

**SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**WORKSHOP – May 13, 2014**

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 9:00 a.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4<sup>th</sup> Street S.W., Largo, Florida.

Present: Mrs. Carol J. Cook, Chairperson; Mrs. Linda S. Lerner, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Janet R. Clark, Ms. Rene Flowers, Mrs. Terry Krassner, Mrs. Peggy L. O’Shea, Mrs. Robin L. Wikle, Members; Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent; Dr. William Corbett, Deputy Superintendent; and, Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Budget Update & District Investment Accounts** – Mr. Kevin Smith and Ms. Karen Coffey presented information on the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) 2014-15 Conference Calculation, as well as a demonstration of funding comparisons of FY 2002-03, 2007-08, 2013-14 and the proposed FY 2014-15. Also distributed was information on the FY 2014-15 Florida Retirement System Rates as recommended by the Budget Conference Committee. Mrs. Lerner requested that an understandable summary of the calculations be shared with our employees. Mr. Smith stated that he will work with Ms. Winchester to produce this information to be forwarded to employees. Dr. Grego shared that this information will also act as talking points for the Board Members as they speak to employees and community members. Mr. Andrew Jacobsen, Managing Officer for Cash and Investments, presented an update on the district’s investment portfolio, including an explanation of realized and unrealized yields on our portfolio, the buy and hold strategy, focus on returns of principle, historical earnings, etc. Mr. Smith presented an overview of the recent audit; and, suggested that the Board Members read the notes included in the report. Mr. Smith reviewed for the Board the four findings included in the audit report, starting with page 66; and, shared that it is his goal to improve to the point of not having any findings noted in future reports. Mrs. Lerner requested that a list of the members that comprise our investment advisory committee be forwarded to the Board and that the list provide the background on each of those members.
- **Health Care Update** – Mr. Ted Pafundi, along with Mr. Dick Klima and Mr. Ken Perry, representatives from both AON, presented an overview of the pharmacy benefit and industry trends. Mr. Perry stated that as part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), there is an Excise Tax on high cost employer health care coverage; and, that beginning in 2018, employers who sponsor health coverage that exceeds the dollar thresholds set forth by ACA will be subject to a 40% tax. Mrs. Cook requested that Aon provide a projection on the potential impact that this tax will have on our Pinellas County school district. Mr. Perry stated that this will be shared through Mr. Pafundi’s office. Included in today’s presentation were the following: 2015 health plan renewal considerations; funding options (Fully Insured - non participating, Fully Insured - participating and Self Insured with Stop Loss/Partial Self-Funding); a comparison of fully-insured vs. self-funded;

advantages vs. disadvantages to self-funding; considerations to maintain Pinellas County Schools costs; and, some potential strategies for savings. Mrs. April Paul presented a summary of the dependent audit performed by HMS Employer Solutions completed to ensure that all dependents enrolled in the plan meet the definition of an eligible dependent by requiring employees to provide documentation to verify eligibility. Mrs. Lerner expressed her extreme concern with the change in services provided through Humana for employees who are in the middle of cancer treatments.

- **Executive PASS - Update** – Ms. Lori Matway provided the Board with a summary of the current status and plans for expansion of our PASS program. Ms. Matway shared that the plans are to meet with another 30-40 business partners in hopes that 20 more business leaders will agree to join PASS to be partnered up with principals in our district. Ms. Matway stated that another coach will also be recruited.
- **Summer Training** – Mrs. Pam Moore and Ms. Lisa Grant provided the Board with an overview of the professional development offerings that will be offered to employees during the summer months. Mrs. Lerner requested that teachers, when they go into register for the trainings, be provided with a link to the formatted information provided to the Board during this workshop.
- **Legislative Update** – Mr. Steve Swartzel provided the Board with an update on bills passed during the most recent legislative session that impact education. Mr. Kevin Smith stated that the latest budget calculations will be forwarded to the Board. Mrs. Lerner expressed her concern with the new requirement for ESE students, specifically the elimination of special diplomas. Dr. Grego stated that Dr. Lisa Grant and he have discussed this issue and will be looking at what can be done for these students who truly are unable to move towards a standard diploma. Mr. Swartzel stated that a more formal summary of the session will be forwarded to the Board; and, suggested that efforts be made to have our district's legislative thoughts incorporated into the next governor's budget.
- **The New Teacher Project (TNTP) – New Rookie ESE Teacher Training Grant** – Dr. Grego and Dr. Lisa Grant presented information to the Board regarding a proposed new teacher induction program. Dr. Grego shared that Dr. Grant, Dr. Ciranna and he have had conversations with those in DOE regarding this grant opportunity designed to assist new teachers. Dr. Grant shared that the four-week training program is designed to effectively support and retain new ESE teachers. Dr. Grant shared that the timeline will be, as follows: May – Coaches and instructors will be hired; June-July – Program will run; and, August – September – Observation and feedback will be performed.
- **Triage & Training – Review** – Ms. Donna Sicilian provided an update to the Board on our training and triage program designed to help schools address the needs of chronically disruptive students. Board Members were provided with data by school, elementary and middle, on referrals of students. Ms. Sicilian's presentation included information on the following: Team Purpose, Team Members, Processes and Procedures, Data Collection, and Services Provided.
- **Attendance Processes** – Ms. Donna Sicilian presented student attendance data and plans to reduce the number of student absences.
- **Strategic Plan - Status Report** – Dr. Mary Beth Corace presented a report to the Board on the status of the District Strategic Plan. Dr. Corace stated that there are five

