

## **SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – July 17, 2012**

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 9:00 a.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4<sup>th</sup> 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. David Koperski, Assistant School Board Attorney.

The workshop topic, **Board Self-Evaluation Instrument & Process – Follow Up Discussion**, was removed from this agenda and will be placed on a future agenda. Mrs. Krassner requested that a discussion on the Imagine Charter be added to this agenda.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Imagine Charter, LLC** – Dr. Stewart shared that he is trying to schedule a meeting for tomorrow with those involved; and, that, after consulting with Mr. Koperski, plans to provide the charter with a ninety-day notice of termination. Discussion followed by Board Members, Mr. Koperski and Dr. Stewart. Mr. Koperski, in explaining the process that would most likely follow if the Board approved a ninety-day notice of proposed termination, cautioned the Board against meeting with Charter representatives since the members would be sitting in a quasi-judicial role should the Charter appeal the proposed termination.
- **Public Participation at Meetings** – Mr. Koperski stated that he had sent to the Board via e-mail (July 12, 2012) his conclusion related to the Board’s question concerning regulation of public comment at Board meetings, specifically the possibility of the Board not televising the public comments before and after their meetings. Mr. Koperski also provided the Board with a summary of how such presentations are handled in other districts. Discussion followed. Next Steps: The presentations from the public will continue to be televised and the format will not be changed, at this point.
- **Superintendent Applications – Review** – Dr. Wayne Blanton, Executive Director of Florida School Boards Association and consultant to the Board in this process, led the Board Members in their identification of applicants they wish to have brought in for interviews. The results of that process were as follows: Dr. Christian Cutter, Dr. Michael Grego and Dr. Constance Jones. Next Steps: These applicants will be contacted by Mrs. Beaty to schedule their interviews.
- **Budget Update** – Mr. Kevin Smith stated that the First Public Hearing on the Millage & Budget was originally scheduled for next Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>; however, that it does not look

like the figures needed from the state, the FEFP, will reach the district in time to formulate the proposed budget. Discussion took place; and, the new date for the First Public Hearing was set for Tuesday, July 31, 2012 at 5:01 p.m.

- **Health Insurance** – Dr. Ron Ciranna, Mr. Ted Pafundi and Dr. Stewart presented the Board with an update on the direction they have determined will be recommended to the Board at their next meeting regarding the employees’ health insurance options.
- **Leadership Discussion:**
  - **Superintendent’s Update** –
    - 1) Dr. Stewart shared that, at his direction, the Cabinet members discussed ways in which the district can support the Pinellas schools that are on the list of the 100 lowest performing elementary schools in the state following yesterday’s School Board-Cabinet retreat. Dr. Stewart stated that the group, led by Dr. Ciranna, has come up with two plans and shared an overview of the two plans.
    - 2) Dr. Stewart requested that Mr. Madden update the Board on the Head Start and Early Head Start initiatives. Mr. Madden provided that overview and stated that the Board will be requested at their July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting to approve a new position, Program Manager for Head Start. Mr. Madden shared that he has received letters of support from the City of St. Petersburg and is expecting the same from the City of Tarpon Springs, Urban League, etc.
    - 3) Dr. Stewart shared a brief update on an initiative being headed by Rita Vasquez, Overcoming Obstacles, will focus on communication, decision making and goal setting. Mrs. Krassner requested that Dr. Stewart consider tying that to Pathways: Dr. Stewart will look into that possibility.
  - **Mr. Koperski** – Stated that he had sent an e-mail to the Board to say that with Mr. Robinson’s retirement and the Board’s approval of his move into the Board Attorney position, there will be a vacancy of the Assistant School Board Attorney. Mr. Koperski requested that the Board give an indication as to whether they will support him moving forward with advertising for someone to fill that position, pending the Board’s approval of his employment agreement at the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Discussion followed and a direction was provided to Mr. Koperski to move forward with the effort to fill that vacancy.
  - **Mrs. Lerner** - Distributed copies to the Board of the FSBA approved Resolution On High Stakes Testing and requested that this item be placed on the July 24, 2012 meeting agenda for appropriate action by the Board. This item will be added to that agenda.
  - **Mrs. Lerner** – Shared that Representative Rouson has planned a Day of Service on MLK Day and that a planning meeting hosted by Dr. Law (SPC) is scheduled for July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Lerner stated that Rep. Rouson would like a couple of Board Members to attend that meeting; and, that she will send the information to the Board Members for their consideration.
  - **Mrs. Lerner** – Stated that the Commissioner of Education is coming to our area on July 19<sup>th</sup> and suggested that someone from the Board speak at that session on the Board’s behalf. Mrs. Lerner shared that the message to be shared is that the Board believes in accountability, that the process needs to be improved and that the hope is that he will work with FSBA in the effort to improve the accountability measures. Mrs. O’Shea agreed to attend this event with the Commissioner and to speak in the best interest of the district.
  - **Mrs. Lerner** – Shared that she has concern with the questions contained in the survey going out from the Education Foundation and the PCCPTA and suggested that it is time for the Board to meet with the Foundation to talk about collaboration. Dr. Stewart

shared that he has a meeting coming up with Mr. Boehm and the PCCPTA and suggested that the conversation might better start in that setting.

- **Mr. Gilzean** - Requested that the Board have a presentation of our district’s way-of-work with special needs students. Mr. Gilzean will complete a workshop topic form for this subject.
- **Superintendent Search, Next Steps** – The interviews will be conducted on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>; the scheduling of the one-on-one meetings for the 23<sup>rd</sup> will take into consideration Mrs. Wikle’s appointment at noon; a workshop will be scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup> to design the interview questions; the interviews on the 22<sup>nd</sup> will not be televised but a video recording will be kept for the record; arrangements will be made for identified district administrators to have discussion times with the applicants; and, a Board workshop will be scheduled for August 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m., to discuss the interviews and determine next steps.

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 3:26 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Secretary

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