

**SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**WORKSHOP – January 19, 2016**

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Largo, Florida.

Present: Mrs. Peggy L. O’Shea, Chairperson; Mrs. Terry Krassner, Vice-Chairperson; Ms. Janet Clark, Mrs. Carol J. Cook, Ms. Rene Flowers, Mrs. Linda Lerner, Dr. Ken Peluso, Members; Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent, Dr. William Corbett, Deputy Superintendent, and Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

During the review of the agenda, Dr. Grego stated that Dr. Bill Corbett will review attendance boundaries for an area in the county during the Real Estate/Facility topic.

Late arrival: Mrs. Lerner arrived at 9:22 a.m.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Recess Resolution:** Ms. Pam Moore, associate superintendent, teaching and learning services; Ms. Sandy Downes, executive director, elementary education; and Dr. Shana Rafalski, executive director, elementary education, were on hand to discuss how recess is currently being addressed. *The Pinellas County Public Schools Resolution for Daily Physical Activity*-draft document-was shared with the Board. Ms. Moore stated that the time slot for recess and space to hold it are two challenges faced by schools. Mr. Art O’Hara, Executive Director, of R’ Club, suggested that recess could follow the student’s scheduled lunch period and be covered by R’ Club staff. R’ Club currently has before- and after-care programs at twenty-seven schools. Ms. Downes shared that staffing recess can be a challenge. Mrs. O’Shea asked about the schools that currently provide recess; how are they working it out? Ms. Moore said it is managed by physical education teachers, sometimes in the cafeteria or covered walkways. Dr. Peluso said that we need to take steps to do more to add recess. Ms. Downes shared that some videos are being used that lead activity. Ms. Flowers shared the concern regarding inconsistencies in how recess is being done; we need to think about consistency. Mrs. Krassner asked about the state requirements. Ms. Moore said the state requires 150 minutes of physical activity within one week, which is monitored by the state. She added that currently about 80% of our elementary schools have recess. The board agreed that the resolution could be presented at the February 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Dr. Grego thanked Mr. O’Hara for his participation in the workshop.
- **Governor’s Budget Update/Legislative Update:** Mr. Kevin Smith, associate superintendent, finance and business services, reviewed two documents: *Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) 2016-17 Governor’s Recommended Calculation* and *2016 Legislative Update: Week One*. Mr. Smith said the FEFP proposed funding increase is not substantial. The Governor’s proposed increase of 158.56 in total potential projected unweighted FTE students; the increase in total potential funding is \$13,873,781. One factor to remember is that the Governor recommends using \$86,799,647 in new revenue to support a new FEFP categorical for the lowest 300 elementary schools. From this policy change the district would realize \$4,568,315; however, if the legislature does not approve and place this revenue in the base budget, our district would increase its base revenue, but would have \$1,398,614 less in total funding. The Governor’s proposal increases Safe Schools funding; but, because of the

increase in base funding, the impact of the crime index in the formula, our district would receive \$6,405 less funding despite the statewide increase of \$10,000,000. Safe Schools allocation is per county, not per student. He also shared that there is no increase in Workforce Development funds for the district. If the state budget reduces taxes, more funds from the required local effort would be necessary. There is also much concern and attention focused on the fact that most of the increase in funding comes from increased revenue from property taxes. Ms. Flowers asked if the funds for the 300 Lowest Performing Schools must be spent in specific ways; Mr. Smith said they are earmarked for specific use. Mr. Smith went on to review legislative issues. He stated that there is not much budget discussion as it is too early in the session. Dr. Grego is watching the National Test Alternatives to the State FSA Tests discussed by the Senate Education Committee. He receives legislative updates from Joy Frank, FADSS, and Ruth Melton, FSBA. Dr. Grego will keep the board informed.

