

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – October 15, 2013

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 9:00 a.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:

- **Budget Update** –Mr. Kevin Smith presented an update to the Board on the state budget by reviewing material contained in the required annual report, “Florida: Long-Range Financial Outlook,” submitted by the state on September 12, 2013.
- **Healthcare Issues – Update** – Dr. Ron Ciranna, Mr. Ted Pafundi and the following representatives from AON, Mr. Dick Klima, Mr. Ken Perry and Mrs. Leslie Viens, presented an overview of the upcoming changes in healthcare and the impact that will have or not have on our employees. Also presented to the Board was an overview of the 2014 insurance options that are being offered to the Pinellas County Schools employees and the 2018, 2020 and 2022 High Cost Plan Excise Tax Projections. Mr. Pafundi shared that meetings have been scheduled for various times and locations throughout the district in order to share information with employees regarding the changes coming forward in the various insurance plans. Mrs. Lerner requested data on those most vulnerable that will be impacted by these changes in healthcare. Mr. Perry stated he will get that information for the Board. Mr. Klima stated that, with regards to modeling, they will be coming back to the Board with any plan design changes that need to be made in order to avoid the “Cadillac taxes.” Mr. Pafundi shared that the district will need to look at our substitutes who are working over 30 hours per week. Mrs. Lerner requested that the issue of long-term substitutes also be reviewed by this team. Dr. Grego stated that as we move forward that it is important that the Board be continually updated at workshops.
- **Legislative Priorities –**
 - Pinellas Program - Mr. Steve Swartzel, retiree and Dr. Grego’s selection for the lead consultant responsible for providing professional legislative auditing services to the district, joined the table to present an overview of the Pinellas County Schools 2014 Legislative Program. Mr. Swartzel stated that the Board will receive for their action the product finalized through this workshop. Mrs. Wikle, referring to the third bullet under A. Funding Issues, questioned whether there is a national average for support personnel salaries. Mr. Swartzel will look into that. Mrs. Wikle stated that she has written a point that she wishes to be added to the funding area regarding career/technical courses. Mrs. Cook requested that Mrs. Wikle forward that to Mr. Swartzel; and, stated that her suggestion can then be

voted up or down at the December meeting for inclusion into the program. Dr. Grego suggested that Mrs. Wikle's suggestion be placed between numbers 8 and 9 under funding. Mrs. Lerner requested that the district's website be updated to include Mr. Swartzel's legislative review following the conclusion of the last legislative session and that this site be updated annually in a timely fashion. Mrs. Cook requested that the following wording be added to #9 under Policy: "It must be revisited by the 2014 Legislature **following the realization of the impact on districts and teachers.**" Mr. Swartzel will draft language to meet that intent. Dr. Grego shared some of the comments that he recently presented to the House Appropriations Committee regarding dual enrollment. Mrs. Cook requested that the wording, C. "Local Control" be changed to read, "Constitutional Authority/Governance." Mrs. Cook also requested that wording be appropriately added to indicate that the district is to be the one who writes contracts. Mr. Koperski stated that he will work with Mr. Swartzel to accomplish this. Mrs. Lerner requested that the Board receive updates during session specific to the Pinellas platform. All agreed that this will be accomplished.

