

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – May 14, 2013

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, May 14, 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; and, Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Legislative Update** – Mr. Steve Swartzel and Mr. Kevin Smith provided the School Board Members with an overview of the 2013 Legislative Session. The discussion focused on the following materials that were distributed to the Board: BUDGET: SB 1500 Summary, Other Major Budget Policy Issues, Other Appropriations Data, Bills that Have Passed the Legislature 2013, Questions to be Answered and Bills That Did Not Pass. The 2013-2014 FEFP – FINAL CONFERENCE REPORT, APRIL 29, 2013, was also distributed to the Board Members. Dr. Grego will continue to work with Dr. Law, SPC, and keep the Board updated regarding any changes associated to dual enrollment. Dr. Grego and his staff will ensure clear communication is provided to students and parents regarding the effects that the new legislation may have on their education.
- **Mental Health Services in Schools** – Ms. Donna Sicilian provided the Board with an update on the school district’s partnership with community social service providers and the process for referring students and families for services. Ms. Sicilian stated that she has worked with both Mr. Koperski and Ms. Dart to make sure the consent form that parents will sign to allow for a referral to an agency is extremely clear so that the parent/guardian is clear as to what they are signing and providing their consent. Ms. Sicilian stated that smaller group conversations are being scheduled with agencies to talk about how to better collaborate and better provide services to families. Mrs. Lerner expressed her concern with schools that only have a social worker coming to their school once or twice a week and that social worker trying to deal with a student population of 2000 students in that limited time. Mrs. Lerner stressed the importance of implementing an improved method to get information shared between agencies and schools, specifically regarding services being provided to families by agencies. Ms. Flowers and Mrs. Lerner would like to have a workshop discussion scheduled related to this; and, Ms. Flowers agreed to complete a Workshop Topic Request Form. Mrs. Wikle questioned whether Ms. Sicilian will provide the Board with data to support a request for renewal of existing programs: Ms. Sicilian stated that is her plan. Both Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Sicilian shared that these are program contracts that have no cost to the district.
- **Programs Expanded for Struggling Students or Students at Tier III RtI/MTSS** - Dr. Bill Corbett, Mr. Ward Kennedy, Ms. Donna Sicilian and Ms. Diana Lenox presented information to the Board regarding district programs that are designed to address the needs of students behind in credit due to disruptive behavior or those who are

at Tier III RtI/MTSS. Mrs. Lerner requested that data be brought back to the Board to demonstrate success of the programs being used to address these issues.

- **Title I – Overview of Priorities and Funding** – Ms. Mary Conage presented information to demonstrate the primary focus and distribution of resources at Title I schools. Dr. Grego shared that he sees the purpose of Title I dollars is to level the playing field. Ms. Flowers stated that Title I dollars had been redistributed at one time to include identified high schools which resulted in learning gains; and, requested that the Board receive information as to what is being done to help those students now that those funds have been removed. Mrs. Lerner stated that Ridgecrest is a school with over half of their population on free/reduced meals and questioned whether there is any way within the Title I law that some of those dollars could be directed to that school. Dr. Grego cautioned the Board in thinking that Title I dollars are the final solution; but, that we must look at resources and funds when addressing the needs of all low-achieving students. Mrs. Krassner requested that Sanderlin be considered in that dialogue. The PowerPoint used by Ms. Conage in her presentation will be forwarded to the Board Members.
- **Master Board Training** – Mrs. Cook reviewed the summary of the responses received from the Board Members regarding their desired training topics. Through the discussion by the School Board Members and Dr. Grego, the following topics were selected: #1 – Challenges of Leadership (possibly July 16th workshop); #2 – Improving Student Achievement by Aligning the work of the School District (possibly the September workshop date); and, #3 - Tools and Strategies to Support Student Achievement (possibly October or November workshop dates). Agreement was also reached that these training sessions will take place on the mornings of scheduled workshop dates. Mrs. Cook will work with Mrs. Beaty to set a suggested workshop schedule for September through November. Through discussion, the Board and Dr. Grego agreed that the training module titled Essentials of Leadership could be scheduled at a later time and that some staff members would be added to that training.
- **Leadership Discussion:**
 - **Superintendent's Update** –
 - 1) Provided the Board with the district's Strategic Plan reflecting the discussion that took place at Kane's shortly after he arrived in the district, as well as discussions with his leadership team. Dr. Grego encouraged the Board Members to speak with him regarding the Plan during their individual meetings or during Board workshops. Dr. Grego will bring this to the Board during the next workshop for their discussion.
 - 2) Stated that the Board, at their last workshop, agreed that he should move forward with repurposing the Hamilton Disston site and, as a result, Dr. Corbett met with the current faculty and staff of that school. Dr. Corbett shared that he met with those connected with Hamilton Disston last Wednesday to share the rationale, to answer questions and to focus on the plans for improvement in the program. Mrs. Lerner requested that Dr. Grego take a careful look at the leadership of the two schools that will be taking on these students and teachers. Dr. Grego assured the Board that he is taking a close look at the leadership in those schools.
 - 3) Shared that he is implementing a superintendent/cabinet interview process for all administrative positions, a process that will bring the top applicants to cabinet for final interview and review. Dr. Grego stated that this process will place more eyes on the decision making and apply more view points to be sure we have the right fit. Dr. Grego stated that he would like to modify the personnel appointments that are provided to the Board by including a bio or resume for those being recommended for administrative positions. Dr. Grego stated that to ensure adequate time for interviews, he may be calling an additional Board meeting in June in order to bring all

