

## **SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

### **WORKSHOP – April 2, 2013**

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, April 2, 2013 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. 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.

During the review of the agenda, the topic of budget update was added  
The following topics were discussed:

- **Sale of Southside Fundamental Property** – Mr. David Koperski stated that an agreement has been reached between parties on the Southside Fundamental property; that the sale price of \$1.1M was agreed upon; and, that the finalized agreement will be brought to the Board for their action at the April 9, 2013 Board meeting. Mr. Koperski explained that the agenda items are written as to be contingent upon each other, thus requiring the approval of the Board on all pieces associated with this property. Discussion followed by Board Members, Mr. Koperski and Mr. Bessette. Later in this workshop, Mr. Koperski supplied the Board with an electronic version of the contract for their review.
- **Property Proposals** – Mr. Bessette, accompanied by Ms. Deborah Forster, provided an update on the following three pieces of district-owned property and received direction from the Board, accordingly: 1) Fisher Road/County Road 39 – This piece was appraised at \$1.9M; and, it will be placed on the market in accordance to the cost suggested by the broker of \$2.75M. 2) North Ward-St. Pete – Mr. Bessette and staff have been approached by several interested parties; it was last appraised in 2007 at \$1.3 - \$2.0M; another appraisal will be performed; and, a recommendation from our broker on this property will be brought back to the Board for further discussion. 3) Palm Harbor Elementary - This piece has multiple interested parties, Ms. White being one; an appraisal will be performed; Dr. Grego will visit that site; and, discussions will continue with Ms. White.
- **AdvancED Accreditation** – Dr. Grego, Mr. Bill Lawrence, Dr. Mary Beth Corace and Ms. Judith Vigue presented information to the Board regarding the district's accreditation process that is designed to enhance alignment of strategic planning, school improvement planning and district support.
- **Budget Update** – The Area Superintendents – Dr. Bill Corbett, Dr. Barbara Hires, Mr. Ward Kennedy and Ms. Pat Wright – presented an update to the Board on the efforts to build the district's budget for 2013-14 school year. Mrs. Lerner stressed the need for the Board to see a true staffing model for schools, especially for those that are not quite Title I schools but have a struggling student population. Dr. Hires stated that the new staffing model will be forwarded to the Board. Ms. Flowers stressed the importance of a plan for

communication to parents regarding any changes. Dr. Grego announced that the staffing model for Media Specialist is being returned to its previous model. Dr. Grego explained that the new process for building the budget calls for the Area Superintendents to be more fiscally responsible regarding the dollars that are going to their respective schools. Dr. Grego explained that the Area Superintendents are conducting face-to-face meetings with each of their principals in order to build their school budget by discussing the financial needs and spending for their respective school.

- **Alternative Ed/Dropout Prevention** – Mr. Bill Lawrence, accompanied by Ms. Diana Lenox, presented the plan to enhance both alternative education and dropout prevention programs in our district. Ms. Flowers requested data on the “.5” programs. Mrs. Lerner requested a discussion be scheduled on the district’s plan to address chronically disruptive students. Mrs. O’Shea stated that truancy is another issue of concern among teachers. Mrs. Wikle suggested that the name, Dropout Prevention, be changed. Dr. Grego shared that some of our vacated schools are being looked at to house dropout prevention programs.
- **DMAC – Changes in Policies** – Mr. Koperski provided an overview of the proposed changes in Policy 2130 that resulted from changes approved by members of DMAC. This amendment will be presented to the Board at their April 9, 2013 Board meeting.
- **Transportation Study** – Dr. Grego, Mr. Michael Bessette and Mr. Rick McBride provided the Board with an overview of the Feasibility Study for Student Transportation Services provided by STA. Mrs. Wikle stated that she requested this information since she had been told that we should outsource the transportation of our students and to allow for this type of conversation. Discussion followed. The Board will be provided with a one-page executive summary that will better explain this report for the public.
- **Job Descriptions** – Dr. Ron Ciranna presented the job descriptions that will be placed in the April 9, 2013 agenda book.
- **Board Attorney’s Evaluation Process** – Mr. Koperski provided the Board with his proposed 2012-13 evaluation instrument. Mr. Koperski stated that some of the indicators have been slightly changed; and, that Dr. Ahmadi will be sending this instrument to the Board for completion according to the prescribed timeline. Mrs. Cook suggested, and Mrs. O’Shea agreed, that language be added that would require a Board Member to include a brief explanatory statement to any performance standard that they rated as a 1 or a 2.
- **Leadership Discussion:**
  - **Superintendent’s Update** –
    - 1) Shared with the Board his proposed changes to the organization chart. Dr. Grego shared that his intent is to add the following new positions to the organization: Deputy Superintendent, Associate Superintendent, Student and Community Support Services; Executive Director, Elementary Education; Executive Director, Middle Education; and, Executive Director, High Education. Dr. Grego shared those job descriptions with the Board, as well as information pertaining to positions that are being proposed to be eliminated. Discussion followed by Board Members, Dr. Grego and Dr. Ciranna.
    - 2) Stated that it has been suggested that a facilitator, specifically Dr. Corace, be scheduled for the upcoming joint meeting between the County Commission, Juvenile Welfare Board, the School Board and their respective executive directors. Board Members agreed; and, an invitation was extended to Dr. Corace which was accepted.

