

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – October 9, 2012

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at 2:00 p.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. Michael Grego, Superintendent; Mr. Michael Bessette, Associate Superintendent for Operational Services; and, Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Student Safety** – Mr. Gilzean, upon the request of the Chairperson, shared his intended outcome for this discussion. Mr. Bessette shared an overview of the steps that he and members of the District Schools Police department have taken over the last five years in their attempt to provide a safer environment for students. Mr. Bessette also shared information regarding measures that are taken by staff when intelligence is gained regarding a potential situation. Schools Police Chief Gavin shared information regarding the SRO (School Resource Officer) program which exists throughout our district. Mr. Keith Mastorides, Principal, Clearwater High School, briefly shared regarding the recent gun incident at his school and how quickly this was resolved in a safe manner by using the processes in place. Sheriff Gualtieri stressed the importance of being proactive and relationship building among the students by the SROs. The Sheriff also shared information regarding the budget that supports the SROs provided to the district through his office and the need to talk about resources supporting this program. Mayor Bob Foster and Chief Harmon from St. Petersburg, provided the Board with an update on their efforts to identify and improve the paths traveled by students to and from their respective schools located within their city. Mayor Foster stated that Mr. Gilzean had shared with him that his intention is to ensure that the best proactive measures are in place when it comes to the safety of our schools and the students who attend them. Mayor Foster offered to provide the Board with a list of the efforts being taken in the City of St. Petersburg as they relate to this topic.
- **Getting Started as a Team** – Dr. Mary Beth Corace facilitated a discussion between the School Board Members and Dr. Grego to allow them to begin setting their common goals for the district. Those goals or concerns are listed as follows:
Mrs. Lerner requested the following:
 - Follow-up on initiatives that were set in place for chronically disruptive students and the middle school reform;
 - Ability to give a report to the community regarding the Strategic Plan and the goals to be measured that are contained within that document;
 - Approval by the Board of the Strategic Plan should be continued as a required step in the process;
 - Discussion regarding the achievement gap between black and nonblack and how we compare to other counties;
 - Ability to provide the opportunity for and encouragement of creativity among our teachers while knowing we must comply with mandates.

Mr. Gilzean requested the following:

- Review of our most vulnerable students, those enrolled in ESE and in our dropout programs, i.e., DJJ programs in order to acquire data on those students and the programs that are provided to them to demonstrate either success or failure of those programs;
- Scheduling of town hall meetings throughout the communities in an effort to encourage more parental involvement;
- Review of programs in order to determine if we are truly getting all students to workforce-readiness;
- Review of and update on what is being done for low-performing schools to demonstrate that these students are receiving what is needed for them to improve;
- Efforts to remove the perception that there are winners & losers in the student assignment process.

Ms. Clark requested the following:

- Address the morale issue throughout the district;
- Revisit of the middle school reform initiative.

Mrs. Cook requested the following:

- Relook at student assignment – how students are assigned to schools, how can we assist parents in accomplishing this, when is this process done, when open enrollment is scheduled during the year, etc;
- Efforts to improve how parents feel about each one of our schools;
- More meaningful data provided to the Board and for the Board to better define what they are requesting when asking for data;
- Opportunity for the Board and Superintendent to define their way of work as a new team.

Mrs. Wikle requested the following:

- Professional development that will reach deep into our personnel in order to produce more leaders;
- Improved accountability and better follow-through;
- Budget updates at every workshop.

Mrs. Krassner requested the following:

- A district calendar containing timelines for magnet fairs, enrollment periods for various programs, etc;
- Receipt of the Superintendent's strategic action plan.

Mrs. O'Shea requested the following:

- Surveys of parents that are initiated by the district/Board, rather than by outside organizations, in order to have the correct questions asked that will provide the district with the answers/data that can truly be used;
- Revisit by the Board and Superintendent of the Strategic Plan in order to reduce the number of goals, resulting in a more concise plan;
- Improvement in the process used to arrive at the final budget.

Dr. Grego shared the following:

- Requested agreement from the Board to participate with him in additional training, i.e., Master Board through FSBA;
- Stated that he will invite specific members of his cabinet to the upcoming retreat based on the agenda, once it has been formed, and that the format for the retreat will be one that encourages give & take opportunities, rather than filled with presentations to the Board by staff;
- Shared that he looked over the middle school reform plan and will be making several changes to that plan;
- Shared that he will provide the Board with quarterly reports on the district, encouraged the Board to allow him time to meet with various personnel to discuss things such as ESE, Title I, etc., and encouraged the Board to have a level of trust in him as he proceeds;
- Stated that he will work with Dr. Corace to capture and categorize items presented by the Board during today's session, then schedule an opportunity for the Board and him to prioritize the list, and then place the identified priorities into his action plan to be shared with the Board;
- Stated that he will work with Kevin Smith to develop an improved process for reaching the annual district budget;
- Shared that listening to parents is critical to demonstrate that we care and to acquire the information we need and, as part of that effort, he is scheduling monthly meetings with parent groups around the county, i.e., PTAs, SACs, etc.

➤ **Leadership Discussion:**

- **Future Workshop Dates** – Board Members agreed to tentatively schedule a workshop for Tuesday, December 4, 2012. A final decision will be made by mid-November.
- **Ms. Clark** – Requested that the Board’s Self-Assessment Instrument be added to the October 16th workshop agenda.
- **Mr. Gilzean** – Shared that after hearing from Dr. Grego during today’s workshop, he will remove his request to have a workshop discussion scheduled for Title I.
- **Dr. Corace** – Requested that the Board add to their next workshop discussion the topic of pupil progression to allow a discussion of the related policy.
- **Mrs. Lerner** – Requested that the Board Members have an opportunity to discuss what the focus should be for various requested workshop topics.
- **Mrs. Wikle** – Shared information regarding the upcoming 5K to benefit Doorways and encouraged others to participate. Dr. Grego stated that he will have Ms. Winchester share this opportunity with employees, as well as pose a challenge to those within this building to compete.

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 4:27 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

/db

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