

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

WORKSHOP – August 28, 2012

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, August 28, 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. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Superintendent Applicants - Discussion of Interviews** – Dr. Mary Beth Corace facilitated the discussion by the School Board Members to determine the next steps in the superintendent search process. Board Members, through their discussion and their consensus, determined that the position is to be offered to Dr. Michael Grego. The Board then set the following timeline: A meet & greet will be scheduled for the evening of Monday, September 10, 2012; that an action item will be placed on the September 11, 2012 Board agenda to authorize the Chairperson and the Board Attorney to offer the position to Dr. Grego and begin negotiations regarding his contract; and, that an action item will be placed on the September 25, 2012 Board agenda to approve the negotiated agreement with Dr. Grego. A subcommittee of Mrs. Krassner, Mrs. O’Shea and Mrs. Wikle will work with Mrs. Beaty to plan the evening event scheduled for September 10th. Board Members expressed their desire to conduct a joint meeting with Dr. Grego and the Cabinet very soon after he becomes the Superintendent, much like the session conducted with Dr. Stewart upon his arrival, to set priorities and common goals. Mrs. Cook suggested that the next step for the Board would be to review the present evaluation instrument for the Superintendent to identify any changes needed. Dr. Mary Beth Corace will begin pulling together a skeletal of an instrument, based on quality processes and reviewing existing instruments. The Chairperson, during the break, contacted Dr. Grego to share the direction of the Board. Mrs. Wikle also contacted the remaining two candidates who were not selected, Dr. Constance Jones and Dr. Christian Cutter.
- **Professional Development and Master Inservice Plan** – Ms. Lisa Grant provided an update on both items. The PowerPoint used by Ms. Grant is to be sent electronically to the Board Members. Mrs. Lerner requested, and Board Members and Dr. Stewart agreed, that an update be provided to the Board regarding the delivery methods being used to deliver training to teachers. This will be scheduled for the September 18th workshop.
- **Vetting Volunteers** – Ms. Laurie Dart and Dr. Valerie Brimm presented an update on the procedures and requirements for vetting volunteers, those who have supervised contact with students, as well as those who have unsupervised contact with students, Levels I and II screening methods. Mrs. Wikle suggested that the Board schedule a future discussion regarding her concern that some may not be able to afford the \$48 cost for the Level II screening. Dr. Stewart stated that the information shared by Ms. Dart and Dr. Brimm will be delivered to the principals at the September 6, 2012 level meetings.

- **Job Descriptions** – Dr. Ron Ciranna presented the job descriptions for the following positions: Associate Superintendent, ~~Facilities, Operations, Safety and Security~~ Operational Services; ~~Supervisor~~, K-12 Guidance Services Specialist; ~~Supervisor, School Social Work and Full Service Schools~~–Managing Officer, Social Work Services; Grants ~~Specialist~~–Developer; Grants ~~Specialist~~–Coordinator; and, Secretary to ~~Assistant~~–Area Superintendent. Ms. Clark stated that the Board had agreed to include a statement on job descriptions for administrators that they will either show evidence of working knowledge of the principles of quality management or commit to begin training in the area of quality within the first six months of employment; and, that this appears on some job descriptions, but does not on others. Dr. Ciranna stated that it will be included on all such descriptions. Mrs. Lerner suggested that the Board, the new Superintendent and Dr. Corace have a discussion to interpret that direction in quality. Mrs. Wikle shared that the Board had received an e-mail requesting that the Guidance Counselor’s title be changed to “School Counselor.” Dr. Stewart stated that he agrees with that change.
- **Savings for Classrooms** – Dr. Stewart presented a document that provided the Board with an update on initiatives suggested by the Education Foundation. Mrs. Wikle, referring to the area of real estate, requested an update for the Board on vacated properties owned by the district. An update will be scheduled for the September 18th workshop regarding pieces of property owned by the district, interests expressed on each by a community or business, any pending lease agreements and any repurposing plans.
- **Support for Low-Performing Schools and Pathways to Success Update** – Dr. Barbara Hires and Ms. Patricia Wright presented an update on the district’s efforts to support the district’s 100 low-performing schools, now being termed the L100 schools. Mr. Ward Kennedy and Dr. Bill Corbett provided the Board with an update regarding the Pathways to Success initiative.
- **Middle School Reform** – Mr. Bill Lawrence provided the Board with an update on the Middle School Reform effort.
- **Leadership Discussion:**
 - **Superintendent’s Update** –
 1. Shared with the Board a decision he reached regarding the television operations. Dr. Stewart stated that the television operations department has been a part of the communications department for a number of years and before that it was part of Library Media Technology. Dr. Stewart stated that he believes it’s time for a change in the reporting structure for TV Operations that will allow the district to operate not only in a more effective and efficient way, but in a more logical way as well. Dr. Stewart shared that in the fiscal year 2011-12, the district spent in excess of \$800,000 to support WPDS-TV. Dr. Stewart stated that he has asked Ms. Winchester to provide him with a report detailing what the district had broadcast on our TV station for the period beginning August 2011 and ending July 2012 and shared parts of that report with the Board. Dr. Stewart stated that he has made the decision that the station should focus entirely on educational programming and will no longer function as a communications vehicle that it really didn’t fit within the structure of the communications office. Dr. Stewart stated that he has transitioned the management of the television station to Bill Lawrence and Pam Moore. Dr. Stewart continued with information that was provided to him regarding the contracts associated with the station. Dr. Stewart stated that