- 3) Provided the Board with a “Middle of the Session Report” that identifies the main education bills that have received some attention during the first four weeks of the 2013 Legislative Session.
  - 4) Provided the Board with an update on the Summer Bridge program. Dr. Grego stated that he will be meeting with church leadership in south county because he is very disappointed in the enrollment numbers in that area. Dr. Grego stated that this has been a huge undertaking and commended staff for their efforts. Mrs. Lerner stated that she will be attending the COQEBs meeting tomorrow and requested a one-page summary of the Summer Bridge opportunity that she can share with the members of that group. Dr. Grego stated that Ms. Winchester will provide the Board with that document. Both Mrs. Lerner and Mrs. Krassner stressed the need to thoroughly work this information into the neighborhoods.
  - 5) Provided the Board with updated information on Florida’s CCSS (Common Core State Standards) Timeline.
  - 6) Shared that efforts are taking place to have a job fair for teachers in June.
  - 7) Shared that there will be another Executive PASS Orientation Session this coming Thursday. Dr. Grego invited the Board Members to stop by.
  - 8) Stated that a date is being set for the IT review and that the Board will be notified of the roll-out process. Dr. Grego shared that this review will include the IT arm of the Savings for Classrooms report. Dr. Grego stated that the Board Members will receive a summary of the review and may wish to schedule a workshop discussion.
  - 9) Shared the list of schools that he plans to visit this week and that he will be speaking at the Suncoast YMCA meeting this Thursday evening.
- **Ms. Clark** – Provided a brief overview of the Board’s efforts while attending the FSBA Days in the Legislature.
  - **Mrs. Wikle** - Shared the topics that were discussed during the FSBA Board of Directors meeting, also held in Tallahassee.
  - **Mrs. Cook** – Reminded the Board Members of the following items: The FSBA survey is to be completed and returned by this Friday, in order for the results to be incorporated into the upcoming Master Board Training; Board Members, if they haven’t already, should give the cost for their Bosses Night dinner to Dianna Frazier today; and, the student recognition event is scheduled for next Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, with a reception following.
  - **Mrs. Cook** – Shared that Dr. Jeff Walker is being recognized for his contributions to and support of the arts. Mrs. Cook questioned whether the Board would like a congratulatory letter sent to him: Board Members responded affirmatively.
  - **Mrs. Cook** – Questioned whether the Board wanted to pay for an ad to be placed in the program for the upcoming NAACP banquet: Board Members responded in the negative.
  - **Mrs. Lerner** – Distributed to the Board information on the 2013 Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference being held on April 18, 2013.
  - **Mrs. Wikle** – Suggested that the Board Members find a team shirt to purchase and take to the Master Board training. Discussion followed and a decision was made to have their theme focused on the Rays.
  - **Mrs. Lerner** – Distributed a letter she had received that stressed the need for the Board to address “chronically misbehaving students” and to provide alternative classroom settings for these students. Discussion followed by Dr. Grego and Board Members. Dr. Grego will speak with the Area Superintendents; and, a workshop presentation and discussion will be scheduled.

- **Operations Manual – Mrs. Cook** questioned whether the Board was in agreement with removing Appendix A, Long Term School Board Goals from the Operations Manual: Board Members responded in the affirmative. The newly defined process for communications will be added to the Operations Manual; and, time will be allocated on a future workshop to finalize the review of this document.

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 2:45 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Secretary

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