

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – October 16, 2012

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, October 16, 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. Michael Grego, Superintendent; Mr. Michael Bessette, Associate Superintendent for Operational Services; and, Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Budget Update** – Mr. Kevin Smith presented an update on the district’s budget; stated that the 2012/13 expenditure projections will begin in October and November. Mr. Smith shared that the district, in the future, will be forming the budget by aligning the expenses to revenue, a new method of forming the budget for our district. Dr. Grego, referring to the FEFP information contained in the handouts, shared that the Superintendents Association will be asking that the distribution be made by unweighted FTE, rather than according to weighted FTE. Mrs. Wikle shared with Mr. Smith that the Board would like an update on the budget provided at every workshop.
- **Legislative Platform** – Mr. Steve Swartzel presented for the Board’s review the Pinellas County Schools DRAFT 2013 Legislative Program. Mrs. Lerner requested the following: A.2. Class Size - the difference in requirements for charter schools and the traditional public schools be included; and, B.1. Accountability - the word, voucher, be included for the purpose of clarification. Mrs. Krassner suggested that wording be included that defines the difference between charter schools and traditional public schools, specifically the requirements that each must follow. Mrs. Lerner stated that the district should have opportunity for oversight regarding charter schools, not just be required to provide assistance. Dr. Grego suggested that the district may be able to place in a charter’s contract standards the districts believes should be met by the charter. Mr. Swartzel will explore this suggestion with Mr. Koperski. Mr. Gilzean suggested that a statement be added to explain the flexibility in certification. Mrs. Wikle requested that something related to technology be added; stated that items #1 and #7 are duplicates under B. Policy Issues; and, requested that something be included that would provide local control regarding charter schools. Mrs. Cook suggested that the district’s platform be written to somewhat mirror the card that was finalized for last legislative session. The district’s platform will be presented to the Board at their November meeting. Mrs. Cook shared that the platform for the Greater Consortium of School Boards will be going before the school boards involved in the Consortium; that if any one board votes against an item contained in that platform, the item will be removed; and, that the School Board Members should forward any questions they have regarding the Consortium platform to Mr. Swartzel.
- **Imagine Charter** – The following members of the Imagine Charter School joined the Board Members and Superintendent at the table in order to present their academic improvement

strategies: Archbishop Clarence Davis (Governing Board Chair), Ms. Dawn Bingham (Curriculum Leader), Ms. Carolyn Wilson (Principal) and Ms. Beckie Britto (Curriculum Leader/AP). Mr. Koperski stated that the Board Members had received an e-mail last Friday to explain that the statute requires that any charter that has received a school grade of “D” or “F” must appear before the Board to present their school improvement plans. Discussion followed by the School Board Members. Dr. Grego stated that further review will be performed before it is determined whether or not the SIPs will be brought to the Board for their formal approval.

- **Wellness Report Update** – Mr. Ted Pafundi and Ms. Christina Kempf provided the Board with the annual update on the district’s wellness initiatives. Their report included the following: 2011/12 Annual Report, Transportation Department Wellness Summary and the Health Fair Report. Mrs. Cook expressed concern that some schools are using early release Wednesday to schedule some of the exercise programs, i.e., zumba.
- **Job Descriptions** – Dr. Ron Ciranna presented to the Board the revised job descriptions for the various positions as a result of the FADSS study.
- **District Application Program Handbook Policy** – Dr. Mary Beth Corace, Mr. Bill Lawrence, Ms. Judy Vigue and Ms. Dee Burns presented an overview of the changes to be incorporated into this handbook. Dr. Corace shared that her intent will be to bring such changes to the Board one full year prior to implementation. Mr. Lawrence stated that this needs to be completed by December. Ms. Vigue stated that the preferred timeline would be to have the first reading in April and the second reading in May before the application process begins the following school year.
- **Vacated District Properties – Leasing or Repurposing** - Mr. Michael Bessette and Ms. Deborah Forster provided the Board with an update that included the following: Data on the annual maintenance cost for closed facilities; drafted lease agreement for the Clearwater Martin Luther King Community Center; a request by the St. Pete Sustainable Urban Ag Coalition to be allowed to build a garden on the Riviera Middle School property; and, background on the request for a Southside Urban Farm by the Edible Peace Patch Project, a 501 (c)(3) organization. Mr. Bessette shared that the MLK lease will be included in the October 23, 2012 Board agenda; and, that the request for use of Riviera Middle School property is recommended since it is a vacant piece of property that the district could keep banked for future use. The request submitted by the Edible Peace Patch Project will be placed on hold for further discussion. Ms. Forster and Mr. Bessette also provided an update on the following: Safety Harbor Secondary, South Ward-Clearwater and Palm Harbor Elementary. Dr. Grego shared that, before any further action is taken, he would like to visit each of the vacated sites to determine whether there is any potential for future use by the district, taking into consideration the implementation of early childhood programs the district is considering.
- **RTTT- D** – Mr. Bill Lawrence presented information regarding the RTTT-D (Race To The Top-District) initiative. This item will come to the Board at their October 23rd meeting and then be forwarded to the state on October 30th.
- **DJJ (Department of Juvenile Justice) Programs – Overview** – Mr. Bill Lawrence, Ms. Diana Lenox and Dr. Behrokh Ahmadi presented an overview of the dropout prevention programs offered to those students participating in a detention, commitment or after-care program sponsored by the Department of Juvenile Justice contracted program.
- **Referendum** - Ms. Donna Winchester and Ms. Rita Farlow, Strategic Communications Department, presented the Board with an update on the efforts of that department to better inform the public of the benefits provided to the district through the referendum dollars. Dr.

