

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – February 21, 2013

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 9:00 a.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4th Street S.W., Largo, Florida.

Present: Mrs. Carol J. Cook, Chairperson; Mrs. Peggy L. O’Shea, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Janet R. Clark, Ms. Rene Flowers, Mrs. Terry Krassner, Mrs. Linda S. Lerner, Mrs. Robin L. Wikle, 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, Associate Superintendent for Finance and Business Services, and Dr. William Corbett, Area Superintendent, presented a brief overview of the new process to be used in the district for building the budget. Mr. Smith provided an overview of the committee formed to review the budget building process and procedures. Mrs. Lerner requested that the Board receive an updated staffing model; and, Dr. Grego agreed that this will be provided to the Board. Dr. Grego stated that the proposed process is a very proactive method to look at budgets; and, that budgets will be brought to the Board in the June workshop.
- **Student Services/Mental Health** – Ms. Donna Sicilian, Executive Director for Student Services, and Mr. Andrew Weatherill, K-12 Guidance Services Specialist, presented an overview of the services provided to students and families through district staff and community agencies. Ms. Flowers requested that a review be accomplished of local agencies to see if they are still providing services to our youth. Ms. Flowers offered to provide Ms. Sicilian with copies of release forms that could be used for families requesting services. Dr. Grego stated that he has asked that staff, in bringing contracts forward for renewal, bring the last year’s worth of data to support the approval of the respective contract’s renewal.
- **CTAE/pTEC Strategic Plan** – Mr. David Barnes, Executive Director for Career, Technical and Adult Education, presented an overview of the initiatives being put in place to strengthen these programs. Mrs. Lerner requested that effort be made to strengthen the nursing program. Ms. Flowers stated that the role of the LPN is being phased out and emphasized the importance of our students being trained in jobs that are available. Mrs. Wikle requested that the Board receive a timeline by which these initiatives will be implemented. Mrs. Wikle stated that the phrase, pTEC, has a negative connotation and suggested that the entire name be used when speaking of the program. Mrs. O’Shea stated that the branding and marketing has been confusing to parents since there have been many different names used for the career and technical programs offered through our district. Dr. Grego shared that this information is being presented to the career education board next week; that this is part of the Strategic Plan; and, that each part is measureable.
- **Lease Agreement - Charter** – Mr. Koperski stated that the Board, at this point, only has a one-page plan for the Southside property in front of them; that the lease is still being discussed; that a lease was sent to the group and a request for a lease/purchase was returned to the district; and, that discussion has taken place regarding a lease, a lease/purchase and an

outright purchase of this property by the group. Through their discussion, the Board Members indicated that their preference for this property would be to have an appraisal performed and then to offer it to this group for purchase at a fair-market price. A finalized sales agreement will be brought to the Board in a workshop setting prior to the purchase agreement being placed on an agenda for a Regular Meeting of the Board. Further discussion took place during Leadership Discussion later in this workshop session.

At this point, 11:22 a.m., the School Board and Dr. Grego moved to the Conference Hall to participate in a discussion with the Students Rights & Responsibilities Committee. Following that joint discussion and lunch, the workshop resumed at 1:31 p.m. in the Cabinet Conference Room.

