

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – April 16, 2013
Joint Meeting: Pinellas County School Board, Juvenile Welfare Board and
Board of County Commissioners

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, participated in a joint meeting with the Juvenile Welfare Board and the Board of County Commissioners for Pinellas County on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 9:30 a.m., at the Stavros Institute, 12100 Starkey Road, Largo, Florida.

Present:

Pinellas County Schools: 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; and, Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent

Board of County Commissioners: Mr. Kenneth Welch, Chairman; Ms. Karen Seel, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Charlie Justice, Ms. Susan Latvala, Ms. Janet Long, Mr. John Morroni, Mr. Norm Roche, Members; and, Mr. Robert LaSala, County Administrator

Juvenile Welfare Board: Ms. Elise Minkoff, Chairperson; Ms. Maria Edmonds, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Brian Aungst, Jr., Mr. Bob Dillinger, Mr. Bernie McCabe, Mr. Raymond Neri and Ms. Angela Rouson, Members; and, Ms. Gay Lancaster, Executive Director. Both County Commissioner Seel and Superintendent Grego serve on the JWB and are listed under their official capacities. The following member of the JWB Board was unable to attend this session: Judge Raymond Gross

Also in attendance were Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney, and Mr. Jim Bennett, County Attorney, as well as other staff members from the three boards.

Following introductions, the following topics were discussed:

- **Purpose of this meeting and Desired Outcomes** – It was determined that the purpose of this joint meeting was to discuss current partnerships and projects both new and long standing on behalf of the students and families of Pinellas County. The desired outcomes were identified, as follows: 1) Identify one to three simple actions that will allow the group to move forward in better serving students and families – timetable for actions, resources needed and costs. 2) Identify what the three bodies are doing well in meeting the needs of students and families in Pinellas County. 3) Discuss expanded use of our schools for after-school and summer activities.

It was suggested, and agreement expressed, to include the Sheriff and municipalities in future discussions.

➤ **Current Partnerships and Projects**

- **School-Based Health Clinics –**
 - Interest was expressed in expanding these clinics to additional school campuses in other parts of the county, mid and north county, ensuring that a geographic gap does not result.
 - In identifying potential locations, it is important to look at areas of the county with greatest needs.
 - Funding of the clinics cannot be taken from operational tax dollars, therefore potential grants need to be sought and achieved.
 - Operational cost information per clinic was requested – Ms. Lancaster shared that the cost for the three existing totals \$675,000.
- **Lew Williams Project –**
 - Various agencies have joined in this initiative to prepare children ages 1 to Kindergarten and their families for school by meeting the needs of children and breaking the cycle.
 - First center will open in August at pTEC St. Petersburg and will be assisted by the students involved in the Early Childhood Training Program.
 - Potential second site is proposed for the Kings Highway facility, with possible assistance through an early childhood training program being considered by St. Petersburg College, in partnership with JWB.
- **Joint Use Agreement for Recreation**
 - County does not provide recreational programs.
 - School grounds are presently locked at the end of the school day with the exception of ten school sites in St. Petersburg where joint use agreements are in place to provide after-school access.
 - Commissioner Welch will be taking this back to his Board for further discussion to see whether they can identify some possible opportunities to create after-school access to school campuses for recreational purposes.
 - Partnerships could be sought with the various municipalities.
- **Extended School Day and Year –**
 - Summer Bridge - Close to 3000 elementary students are already enrolled in this new initiative, but anticipating a final enrollment closer to 4-5,000 as the opening date draws near. This is a six-week program which needs total community support. The day will begin at 6:30 a.m. with before care wrap around services and breakfast, followed by 5 hours dedicated to instruction and ending with additional after wrap around services from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 - Promise Time – This will be an opportunity to provide tutoring and meaningful learning for struggling students with the before- and after-care wrap around services through R'Club, YMCA, etc. This will begin one week after the close of school for summer. Tier I brings this program into 27 elementary schools, with additional sites being considered if the enrollment increases and warrants such.
 - Information was shared regarding the distribution of Netbooks to children and the efforts taking place with Brighthouse to provide internet services to needy families at a cost of under \$10.00 per month.

- Information will be provided regarding the mentoring initiative that is provided through the City of St. Petersburg, under the leadership of the Mayor.
- **Common Ground: Areas of Interest and/or Investment Which Intersect**
 - Homeless Children, Families and Adults -
 - A summary was presented by staff as to what is being provided through the Homeless Leadership Board, JWB and the School District in order to meet the needs of those children and families and, to help them transition back into independence.
 - The importance of addressing the chronically hungry was expressed; and, the efforts taken by the district to do so for students were shared.
 - The need for an accurate and up-to-date data base was stressed in order to get a true picture of the problem and for the group to effectively address needs.
 - The suggestion was made that resources from various entities should be combined; and, that one body be identified to manage the expenditures based on identified needs.
 - Quality Early Learning and School Success to Career Readiness –
 - Emphasis was placed on the need to provide meaningful, quality learning opportunities for these children, children who are at the greatest risk.
 - Members of the three boards were encouraged to make the effort to enlighten our Legislators regarding the need for programs and funding of those programs to provide true early learning opportunities for these children.
 - The take-away for this topic is that there is a lot of fragmentation in services; and, programs should not be in place unless they provide quality coordinated services for early learners.
 - Campus Health Care Access: Students, Faculty and Community –
 - Agreement was stated that there is a critical need to provide access to affordable health care in order to help children and families.
 - A gap in services in midcounty was re-emphasized.
 - Pinellas is considered ahead by having health clinics on three of our campuses.
 - Discussion turned to the possible changes to Medicaid being discussed in Tallahassee by our Legislators. All three boards discussed the need to form and take official action on a resolution to be sent to the Legislators that would voice opposition to these changes and to explain the potential implications of such changes.
- **Closing Remarks** – Mrs. Cook, on behalf of the district leadership, Mr. Welch and Mr. LaSala on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, and Ms. Elise Minkoff, on behalf of the Juvenile Welfare Board, presented their comments of appreciation for this opportunity.

No official actions were taken by any of the three boards during this workshop. An audio recording of this joint session is filed in the Board Office archives. This workshop adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary