

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – November 20, 2014

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 1:30 p.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4th 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, Dr. Ken Peluso, Members; Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent; Dr. William Corbett, Deputy Superintendent; and, Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

Absent: Mrs. Peggy L. O'Shea

The following topics were discussed:

- **Health Care Update – Vitality** - In Mr. Pafundi's absence, Mrs. April Paul, Manager for the Office of Employee Benefits, Health & Workers' Compensation, along with Mr. Ray Hordorski, Director of Account Management for Humana, provided an update to the Board on the Humana Vitality Program that will be implemented in Pinellas beginning in January 2015. Mrs. Paul and Mr. Hordorski shared that the Humana Vitality Program is a wellness and rewards program created to help move district employees to a healthier lifestyle by providing meaningful incentives and rewards as they work toward individualized goals. Mr. Hordorski shared insight into the manner by which employees could voluntarily and confidentially become involved in this program; and, stated that this program follows all HEPA guidelines. Mr. Hordorski shared examples of how the district's involvement in this program could reduce the district's insurance premium responsibility.
- **District Instructional Personnel and School Administrator Evaluation System Revisions** – Dr. Ron Ciranna, Mr. Lou Cerrata and Mr. Tom Topping presented the proposed revisions for the 2014-15 Instructional Personnel and School Administrator Evaluation Systems. Mrs. Lerner questioned whether VAM scores were still being included in the evaluation system: Mr. Topping responded in the affirmative. Mrs. Lerner requested that a more understandable explanation be formed to share with teachers regarding the process before it is rolled out. Dr. Corbett stated that this can be accomplished. Dr. Grego stated that staff will be taking two to three years to implement this correctly and in a manner that is not penalizing to our teachers. Dr. Grego assured the Board that the EOCs (End of Course exams) will also be truly field tested.
- **Educational Alternatives/Job Descriptions** – Dr. Barbara Hires and Mrs. Michelle Topping presented the proposal to change the department name from Dropout Prevention Programs to Educational Alternative Programs; and, offered the changes to titles on job descriptions and the organization charts for the district's Educational Alternative Programs to reflect this name change. Dr. Ron Ciranna presented the proposed changes for the job descriptions for the Director, Educational Alternative Services; Administrator, Department of

Juvenile Justice/Educational Alternative Services; Planning, Fire Health and Safety Coordinator; Coordinator, Other – Professional Development Arts Education; Teacher on Special Assignment; and, General Manager, Facilities Planning.

- **Budget Update** – Mr. Kevin Smith, assisted by Ms. Karen Coffey, presented an update on the budget. Materials distributed to the Board Members included the following pieces of information: 2015-16 Legislative Budget Request Priorities proposed by the Governor; Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)- Total Funding; FEFP – Funding per FTE Student; K-12 Public Schools 2015-16 FEFP; Voluntary Prekindergarten Program Funding 2014-15, 2015-16; Ad Valorem Estimating Conference (8/5/14) July 1 Certified School Taxable Value; Economy Continued Growth 2013; Current Employment Conditions; Population Growth Recovery Data; Population Growth by Age Group; and, Florida Housing Generally Improving. Mr. Smith invited Board Members who had questions to give him a call at his office.
- **AdvanceED Accreditation Update** – Dr. Mary Beth Corace presented an update on the status of the District’s accreditation process. Dr. Corace described the process being followed; shared that the process is using input from teachers, parents and staff; stated that a team will come to Pinellas to assess the district; and, that if all criteria is met, the entire district, all schools, will be accredited. Discussion followed by Board Members, Dr. Corace and Dr. Grego. Dr. Grego stated that the accreditation team will be in Pinellas February 2-4, 2015.
- **Resolutions on Accountability** – The School Board Members discussed the possibility of composing and taking action to approve an official Resolution to express the district’s concerns regarding the excessive high-stake testing that has accompanied the state’s accountability system for public schools. Discussion took place by the Board Members, Dr. Grego and Mr. Steve Swartzel pertaining to the potential of finalizing a resolution similar to those produced by the school boards of Okaloosa, Palm Beach and Duval counties. It was determined that a draft for Pinellas could be prepared using the beginning or the whereas sections of the Okaloosa document, using the Resolve portion from the Palm Beach document and adding a title such as Resolution on Testing and Accountability. Three Board Members supported Mrs. Lerner’s request to have Mr. Swartzel work with Dr. Grego to form a draft resolution that could be discussed at the January 20th workshop and that the Board could take final action on at the January 27th meeting. Three Board Members did not support moving in this direction; therefore, this request will not move forward based on this discussion. Mrs. Lerner stated that she will bring this forth for further discussion at the December meeting during her report.
- **School Board Committee Assignments** - Mrs. Lerner led the discussion for the Board Members to review their present assignments to various internal, external and state committees. Decisions for responsibilities were made by the Board Members; and, Mrs. Beaty will notify the responsible party for each committee to notify them of the name and contact information for the Board Member assuming the responsibility for their respective committee.