recommendations to the Board for their action within the timeframe. Mrs. Lerner requested that when items are added to the agenda during a Board meeting, additional copies of the item be placed in the lobby and that the Chairperson, when stating that she has found good cause to amend the agenda, inform the audience where those copies of the added items may be found. Dr. Grego also stated that when he finds it necessary to walk in such items, contact will be made with the Board Members ahead of time to allow for their consideration and submission of questions pertaining to the added items. Mrs. Lerner stressed the need to ensure that the added items are placed on the web agenda as soon as possible in order to keep the public updated.

- 4) Distributed a document titled, Guidelines for Preparing Agenda Items and encouraged Board Members to review them and contact him with their input regarding improvements needed.
 - 5) Shared that he is working with Ms. Winchester and others to produce a promotional brochure for each of our schools that will display their key points of pride. Dr. Grego shared that a standard will be developed and sent to each school for them to use as they develop their own personalized brochure.
- **Ms. Flowers** – Shared that she has been invited to serve on the following two committees: JDAI subcommittee with Judge Patrice Moore to review school referrals to the court system and the STEM Advisory Committee with Girls, Inc. Mr. Koperski cautioned Ms. Flowers regarding the JDAI subcommittee that should that committee have the responsibility of making reports to the School Board for action, she should decline that opportunity to participate. Ms. Flowers will provide Mr. Koperski with further information regarding the responsibilities connected with serving on the JDAI subcommittee. Ms. Flowers, in response to a question presented by Mrs. Cook, stated that this committee would be requesting another Board Member to serve at the time that Ms. Flowers is no longer serving as a School Board Member. Through discussion, Ms. Flowers will move forward with serving on both committees; but, should she find that the JDAI subcommittee result in reports being sent to the School Board for formal action, Ms. Flowers will remove herself from that subcommittee. The Board also agreed that a better direction or definition be incorporated into the Board’s Operating Manual regarding committee assignments and opportunities for Board Members to serve on organizations.
 - **Mrs. Cook** – Stated that the list of workshop topics requested by Board Members has been exhausted. Mrs. Lerner clarified that the topic she had requested pertaining to grants is to allow the Board to look at every school and what funding is provided to their respective site with the rationale for the provision of that funding.
 - **Mrs. Cook** – Stated that the next workshop will contain a large amount of time for discussion of the district’s budget and the Strategic Plan and how the two work together for the district.
 - **Mrs. Lerner** – Stated that the legislative session has now ended and requested that the Superintendent and Board have a discussion as to how the results of session will impact bargaining with the employee groups. Mrs. Lerner suggested that this discussion can take place in executive session or in public.
 - **Mrs. Lerner** - Requested that the Board receive workshop materials ahead of the workshop date in order to have the opportunity to review the materials prior to the presentation and discussion, whenever possible. Mrs. Lerner stressed that these materials should also be posted on our website in a timely fashion in order for the public to have access to them, also.
 - **Mrs. Lerner** – Stated that she will be completing a Workshop Topic Request Form to discuss the communications audit performed by Hill & Knowlton. Mrs. Lerner stated that in looking at the organization chart for that department she sees six positions in multimedia training. Mrs. Lerner requested information as to how many students have actually taken part in that training, how many teachers are involved, etc. Mrs. Lerner clarified that she is

looking at this in the light of the district having limited resources and in the need to get more of this training out to schools where it can reach more students. Mrs. Lerner stated that there are still silos in this area, i.e., the library/media department, TIS, the website, etc. Dr. Grego stated that he has asked Dr. Corbett to look at all departments to identify duplicated efforts; and, requested that the Board allow this process to go forward districtwide. Mrs. Lerner stated she is comfortable with the process Dr. Grego has put in place to review this matter within the districtwide review.

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 1:13 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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