- **FSBA Program** – Mrs. Cook stated that the 2014 FSBA Proposed Legislative Platform was distributed to the Board Members prior to this meeting to allow them an opportunity to review the contents; and, that the program will be discussed on October 24th by the FSBA Legislative Committee. Mrs. Lerner, referring to A-7, questioned whether there had been any discussion as to waiting till teachers are only graded on students they teach. Mrs. Krassner questioned whether any item speaks to minimizing the number of tests administered to students. Dr. Grego suggested that this direction may be achieved through the language contained in C-1. Mrs. Lerner suggested that the efforts on the FSBA program replicate those proposed by FADSS (Florida Association of District School Superintendents) in order to have the most emphasis placed on the priorities. Mrs. Cook invited Board Members to forward to her any suggestions that they would like her to take, on their behalf, to the October 24th FSBA Legislative Committee meeting.
- **Job Descriptions and Organization Chart Revisions** – Dr. Bill Corbett presented the proposed organization charts and job descriptions for two departments within the Teaching and Learning division. Mrs. Lerner expressed her concern with the requirement of three years of teaching experience in a related vocational program for the Apprenticeships and Work-Based Learning Specialist. Mrs. Lerner stated that this requirement may eliminate some qualified candidates and requested that it be more open. Dr. Grego stated that he was O.K. with Mrs. Lerner's request.
- **Superintendent's Evaluation** – Dr. Grego shared that he was very encouraged by the results of the Board's evaluation of him; and, stated that the results represent all who are working together. Dr. Grego stated that he looks forward to many more years making this school district the best. Mr. Koperski clarified that with both the Board and Dr. Grego waiving the contractual provision that the results of the evaluation require a formal acceptance by the Board, no further formal action will be needed this year. Dr. Grego and Mrs. Cook, with the assistance of Mr. Koperski, will review Dr. Grego's contract as it relates to the evaluation process and its specified timeline to determine if any change needs to be made.

- **Pinellas Pathways to Graduation** – Ms. Rita Vasquez and Mrs. Pam Moore presented to the Board an update on the programs-of-study contained in the Pathways to Graduation plan for the Advanced Scholar Pathway, the College Pathway and the Technical/College Pathway. The Pathways draft brochure was provided to the Board Members for their review and information. Mrs. Wickle requested that the PCS symbol presently located on the back be moved to the front page of the brochure. Ms. Flowers suggested that the word, Pinellas, be added to Advanced Scholar Pathway in the brochure to read, Pinellas Advanced Scholar Pathway. Agreement was indicated. Mrs. Lerner stressed the need to provide counselors adequate assistance so that they have sufficient time to truly counsel the students. Mrs. O'Shea requested that the word, Standard, be added to the bottom of the "seal" page to read, Standard High School Graduation Requirements. Agreement was indicated. Dr. Grego stressed that students will have the opportunity to change their pathway program at any time.
- **Administrative Salary Schedule – Proposed Changes** - Dr. Bill Corbett presented the proposed changes for the PASA Administrative/PTS Salary schedules. Mrs. Lerner requested that the full implementation take place over five years, rather than the proposed eleven years. Ms. Flowers voiced her agreement with Mrs. Lerner's request. Dr. Grego stated that the implementation is dependent upon the revenue received from the state. Discussion followed by the Board Members. Dr. Grego stated that he has received overwhelming support from the administrators on this proposed salary schedule.
- **FACTS AT A GLANCE** – Ms. Donna Winchester presented a brief overview of the newly designed and finalized FACTS AT A GLANCE brochure. A link to the contents of the brochure will be sent to the realtors association. Ms. Winchester also shared the newly designed logo with the Board. These new logos will be available through the district's website under the Central Printing link.
- **Modification to Selection Process** - Mr. Bessette and Mr. Koperski presented the proposed Amendment to Policy 6330 – Acquisition of Professional Architectural, Engineering, Landscape Architectural, or Land Surveying Services, and Construction Managers at Risk. This item will be placed on the October 22, 2013 Board agenda for first reading. Mrs. Lerner stated that, as one Board Member, she would like to continue being able to attend these meetings as an observer only. The meetings will be placed on the Board Members' calendar through the Board Office to ensure that not more than one Board Member attends any one selection and/or presentation meeting. Discussion followed by Board Members. Mr. Bessette, upon the request of Dr. Grego, provided the Board with an update on the property formerly referred to as the Highpoint Bus Compound. Mr. Bessette shared a request and proposed drawing submitted by Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri to convert this property into a driving range to be used by the Sheriff's staff in training deputies, as well as school district staff in training bus drivers. Mr. Bessette stated that the district will continue to own this property; and, that a lease payment will be made to the district by the Sheriff Office. Ms. Flowers questioned whether the district will be required to provide proper notice to the homeowners who appear to reside within 200' of the property line. Mr. Bessette will research this concern. Consensus was provided to Dr. Grego and Mr. Bessette to proceed with this proposal and bring a formal agreement to the Board at a future meeting for their approval.