goals and 107 actions identified to accomplish those goals; and, that of those 107 actions, 24 are underway, 73 are completed and moving forward and 10 are still in process of information gathering. Dr. Grego stated that he and staff, at the end of the summer and beginning of September, will be compiling a “how did we do and what do we need to focus on” report. Mrs. Lerner questioned whether this report will be shared with the community: Dr. Corace stated that this information will be shared with the community. Dr. Grego stated that this document will be called “key indicators.” Mrs. O’Shea questioned whether each school would have an improvement plan: Dr. Corace responded in the affirmative. Mrs. Wikle questioned when the goals will be reviewed each year: Mr. Koperski and Dr. Grego stated that the timeline, according to policy language, will mirror that of the timeline for the budget to be presented to the Board.

- **Gulf Coast Academy Update** – Dr. Corbett, Mrs. Pam Moore and Mrs. Rita Vasquez presented an update on the proposed repurposing of this facility in order to provide an additional option for delivering high school completion curriculum to a specific population of students, both those considered to be at-risk, as well as adult students. Mrs. Vasquez provided an overview of the academic program framework, staffing model and estimated enrollment for the first year. Dr. Corbett provided for the Board a cost analysis for the first year of operation. Dr. Corbett stated that though there will be flexibility in the day for these students, the expectation will be that each student be at school for a minimum of six hours each day. Mrs. O’Shea suggested that the name be more identifiable with Pinellas County Schools. Dr. Corbett stated that the next steps will be that an agenda item will be prepared for the next Board meeting to ask the Board’s approval to open a new school and to approve the lease agreement with the owner of the property who is presently leasing the site to the charter company.
- **Collaborative Agreement Update** –Chief of Schools Police Richard Stelljes and Mr. Michael Bessette presented the Board with an update on the Collaborative Agreement regarding student misconduct, student interviews, and student arrests by law enforcement officers. Chief Stelljes shared with the Board Members the most recent draft of the agreement; and, stated that all chiefs and the Sheriff have indicated their total support of this agreement. Chief Stelljes stated that this proposed agreement will be brought to the Board in June; that school district administrators will receive training related to the agreement in July; and, that School Resource Officers will receive their training in August. Mrs. Cook, referring to the first paragraph under #8, page 4, suggested that the location of the following sentence might be moved to follow the alternatives listed in that section: *“If the situation is resolved short of arrest at any point during this process, the officer does not need to consider additional alternatives.”*
- **Code of Student Conduct** – Mr. Ward Kennedy presented to the Board the proposed Amendments to the Code of Student Conduct, Sections 5500, 5500.01, 5500.07, 5500.08, 5500.09 and 5500.10. Mrs. Cook questioned whether verbiage needed to be added to address the concern the Board has with charter contracts that remove students from their program for minor offenses. Mr. Koperski stated that he believes we already have general language to meet that intent and to hold charter schools to the same guidelines to which our schools are held. Mr. Kennedy stated that his recommendation will be to review the Code of Conduct on an annual basis by reconvening the committee. Mrs. Wikle voiced her disagreement with the proposed elimination of language for high schools in 5500.10. Discussion followed. Consensus was provided by the Board to leave

the language in for high schools, thus making no change to the way detentions are managed for high school students.