Grego stated that we need to stress to the public the difference between the amendments that will appear on the ballot and the referendum item that appears following those amendments.

- **District’s Volunteer Policy –Board’s Self-Assessment Instrument** – Dr. Valerie Brimm and Ms. Laurie Dart presented an update on the implementation of the district’s policy regarding the screening requirements for those wishing to volunteer in our district.
- **Board’s Self-Assessment Instrument** – Ms. Clark presented the instrument to the Board. The Board agreed to individually complete the instrument and to submit them to Dr. Behrokh Ahmadi no later than the date of the Organization Meeting (November 20th). Ms. Clark will send the Board’s standards to the Board electronically for use during their assessment process; and, the results will be discussed during their next Master Board Training session, soon to be scheduled.
- **Leadership Discussion:**
 - **Superintendent’s Update** –
 - 1) Dr. Grego wished the Board a happy Bosses Day.
 - 2) Stated that he attended his first JWB (Juvenile Welfare Board) meeting and briefly shared the topics that were discussed at that meeting.
 - 3) Reported that he met with the editorial board of The Tampa Bay Times and that they honed in on the extension of the learning day. Dr. Grego shared that the principals are going to be looking at the various ways by which they may offer those extended hours; and, that he has stressed that these opportunities are to be challenging for all students. Mrs. Lerner stressed the importance of the Board being kept apprised of such meetings and issues prior to reading it in the newspaper. Mrs. Wikle requested that the Board receive information as to what is being done now regarding extended day and what is Dr. Grego’s vision regarding the same. This can be sent to the Board through Friday Update.
 - 4) Shared that he spoke with Patty Hanks, Clothes To Kids, and that he believes she has a great idea regarding the mandatory dress code. Dr. Grego stated that CTK will be suggesting that all schools have a default model so that families who find it necessary to have their children moved from one school to another do not feel a hardship in dressing their children and so that CTK will be more likely able to adequately supply those families-in-need.
 - 5) Shared that he will be meeting informally with groups such as PTA and SAC throughout the district.
 - 6) Recognized Dr. Barbara Hires who is working to set up mentoring programs for our newer principals and those who desire to become a principal. Dr. Grego stated that this effort will help identify leadership for the next five years and beyond.
 - **Mrs. Wikle** – Requested direction from the Board regarding the letter received from the Pinellas Planning Council asking that a Board Member be identified to serve on that council. Mrs. O’Shea agreed to serve. An agenda item will be prepared for a Board meeting, no later than the December meeting.
 - **Mrs. Cook** – Suggested that the Board Members provide refreshments for a small reception following the Organization Meeting of November 20th. Board Members agreed.
 - **Mrs. Lerner** – Requested that the dates for the visits to the career centers in our high schools be listed on the Board calendar.
 - **Mrs. Krassner** – Stated that she serves on the calendar committee; that the committee will next meet on November 7th; and, that the Board Members who wish to have input should send that to Mrs. Beaty to be forwarded to her and included in the discussion.
 - **Mrs. Cook** – Shared that she attended a recent meeting of Leadership Pinellas and was asked to bring back their concern that those students who become involved in the Youth Leadership division of that group receive unexcused absences for attending those

meetings. Discussion followed by Board Members, Mr. Koperski and Dr. Grego. Dr. Grego stated that he will review this concern further with staff and provide the Board with an update. Mrs. Cook will forward the e-mail she received from Sally Parks to the Superintendent.

- **Mrs. Lerner** – Stated that she has forwarded to the Board and Dr. Grego via e-mail the Hill & Knowlton Communications Needs Assessment. Mrs. Lerner requested that the Board and Dr. Grego schedule a workshop discussion regarding the involvement of our television station in the communications portion of our district; and, expressed her concern that the television department has been reduced to three people.
- **Mrs. Wikle** - Briefly discussed the Education Foundation’s Building Blocks for Early Learning and questioned whether we have someone from the district on that committee. Mrs. O’Shea shared that she serves on it through her background in the Early Learning Coalition but, that there is no one from the district’s curriculum division. Mrs. O’Shea provided a brief overview of the committee and the plans of that committee to bring in a particular program, Building Blocks for Literacy, which is currently not an approved curriculum. Mrs. Wikle expressed her concern there is no one from the district involved. Dr. Grego shared that, at his first meeting with the Foundation, he requested to be briefed on their plans and expressed his desire that the committee include two members from our district. Dr. Grego also requested that the district be allowed the opportunity to have a more in-depth review of the age-appropriateness of the program.
- **Mrs. Wikle** – Questioned Dr. Grego as to how he will be handling the printer/copier contract issues. Dr. Grego shared that he is reviewing this matter further with principals and teachers; and, that a main focus must be convenience for teachers. Dr. Grego stated that he will keep the Board apprised on this issue.
- **Mrs. Wikle** – Shared that she has been invited to sit on the board for the Florida High School Athletics Association.
- **Mrs. Lerner** - Thanked Dr. Grego for handling everything that has surfaced since he arrived in such a positive manner.

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 3:43 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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