

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
Bridging the Gap Summit – October 24, 2013

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, in combination with St. Petersburg College conducted a workshop/summit on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 8:15 a.m., in the SPC EpiCenter Collaborative Labs, 13805 58th Street N.-Clearwater, FL.

Present: Board Members - Mrs. Peggy L. O'Shea, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Rene Flowers, Mrs. Terry Krassner, Mrs. Linda S. Lerner; Superintendent Dr. Michael Grego; and, selected district administrators, students and community partners.

Topic for discussion:

**Bridging the Gap- Building the 5-year Strategic Vision and
1-year Action Plan to Bridge the Gap in Pinellas County Schools**

Dr. Law, President of SPC, Mrs. O'Shea and Dr. Grego provided opening comments.

Dr. Grego suggested that the following be the focus for today's summit:

1. Eliminate the gap between the Pinellas County graduation rates for black students as compared to non-black students.
2. Eliminate the gap between Pinellas County's proficiency rates on state required assessments for black students as compared to non-black students.
3. Eliminate the gap between the Pinellas County accelerated participation and performance rates for black and non-black students as measured by the percent within ethnicity.
4. Reduce the disparity in rates of disciplinary infractions between black and non-black students as measured by the percent within ethnicity.
5. Reduce the number of black students being found eligible for emotional/behavioral disabilities.

Dr. Grego encouraged the participants to have conversations that were open, honest, respectful and part of the solution, not a criticism; and, to move towards the goal that students are expected to take ownership of their education.

Ms. Andrea Henning, Executive Director, Collaborative Labs, St. Petersburg College, led the participants who were divided into twelve teams for two exercises:

1. Design a magazine cover for 2019 that reflects the main subject, The Achievement Gap; and,
2. Review the five 2014 goals and action items under each of those goals, modify if needed, to mobilize and achieve the ideal future in 2019.

Upon the various teams reporting back to the group, the common themes for 2019 were identified, as follows: Culture, Community, Relationships, Mentors, High Expectations, Accountability, All Students, Beyond High School and Partnerships

In closing, Dr. Grego thanked all for their participation; and, expressed his amazement in the consistency with the identified top priorities. Dr. Grego thanked the students for their involvement and their desire to take responsibility for their own learning. Dr. Grego also thanked Ms. Lori Matway, Associate Superintendent for Student and Community Services, and her staff, as well as those from St. Petersburg College for their organization of this event.

This session ended at 12:30 p.m. with Mr. Alex Harris, Ms. Rene Flowers, Ms. Patricia Wright and Mr. Dywayne Hinds leading the group in singing the song, Lean On Me.

No official actions were taken by the Board at this workshop. A real-time record was provided by the SPC Collaborative Labs.

Chairperson

Secretary

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