➤ **Leadership Discussion:**

- **Mrs. Cook** – Suggested that the Board Members agree to schedule a review of the existing Board Operations Manual in order to update this document. It was decided by the Board that Mrs. Cook would review the document to determine possible changes; and, then bring that revised document forth at a future workshop for discussion by the entire Board. Board Members who have any suggestions for changes or updates to this document should forward those via email directly to Mrs. Beaty who will then share the suggestions with Mrs. Cook.
- **Mrs. Lerner** – Suggested that the Board Members schedule approximately a half hour at each workshop for Board Members to share information they have acquired through their involvement on the various internal, external and state committees. Dr. Peluso clarified that this would just be information that is related and beneficial to the district. Agreement by the Board was provided to Mrs. Lerner’s request.
- **Mrs. Lerner** – Shared that she spoke with Terry Boehm, Education Foundation, who has shared that he is willing to give the Board the opportunity to have a link provided to each of them by the Foundation to assist them in formulating future plans. Mrs. Lerner stated that if the Board Members would, she will share their interest with Mr. Boehm, and the link will be sent to those Board Members who would like to do this.
- **Mrs. Lerner** - Stated that the Board used to schedule a retreat once each year and suggested that Board Members begin to make a list of topics that they would like to have discussed in that type of setting. Mrs. Lerner stated that, if the Board Members agreed to this, a discussion regarding date and topics could be scheduled for the January workshop. Board Members agreed to move forward with this. Board Members are to forward to their Administrative Assistant any topics that they would like to have considered for scheduling at a future retreat.
- **Dr. Grego** – Requested that Melanie Parra, Sean Clark and Amie Hornbaker from our Communications Department share a few videos from the advertising campaign, “My Choice. My Pinellas County School” that will be placed on our website to showcase the many programs that are offered throughout our district and to inform parents of the district’s application period. Dr. Grego shared that in January this department and Mr. Bill Lawrence will be providing through BrightHouse and our website information to parents who will be enrolling children in kindergarten and/or in our district for the first time. Mrs. Parra also shared a few videos that are being produced titled, Words that Inspire, i.e., Fun, Devoted, Excellence, Love, etc. Mrs. Parra shared that her department has approximately 37 “Words that Inspire” videos; and, invited the Board Members to share such words with her that they hear as they travel throughout the district. Mrs. Cook requested that the Communications Department be sure to use colors on their videos and publications that are easily read, even by those who are color blind.
- **Dr. Grego** - Shared that the Children’s Summit was held today well attended; that the recent Superintendent’s Round Table was held at the Tarpon Springs Culinary School; that Mr. Kevin Ford and the Tarpon Springs High were highlighted for having won the National Championship; that the documentary by USF of the Tarpon Springs High School Band’s trip to the Macy’s parade will air soon on that station; that the community meeting held at John Hopkins Middle School was very successful and thanked Ms. Flowers for the greeting she

provided; and, that the groundbreaking ceremony will take place at the East Lake Middle School campus tomorrow morning.

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 4:19 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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