

## SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – November 20, 2013

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, November 20, 2013 at 10:00 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. Linda S. Lerner, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Janet R. Clark, Ms. Rene Flowers, Mrs. Terry Krassner, Mrs. Peggy L. O'Shea, 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:

- **Employee Wellness Program and Employee Assistance Plan - Report –** Mr. Ted Pafundi, Ms. Christina Kempf and Mrs. April Paul presented an update to the Board on the Employee Wellness Program and the Employee Assistance Plan (EAP). Board Members were provided with a folder of supporting documents.
- **Review of Policies Related to the Use of Tobacco Products –** Mr. David Koperski and Dr. Mary Beth Corace presented revisions to Policy 5500.08, page 2 and Policy 7434 that speak to the possession of nicotine patches and gum, in light of pending Florida legislation that may criminalize such possession by minors. Administration will move forward with bringing these policy revisions to the Board at their December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting for final approval.
- **Administrative and Operation Efficiencies –**
  - Mr. Michael Bessette and Deborah Forster presented an update on the following three pieces of district-owned properties: 1) *Vacant land across the street from Palm Harbor University High School* – Board Members provided consensus to move forward with offering a long-term lease to Nationwide Title Company, allowing this company to improve the property and, at the same time, providing an income to Palm Harbor University High; 2) *74<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School and Friendship Baptist Church* – Board Members provided consensus to move forward with acquiring an appraisal on the portion of property that the church would like to sell to the district and that is needed by the school. Mr. Bessette and his team will bring back to the Board the appraisal and offer from the church; and, 3) *Women's Club offer to Melrose Elementary School* – Board Members requested that a visit for them to the property be scheduled; and, provided consensus to move forward with acquiring an appraisal of this property and structure.
  - Mr. Bessette updated the Board pertaining to administrative and operation efficiencies as it relates to plant operations. Mr. Bessette shared that a formula has been applied to each individual facility which provides the exact number of hours to do the tasks needed for that specific site. Mr. Bessette shared that sometimes he is finding that some facilities are under-staffed well others are over-staffed; and, that as this effort to reevaluate staffing continues, changes can be made through open units or attrition with projected savings of \$650-750,000 without negatively impacting any school.

- **CTAE - Organization** – Mr. David Barnes thanked the Board for approving the three new positions for his department, especially the Apprenticeship position that he hopes to have filled by the first of the year. Mr. Barnes stated that he had shared with Dr. Grego that he will be leaving the district in approximately a year; and, suggested that if Dr. Grego and the Board were to place the two new director positions on hold, the advertisement for his replacement could take place and subsequently the hiring of that individual so that an appropriate period of shadowing Mr. Barnes could take place. Discussion followed by Board Members, Dr. Grego and Mr. Barnes. Consensus was provided by the Board to allow the proposed plan to move forward.

*At this time, the Board and Dr. Grego moved to the Conference Hall to meet with the members of the Students Rights and Responsibilities Committee.*

*The workshop resumed at 1:16 p.m.*

- **School Choice** – Mr. Bill Lawrence, Ms. Amie Hornbaker, Dr. Susan Keller and Mr. Ward Kennedy provided an update to the Board on the district's various application programs and annual enrollment process for these programs. Dr. Grego stated that staff will continue to provide the Board with updates following the January 2014 enrollment period. The Board Members were provided with printed supporting documents, including copies of the postcards to be mailed to families to enlighten families on the enrollment procedures for the following programs: Azalea Middle School Engineering Gateway to Technology Program; East Lake Middle Grades Engineering Gateway to Technology Program; John Hopkins Middle School Center for the Arts, Journalism & Multimedia; Pinellas Park Middle School Cambridge Pre-Advanced International Certificate of Education; and, Tarpon Springs Middle School Pre-Cambridge and Leadership Conservatory for the Arts. Mrs. Cook requested that the Board receive more information on what is being proposed for Bay Point Middle School.
- **Job Descriptions** – Dr. Bill Corbett presented a revised organization chart for Operational Services; and, shared that it includes the addition of a new Director's position. Dr. Grego agreed to provide the Board with a comparison of responsibilities of the Chief of Schools Police position and that of the new Director for Emergency Management, Safety and Security position; and, to provide the Board with further information to support the rationale for adding this new director position.
- **Strategic Plan Update / Update on Achievement Gap Plan** – Dr. Grego and Dr. Mary Beth Corace presented an update on the 2013-14 District Strategic Plan Goals. Ms. Lori Matway presented an update on the Bridging the Gap Strategic Plan following the receipt of the input provided through the recent Education Summit.
- **Student Progression Plan** - Mrs. Pam Moore, Mrs. Rita Vasquez and Ms. Brook Paire presented the recommended updates to the Student Progression Plan and related policies.
- **Leadership Discussion:**
  - **Superintendent's Update** –
    - Shared that the Legislative Breakfast earlier this morning was a good event.
    - Distributed to the Board members printed material marked "DRAFT – FOR DISCUSSION ONLY" on the following two topics: Dual Enrollment and Florida's Current Accountability System. Dr. Grego requested that the Board read through these documents. Mrs. Cook

questioned when these documents would no longer be considered draft. Dr. Grego responded that possibly following the December meeting of superintendents.

- **Mrs. Cook** – Prior to the earlier break, requested direction from the Board to finalize the next Master Board Training session and topic. The Board and Dr. Grego agreed to schedule the training for March 11, 2014; and, that the topic will be, Surviving and Thriving in a Learning Organization.
- **Mrs. Lerner** – Requested that the Board consider scheduling recognition at an evening Board meeting of the many exchange students that are brought into Pinellas schools through local Rotary clubs. Discussion followed by the Board; and, a subcommittee of Mrs. Lerner, Mrs. Wikle, Ms. Clark and Mrs. Krassner was formed to formulate a proposal for this recognition.
- **Mrs. Lerner** – Shared information on the What's Up Doc series that previous superintendents conducted with students and questioned whether this Board and Superintendent wanted to return to that format. Dr. Grego stated that he enjoys the meetings that he personally has with Student Rights & Responsibilities twice a year; but, that he will discuss the options with Mr. Bob Poth to come up with a proposal.
- **Mrs. Wikle** - Shared that the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) is proposing some changes in their policies. Mrs. Wikle stated that Mr. Nick Grasso is staying on top of the discussion and will incorporate any changes into our district's operation. Mrs. Wikle invited Board Members to send to her any of their comments or input.
- **Mrs. O'Shea** – Stated that the Legislative Subcommittee of the Board received a request from Ms. Winchester to share the Legislative Breakfast invitee list with her department. This will be provided.
- **Ms. Clark** - Stated that the Legislative Breakfast Subcommittee consisted of three Board Members, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. O'Shea and Ms. Clark; but, that Mrs. O'Shea ended up having to do a good portion of the tasks. Ms. Clark and Mrs. Cook presented a plant to Mrs. O'Shea in appreciation of her work.
- **Mrs. Krassner** – Suggested that the Board consider moving the speakers on general topics that now speak to the Board 30 minutes prior to any given meeting to follow the adjournment of their meetings. Mrs. Krassner shared her concern that students and others must sit through those comments that are not always respectful and do not speak to the business contained in the agenda. Discussion followed. Dr. Grego and Mrs. Cook will look into how other districts handle this; and, will bring this information back to the Board for further discussion at the December workshop. Any changes resulting from this discussion will be incorporated into the related policy by Dr. Mary Beth Corace and Mr. Koperski.

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 4:22 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Secretary

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