

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

WORKSHOP – September 17, 2013

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 2:00 p.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; Dr. William Corbett, Deputy Superintendent; and, Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Lew Williams Early Childhood Education Center Update** – Dr. Bill Corbett, Mr. David Barnes and Mrs. Pam Moore presented an update on the progress of the Lew Williams Early Childhood Education Center. Mr. Jim Madden, retired administrator, was present during the presentation. Dr. Corbett, in response to a request presented by Mrs. Cook, will forward to the Board the proposed timelines presented during this discussion
- **School Improvement Plans** – Dr. Mary Beth Corace presented the information and provided the Board with an overview of the process used in developing the School Improvement Plans, as well as a sample of executive summaries submitted by a few of our schools. Dr. Corace, in response to Mrs. Cook, stated that links to the plans will be added to the executive summaries for all schools.
- **Energy Savings Proposal** – Mr. Michael Bessette shared that the district has probably reached the plateau as to what we can do to reduce the KWH usage; and, shared that he would like to go out with an RFP (Request for Proposal) for a behavior-based program. Mr. Bessette stated that most companies feel they can save us up to 20%; that they want a five-year contract; and, that the winning company will be paid out of the savings realized, no savings equates to no payment. In response to Mrs. Krassner's request, Dr. Grego stated that information will be collected from other comparable counties to see what they are doing in this area. Mr. Bessette received consensus from the Board to move forward with the RFP process.
- **Master InService Plan and Professional Development System** – Dr. Lisa Grant and Mrs. Pam Moore presented the Annual Master InService Plan and the Redeveloped Professional Development System that is part of the RTTT (Race to the Top). These items will be presented to the Board at their next Regular Meeting for their approval; and, will then be submitted to the FLDOE, to meet specified timelines.
- **District Application Handbook** – Mr. Bill Lawrence and Mrs. Judith Vigue presented to the Board a summary of the changes incorporated into the District Application Program Policy subsequent to the first reading. Discussion followed. Dr. Grego will bring this to the Board for final approval at the September 24th meeting with the proposed changes to the Jamerson/Thurgood Marshall feeder pattern remaining in place.

➤ **Leadership Discussion:**

• **Superintendent's Update –**

- Introduced Ms. Sandy Downs, Executive Director for Elementary Education, who shared information with the School Board regarding a Title I initiative to support laptops and auxiliary resources, including software for usage and security, academic software licenses and stipends for school-based coordinators. Ms. Downs provided the Board with a handout detailing the program components, measurable objectives, implementation plan and the plan for year two, contingent upon available funding.
- Shared information on the five goals contained within the document distributed to the Board, Goal Statements to Eliminate the Gap/Bridging the Gap, as follows: Goal #1- Eliminate the gap between the Pinellas County graduation rates for black students as compared to non-black students; Goal #2 – Eliminate the gap in the proficiency rates on state required assessments for black students as compared to non-black students; Goal #3 – Eliminate the gap in the accelerated participation and performance rates for black students as compared to non-black students; Goal #4 - Reduce the disparity in rates of disciplinary infractions between black and non-black students as measured by the percent within ethnicity; and Goal #5 – Reduce the number of black students being found eligible for Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities. Dr. Grego shared the action and communication plan to implement this initiative.
- Distributed to the Board his proposed evaluation instrument. Dr. Grego and Mrs. Cook requested that Board Members review the proposed instrument and contact Dr. Grego prior to this Friday noon if they have any concerns with the contents of the instrument. If no concerns are received, the evaluations should be completed and discussion held with Dr. Grego prior to the October 15th workshop. Board Members are to contact Mrs. Ward, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, to schedule a meeting with Dr. Grego to go over their completed evaluation document. The completed evaluation will be placed on the agenda of the October 15th workshop. The Board and Dr. Grego agreed that the process will begin earlier next year to allow for sufficient time for workshop discussion and completion.
- **Mrs. Wikle** – Shared information with the Board regarding the recent FSBA Board of Directors meeting.
- **Dr. Grego** – Stated staff is reviewing the process used for the Selection Committee process; that it seems to be antiquated; and, that the process will not change, specifically the Board's involvement in that process, until the review is complete. Discussion followed by Mr. Bessette and Board Members. Dr. Grego stated that all related policies will be included in this review; and, that the topic will be brought back to the October 15th workshop. Also included in that discussion will be information as to how this responsibility is performed in other districts.
- **Ms. Flowers** – Requested permission from the Board to have the JDAI committee present information to the Board for discussion during an upcoming workshop. Dr. Grego stated that he will be meeting with the committee on September 25th. Mrs. Cook suggested that the decision as to whether this topic is scheduled be made following Dr. Grego's meeting and his subsequent report to the Board.
- **Mrs. Cook** – Questioned whether the Board was in agreement to moving the joint meeting between the School Board and DMAC from Thursday, September 26th to immediately follow the Board Meeting on September 24th. This change in the schedule will be made.
- **Mrs. Cook** – Distributed the Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards Legislative Platform to the Board Members. Mrs. Cook requested that the Board review this proposed platform and report to her within the week if they have any concern with the content. Mrs.

Cook stated that the platform will be placed on the October 8th Regular Meeting agenda for the Board's formal approval.

- **Mrs. Cook** – Questioned whether the Board wished to have another Legislative Breakfast this year. The Board indicated that this should be scheduled; and, appointed the following Board Members to act as the subcommittee to plan this event: Ms. Clark, Mrs. Cook and Mrs. O'Shea. Dr. Grego offered to work with the committee.
- **Mrs. O'Shea** – Questioned whether the Board planned to have a student recognition event during first semester. There will be no such event scheduled for first semester.
- **Dr. Grego** – Stated that the Board had asked that he look at the peculiarities of the administrative salary structure; and, that staff is working with PASA (Pinellas Association of School Administrators) to discuss these issues. Dr. Grego welcomed the Board Members to contact Dr. Corbett should they have any questions on this matter.
- **Mrs. Cook** – Shared that FSBA has requested information pertaining to the total cost to Pinellas for testing that is required by the state. Dr. Grego and staff will determine that cost and forward it to FSBA.

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 5:39 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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