Channel 14 is not a revenue stream; that it does not make the district money; that we could let the station go black without interrupting the flow of those Clearwire dollars; that he believes we have a worthwhile resource in the TV station as long as it is used for what he believes is its intended purpose, educational programming. Mrs. O’Shea stated that she does not want to see student productions go away; and, that there needs to be a bigger discussion as to how best to use all parts of communications. Mrs. Wikle stated that Ms. Clark had asked a question a couple of years back as to how much the station cost the district; and, it would have been a more quality process if Dr. Stewart had brought this to the Board prior to making the changes. Mrs. Cook requested clarification as to what programs will continue: Dr. Stewart stated that the programs need to be about teaching and learning, teaching techniques, current curriculum materials, etc. Mrs. Cook stated she would like to acquire information as to who is watching our station. Mrs. Lerner stated that when budgets were discussed the television station was included in that; and, that she wants to have further discussion on these changes. Mrs. O’Shea stated that a couple of meetings ago she requested a detailed reporting of the dollars spent in administration prior to the FADSS report and following the implementation of that report; and, that she continues to want the detailed reporting. Mrs. Krassner shared that fewer districts have their own stations.

2. Thanked Michael Bessette, Jim Madden and Donna Winchester who met with him over the weekend to discuss measures to take regarding the storm.
 3. Shared that the Governor will be coming into the district to visit Madeira Beach Middle and will conduct a roundtable discussion with those students. This visit will include the Interim Commissioner of Education, also.
 4. Congratulated the Board on their selection of Dr. Grego as their next Superintendent.
- **Future Workshop Dates** – Board Members agreed to schedule workshops for Tuesday, September 18th and Tuesday, October 16th. Mrs. Wikle questioned whether there is an alternative method of receiving the Oath of Office, should she be out-of-town on the date scheduled for organization of the Board. Mr. Koperski, later in this session, shared that the Oath of Office form sent to the Board by the state is considered the official form upon completion and submission to the State of Florida.
 - **PTA Survey** – Mrs. Wikle questioned whether the Board, as a body, will react to the recent survey. Board Members agreed that there will not be a formal reaction at this time.
 - **Public Comments at Board Meetings** – Mrs. Cook, sharing that she had to be out of town, stated that the subcommittee of the Board has not met on this. Mrs. Cook suggested that a discussion be placed on the next workshop at which time two options will be offered to the Board for their consideration.
 - **Fundamental Schools** – Mr. Gilzean requested that data be shared with the Board regarding the true impact of fundamental schools, including the impact this program has on other schools. Ms. Winchester suggested that the data also include data as it relates to the achievement gap.
 - **Modified Dress Code, Clothes to Kids, etc.** – Mrs. Lerner requested that the Board receive information from schools as to the impact the modified dress code has had on families, especially those unable to purchase the required items. Mrs. Cook shared that Clothes to Kids (CTK) are unable to provide the children that come to them with a full

wardrobe and that there is especially a need for pants for younger boys. Mrs. O’Shea requested that CTK make available a list of needed items.

- **Executive Sessions** – Mrs. Wikle shared that the Board found out that it was not necessary to have a quorum present during an Executive Session. Mr. Koperski stated that those sessions do not fall under the Sunshine Law.
- **Volunteers & Controversial Subjects** – Mrs. Cook questioned in what situations would a volunteer be with students in an unsupervised situation. Dr. Stewart responded. Mrs. Cook also questioned that if a volunteer was going to present a subject that would be considered controversial, how is that determined and known prior to the presentation. Dr. Stewart shared that he did not have that answer. Mrs. Cook requested that the Board have further discussion on that concern.

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 4:10 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

/db

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