- **Pilot Teacher Appraisal Proposal** – Ms. Lisa Grant, Director of Professional Development; Ms. Pam Moore, Executive Director for Pre K-12 Core Curriculum; and, Dr. William Corbett, Area Superintendent, provided the Board with information pertaining to the district’s pilot teacher appraisal process. Both Ms. Kim Black, PCTA, and Mr. Bruce Proud, Executive Director PCTA/PESPA joined the Board at the table to participate in the discussion.
- **Struggling Schools – Goals 4 & 5** – Dr. Valerie Brimm, Director of Family and Community Involvement, provided an update to the Board on the initiatives being put in place to assist the identified schools. Mrs. Krassner expressed concern with the use of the word, fragile, in referring to these families. Ms. Flowers expressed concern with the use of the word, projects, in referencing the neighborhoods of these families. Mrs. O’Shea expressed her concern that the number of students represented in this discussion equate to approximately twenty-five percent of our student population. Mrs. Lerner stressed the need for hard data in order to move forward. Dr. Grego shared that these efforts are supported by the City of St. Petersburg, JWB and the school district. Time will be allocated on a future workshop to allow for further discussion regarding the Born Eagles Youth Network project.
- **Summer Program – Elementary/Middle/High** – Ms. Kathleen Young-Parker, Director of Elementary Education, and Ms. Rita Vasquez, Director of Secondary Education, shared with the Board an update on the district’s plan to provide summer learning opportunities for students. Mrs. Lerner stressed the need for transportation to be involved in the planning since the children who are in need of the added learning opportunity are most likely those who will need transportation provided. Ms. Clark stressed the need to provide such opportunities for students in fourth and fifth grades. Dr. Grego responded that this is a work-in-progress and that these grades will be included in the planning. Dr. Grego shared that district staff met collectively with many organizations; however, if the Board Members have any community group in mind that they wish to have included, they should share that request with him.
- **Transportation – Dual Stops** – Mr. Michael Bessette presented the criteria to be considered by the district staff in providing dual bus stops to families. Mrs. Wikle voiced her opposition to the proposal, saying that it is very confusing and that it will add another level of responsibility for bus drivers, school administrators and staff. A majority of the Board, through their discussion, indicated that they would like this opportunity pursued further. Dr. Grego will present this to the principals at his meeting with them in March and provide the Board with their feedback.
- **Legislative Update** – Mr. Steve Swartzel, Director of Governmental Services, provided the Board with an update on the bills and initiatives to be considered during the upcoming legislative session. Mr. Swartzel also shared that our website will contain a link to information

that will be continually updated during session. Mrs. O’Shea requested that the Board receive a copy of the charter bill as soon as it is filed.

➤ **Leadership Discussion:**

● **Superintendent’s Update –**

- 1) Provided the Board with a proposed work flow for requests received from the media for interviews with the Board Members.
 - 2) Shared that the PASS breakfast will take place tomorrow morning, Friday, February 22nd.
- **Mrs. Cook** – Presented the schedule for high school graduation ceremonies and requested that Board Members identify the event they wish to attend. Board Members took turns taking one event at a time. A completed schedule will be forwarded to the Board by Mrs. Beaty.
 - **Ms. Flowers** – Requested further information as to the next steps for the charter wishing to purchase the Southside property. Mr. Koperski stated that a meeting is scheduled with the charter group tomorrow; Mr. Bessette and Ms. Dart will negotiate a contract for sale of the property; and, that the interested party is having an appraisal performed. An agreement for sale will be brought to the Board for discussion during their April 2nd workshop; and, an action item will be prepared for the Regular Meeting of April 9, 2013.
 - **Mrs. Wikle** – Requested clarification as to next steps for the bus stop issue. Dr. Grego stated that he will meet with the principals in March and bring their input back to the Board for further discussion.
 - **Mrs. Wikle** – Referencing the opportunity the Board had earlier today to meet with the Student Rights & Responsibilities Committee, requested that a discussion be scheduled with students who have dropped out of our schools. Mrs. Lerner suggested that such students may not feel comfortable talking to the entire Board, Superintendent, etc. Dr. Grego, agreeing with Mrs. Lerner, stated that he had planned on having such discussions with students involved in our dropout prevention programs; and, suggested that Board Members individually may wish to join him in those discussions. Dr. Grego stated that he will be speaking with Dr. Corbett to identify the best way of accomplishing such a conversation.
 - **Mrs. Wikle** - Shared that SEIU and PBA are sponsoring the 2013 Southeastern Guide Dogs Walkathon and are encouraging participation. Mrs. Wikle distributed flyers for this event scheduled for March 9, 2013.
 - **Mrs. Cook** – Shared that Board’s next student recognition event is scheduled for April 9th at Pinellas Park High School. Mrs. Cook provided a brief overview of the plans for that evening; and, shared that the second event for this school year is tentatively planned for May 14th at Clearwater High School. Mrs. Cook stated that the committee will keep the Board updated as the planning proceeds.

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 4:35 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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