

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – August 22, 2012

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Wednesday, August 22, 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; Mr. James F. Madden, Deputy Superintendent; and, Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

The following topic was discussed:

- **Interview Questions - Superintendent Interviews** – Dr. Mary Beth Corace assisted the Board in finalizing the questions to be asked of the three candidates for Superintendent. These questions were to be presented to the candidates in the interviews beginning later that morning. They are as follows:
- 1) Do we need a shift in the current thinking of public education? If yes, how would you suggest we achieve this shift in thinking?
 - 2) While unofficially polling our stakeholders on what they would like to see in the next superintendent, overwhelmingly the word “integrity” came up. Integrity is also one of our Core Values in our Strategic Plan. How would you describe your integrity and how it correlates to being Pinellas County’s next superintendent?
 - 3) As superintendent, what would you consider to be the greatest challenges facing Pinellas County Schools? What steps would you take to overcome those challenges?
 - 4) In your role as superintendent, who do you consider your key stakeholder groups and how will you engage them in supporting academic achievement, school safety, and student and employee engagement?
 - 5) Our district has faced over \$150 million in budget reductions over the last five years. What is your approach to the budgeting process? Where would you look? What is your method for decision-making for large complex tasks such as this?
 - 6) What is your level of commitment to the Early Childhood project we’ve begun? What can we do to prepare our children for kindergarten?
 - 7) Diversity is an essential leadership competency that starts at the top. Describe the three or more benefits of a commitment to diversity in Pinellas County School District and how you plan to address diversity in processes and in infrastructure.
 - 8) How will you further our efforts to improve student achievement? Please address the achievement gap and graduation rates. How would you develop a plan to turnaround Pinellas County’s lowest performing schools?

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- 9) As superintendent, what steps would you take to develop and maintain a strong leadership team relationship between yourself and the School Board Members?
- 10) Schools, principals and teachers have a high degree of accountability through standardized testing and school grades. How will you measure success in other areas of operations in the district?
- 11) In the scenario that you have received important news or information about our district. How would you communicate the information?
- 12) How will you develop, communicate and implement a plan to uphold our districts vision and mission to all stakeholders to bring about high student achievement, while maintaining a positive morale?
- 13) Should you become our superintendent, how would you assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the District? How would you determine the strengths of the District and the opportunities for continuous quality improvement?
- 14) What is your experience advocating for or against legislative issues that impact school districts? What is your opinion of the Florida Accountability System including FCAT, Common Core, End of Year State Exams, and increased State mandated graduation requirements? How do we follow the mandates while doing what is best for students?
- 15) Is there anything that we have not asked that you would like to share with us? Do you have any questions for us?

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 10:20 a.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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