- **Proposed Board Meeting and Workshop Schedule -** Dr. Grego and Mrs. Cook presented the draft of the proposed Board meeting and workshop dates. The meeting dates will be approved at the Board's organization meeting on November 12th.

- **Leadership Discussion:**

- **Superintendent's Update –**

- Shared that all but two of this year's graduation ceremonies will be held inside and commended the efforts of Lori Matway in achieving this schedule. Dr. Grego stated that the proposed meeting schedule includes a Board meeting on June 3rd which is the first day of graduations. Dr. Grego will report back to the Board should the meeting and graduations that day cause a conflict.
 - Shared that he visited the SPC Epicenter site where the upcoming Bridging the Gap summit will be held on Thursday, October 24th beginning at 7:30 a.m. Mrs. Cook suggested that we seek out students who have dropped out of our schools and invite them to become part of these ongoing discussions.
 - Shared that fliers are being sent to parents of students who will be involved in the classroom laptop use initiative. Dr. Grego stated that some of the laptops have been delivered; and, stated that he will keep the Board updated on this program.
 - Requested that Ms. Winchester update the Board on the no-texting-while-driving campaign. Ms. Winchester and Mr. Wally Patanow shared information and the one-minute Public Service Announcement that will be used to help inform students of the new law. Ms. Winchester also shared with the Board a video produced by ABC National News that features our district. Ms. Winchester shared that ABC World News with Diane Sawyer contacted our communications office to express their interest in using a snippet from the Pinellas County classroom piece in a promotion that was being produced for the local ABC affiliate, WFTS-Chann31 28. This piece was filmed at Sandy Lane Elementary School.
 - Shared that he had received a letter from the Governor requesting that we finalize our contract negotiations with our teachers. Dr. Grego stated that Melanie Para has sent corrected information to the Governor's Press Office and the Department of Education to share that the district settled with the teachers back in September.
 - **Ms. Flowers** – Clarified her request to have a workshop discussion scheduled regarding the flood insurance issue and its potential impact on some of our families and schools. Ms. Flowers agreed with Mrs. Cook's suggestion that staff provide the Board with this information and then a determination made as to whether or not Ms. Flowers continues to want this topic added as a future workshop discussion.
 - **Mrs. Lerner** – Shared with the Board information on the upcoming S.T.A.R.T. (Students Talking And Resolving Trouble) Conference, October 17th at Stavros Institute.
 - **Mrs. Lerner** – Shared that she has been emailing with Linda Osmundson, CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse), regarding student arrest data. Mrs. Lerner requested that the Board receive current information regarding the number of student arrests specific to school-based offenses. Dr. Grego stated that he has asked Mr. Bessette to identify a consistent way of tracking the various types of arrests of students. Mr. Bessette shared briefly on the efforts being made in this area by district staff, our Chief of Schools Police and local judges, efforts to criminalize fewer offenses that take place on our campuses and an effort to look at alternative penalties. Dr. Grego stated that this is part of the Strategic Plan; and, that he will keep the Board updated. Mrs. Lerner requested that this update just provided be sent in writing to the Board. Ms. Flowers stated that the JDAI committee wants to be involved and wishes to share data with the district.
 - **Mrs. Lerner** - Stated that another thing that was discussed today was that of teachers who are serving as long-term substitutes. Mrs. Lerner shared that she recently heard of someone

who had been a long-term substitute for a full year; and, questioned whether such individuals, if they demonstrate good skills, should be placed on a contract. Dr. Grego stated that this can be looked into.

- **Ms. Clark** – Provided the Board with a brief update from the Legislative Subcommittee of the Board (Ms. Clark, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. O'Shea) who met during today's lunch period. Ms. Clark stated that the Legislative Breakfast is tentatively scheduled for November 20th; and, that Mrs. O'Shea will be updating the invitation list. Mrs. Cook stated that the proposed legislative platform for 2014 will be coming to the Board for approval at the November 12th meeting.
- **Mrs. Wikle** – Invited the Board Members to the NOPE (Narcotics Overdose Prevention & Education) Candlelight Vigil, October 24th at 7:00 p.m., Largo Central Park.

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 3:00 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

/db

W13Oct15