source(s) of those funds to be used to do so.
- **Various Policy Amendments** – Dr. Allen Mortimer provided a brief overview of changes that will be proposed to the Board at their June 12th meeting. Dr. Stewart shared that the Board will need to discuss during their next workshop the district’s use of social security numbers

belonging to employees and students. Mrs. Lerner requested that the Board receive further information from the district regarding their policies and procedures for surplus property.

- **Direct Instruction** - Mr. Bill Lawrence, Ms. Pam Moore, Ms. Cooper Dawson and Dr. Barbara Hires presented a summary of the research pertaining to Direct Instruction. Dr. Stewart reiterated that any school wishing to use Direct Instruction (DI) as a supplemental program will be allowed to do so; but, that it will not be a recommendation from administration to a school or group of schools that it be used as a core curriculum. Discussion followed by the Board Members. Mrs. Lerner requested that the caveat to Dr. Stewart's statement be that the schools wishing to utilize Direct Instruction do so in a very targeted way; and, that the Board be informed if a school or schools choose to implement DI into their curriculum.
- **Health Insurance Revamp** - Mr. Ted Pafundi, Mr. Dick Klima (AON/Hewitt) and Dr. Ron Ciranna presented an update on the possible revamping of the district's insurance program for employees. Mr. Klima will provide the Board Members with some examples of how the proposed changes would look for employees.
- **Savings for Classrooms** - Dr. Stewart and his staff provided to the Board their responses to the Savings for Classrooms recommendations provided to the district and the Board by the Pinellas Education Foundation. Further discussion will be scheduled at either the May 31st or the June 26th workshops for the transportation recommendations. An RFP will be put out later this year for an insurance broker. Mr. Craig Sher and Mr. Irwin Novack, members of the Education Foundation Board, spoke to the insurance topic. Further discussion on insurance will be scheduled for the Board at a future workshop. Dr. Stewart shared that AON/Hewitt has agreed to a \$210,000 reduction in their fees for this calendar year.
- **Leadership:**
 - **Superintendent's Update** –
 - 1) *Surplus Property* – Dr. Stewart, referencing a recent newspaper article on the auctioning off of our surplus property, stated that the culture of the district when it comes to end-of-year spending needs to be changed. Dr. Stewart shared that he is moving the function of dealing with surplus to the Finance Department; that Ms. Karen Coffey will be leading a committee comprised of teachers, maintenance employees, business leaders and principals in looking at surplus property and determining the best direction for each piece; that better communication will be supplied to all sites as to what equipment is being considered surplus and available to others in the district; and, that input from the Board is welcome regarding this change in process.
 - 2) *Additional May Workshop* - Dr. Stewart requested that the Board schedule a second workshop in the month of May. The Board agreed to have a second May workshop scheduled for May 31, 2012, beginning at 9:00 a.m.
 - **Mrs. Cook - Recognition Event for Former School Board Members** – Mrs. Cook suggested that the Board agree to schedule a recognition of former school board members for their service to the district as part of the district's Centennial Celebration. Discussion followed and the following was decided: A reception and recognition will be scheduled for June 12, 2012; and, a written form of "thanks" will be presented to those who have served on the Board.
 - **Mrs. Lerner – Gilzean Graduates** – Mrs. Lerner commended Mr. Gilzean for his true dedication to helping our students; but, shared her concerns with his initiative to encourage students, i.e., the name he has given it, whether or not he has taken the course required for all who mentor students, the press release that was sent, etc. Mrs. Cook

suggested that the initial announcement could have taken place during a workshop. Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Lerner and Mrs. Wikle suggested that it might be a good thing but that it just requires a change in the system to accommodate such involvement by the Board Members.

- **Mrs. Wikle –Posting Job Descriptions, Pending Board Approval -** Mrs. Wikle shared that Dr. Ciranna and Mr. Bill Lawrence have approached her to discuss the need to post some jobs prior to receiving the formal approval of the Board, adding to the posting, Pending Board Approval. Mr. Koperski will work with Dr. Ciranna to legally move forward with this form of posting job descriptions prior to Board approval of the same.

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 7:00 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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