➤ **Leadership Discussion:**

● **Superintendent's Update –**

- Shared that the first annual STEM Conference took place this past Saturday at the USF St. Petersburg campus and that just under 900 attended this event. Dr. Grego commended Ms. Laura Spence for her efforts in organizing this event; and, shared that we are making a difference in this in this area.
- Stated that a former Palm Harbor Elementary student, Elisa Nelson was a fifth-grader when she was abducted while riding her bike to school on November 4, 1980 and murdered. Dr. Grego shared that a plaque honoring Elisa was installed at the school; that this plaque was displaced; and, that her family has worked with the Palm Harbor Middle Principal and the school's PTA to reestablish a memorial fund to build a reading nook in Elisa's honor. Dr. Grego shared that Elisa will be honored at the dedication of the reading nook and celebration of Elisa's life at a ceremony on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at Palm Harbor Middle School.
- Shared that there have been two potential dates selected for the joint meeting between the Pinellas School Board and Dr. Grego and Dr. Law and his Board of Trustees. Dr. Grego stated that he will request that Mrs. Beaty place on the Board Members' calendar both Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> as tentative dates for this joint meeting. Dr. Grego shared that he will be asking the School Board to offer potential topics to be discussed during this meeting. Dr. Grego shared that one item that will be on the agenda is that of the new elementary education teaching program, a collaboration between the school district and SPC, to make sure that future teachers are better prepared for the classroom. Dr. Grego stated that there will be a strong focus on ESE and ESOL teachers; and, that further details will be shared as they become available.
- Introduced Ms. Donna Burns, Pinellas Education Foundation, who shared information regarding the newest opportunity provided to teachers through the Education Foundation to acquire grant funding called Fund a Classroom. Ms. Burns distributed a handout to the Board Members to be followed during her explanation. Ms. Burns shared that 29 applications have been funded thus far for a total of over \$13,000.
- Shared that he will be visiting the Harris TIPS site and looking further into the proposal to use that facility to house homeless teens.
- Shared that the enrollment for this year's Summer Bridge has exceeded last year's numbers. Dr. Grego stated that, at this time, we have 6000 elementary students enrolled and more than that in middle school. Dr. Grego stated that he is very pleased with the promotion of this program to middle- and high-school students.
- Shared that our kindergarten roundup is going well and that the plans are to start this campaign in January next year to allow parents ample opportunity to visit their child's potential schools.
- Shared that the Connect for Success has been very successful; that the laptops will be brought back into our Title I schools and then reissued for the summer. Dr. Grego stated that we will have three grade levels involved in this program next year.
- Shared that the process to enroll in Summer Bridge is now offered in Spanish. Dr. Grego stated that we are seeing a tremendous enrollment into this program by those students.

- **Mrs. Wikle** – Presented her Workshop Topic Request Form and backup material to ask that the Board discuss whether they would support the Board taking a stand on H.R. 612: Bigger Trucks, Bigger Dangers. Discussion followed by the Board Members; and, it was decided that should individual Board Members wish to voice a pro or con on H.R. 612, they should do so on their own and should not place their statement on district letterhead.

- **Mrs. Wikle** – Stated that she is still double booked on graduations, having scheduled herself at Palm Harbor University High School and Dunedin High School, both taking place on the morning of June 5<sup>th</sup>. Matter was resolved by Mrs. Cook taking the Palm Harbor event.
- **Mrs. Cook** – Encouraged Board Members to continually check the Board Calendar to ensure that they are attending events that they have said that they will attend. Mrs. Cook requested that Board Members contact Mrs. Frazier in the Board Office a.s.a.p. if they find they must cancel out of an event.
- **Mrs. Lerner** – Shared that she had sent a note to Mr. Pafundi to apologize for bringing the concern forward this morning regarding the cancer specialists change before speaking to him privately. Mrs. Lerner stated that this change by Humana in coverage for our employees who are suffering from this disease is still very much a concern for her. Mrs. Lerner stated that Mr. Pafundi just sent the Board via email information regarding this matter.
- **Mrs. Cook** - Shared that the Superintendent’s contract states that the Board is to act on it in June; and, questioned whether the Board would approve of her, as the Board Chairperson, working with Dr. Grego to look at certain points within his contract. Mrs. Cook stated that the focus needs to be on providing the district with stability. Mrs. O’Shea stated that the Board needs to look at longevity of the contract. Board Members provided their agreement to have Mrs. Cook, as the Board Chairperson, work with Dr. Grego on reviewing his present contract and bring recommendations back to the Board for their discussion at the June 24<sup>th</sup> workshop.
- **Mrs. Lerner** – Suggested that Board Members give consideration as to what they will ask or discuss with the exchange students that will be meeting with the Board on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

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 4:09 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Secretary

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