- **Health Care Update-Transparency Tools:** Mr. Ted Pafundi, director, risk management and Ann Gebhard, AON representative, reviewed the *Transparency and Decision Tools* document. Ms. Gebhard shared that when consumers are able to use transparency tools, they can sort out the cost of their healthcare. At this time there is no transparency except that non-hospital services are less expensive than services at hospital settings. With the majority of employees, 75-80%, using insurance plans that have deductibles or co-insurance; cost has become a factor. Our school board is committed to a higher quality of service and the district does not want to promote lowest cost over quality of service, but transparency tools will help us be better consumers. Healthcare is a free market system, but complicated to navigate. Ms. Gebhard cited some cost variations in health care as shown on the charts. There are several transparency tool providers: Humana, Healthcare Bluebook, Advance Medical, Compass, and Vitals. There is a cost for these tools ranging from \$1.35-4.00 per month per employee; which at the high end would be \$500,000. per year. Ms. Flowers asked since this is being discussed following negotiations; how would this be paid. Dr. Corbett stated that the thinking is it would be a significant cost savings in claims. Mr. Pafundi said there are some funds in house to cover it and while we determine if it works; he believes the infrastructure is within the district to make it work. Mrs. Lerner asked that by Humana negotiating the price isn't that transparency? Ms. Gebhard shared that Humana will not publish that information because they must protect their negotiations. She continued by saying they are recommending Healthcare Blue Book. Mrs. Lerner asked if other school districts are utilizing these tools. Ms. Gebhard stated that they will gather more information and update the Board.
- **Educational Alternative Services (EAS) Pathways Update:** Dr. Barbara Hires, area superintendent and Michelle Topping, director, educational alternative services, reviewed the Power Point presentation *Educational Alternative Services Lighting the Way to Success*. Educational alternative settings are offered through behavior programs, career centers, and other contracted/alternative programs. Mrs. Lerner noted that Clearwater Intermediate was not listed; it should be under alternative programs. Career centers offer career technical courses, industry certifications and dual enrollment through Pinellas Technical College. Career centers are currently serving over 1,250 students. Career center students may participate in sports at their zoned school, but must have a 2.0 gpa and provide their own transportation. Pinellas Secondary, a behavioral program, will serve 90 students this semester. The district is currently working on streamlining the process for enrollment. The principals from Pinellas Gulfcoast, Lealman Innovation Academy, Bayside High, and Pinellas Secondary were in attendance to share some good news from their schools.

- Dr. Bonnie Solinsky, principal, Pinellas Gulfcoast Academy, shared that ten students graduated at the end of December. Five of her students got caught up with their credits and returned to their zoned schools and two students are dual enrolled at St. Petersburg College. Also, she hired a bi-lingual assistant.
- Ms. Connisheia Matthews, principal, Lealman Innovation Academy, shared that all 57 students in her 5.5 grade were recently promoted to 6<sup>th</sup> grade and by end of year she plans to have them complete 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Eighty-nine of her students earned a culinary arts certificate. She has made arrangements with St. Petersburg College and a Walmart in mid-town to hold parent meetings to make them more accessible to families. She added an additional behavior specialist to her staff. She shared that her students are so excited about what is happening at the school that they are recruiting other students.
- Mr. Darren Hammond, principal, Pinellas Secondary, stated that they actively work on middle school credit recovery. Upon arrival at the school, students review their transcripts with a guidance counselor, so they can plan to move forward with their academics. He has also added electives: Shop, Art, Computer Technology and Business Education. Parent meetings are held at other locations and he is actively working on attendance concerns. Ms. Flowers asked if we can look at the possibility of students staying on at Pinellas Secondary if they are being successful there and change the image of the school, have students graduate from the program. Mrs. Lerner added that she is in favor of small learning environments for students with behavior concerns and perhaps a separate program could be developed at the school.
- Ms. Patti Fuller, principal, Bayside High, stated that the number of students in 8.5 have diminished. Her school graduated thirteen students in December; the school can graduate students as they complete their credits. She has made arrangements for a summer session that tie in with working for Habitat for Humanity. The Hyatt Hotels reservation software program is taught at the school. Volleyball and ping pong are offered at the school. About 20% of her enrollment is from parents coming in because they have heard about the program.

Ms. Flowers asked for some data from the many EAS programs to share with the community to dispel myths and share the success of these programs. Dr. Grego stated that EAS programs have helped raise the district's graduation rates.

- **Discipline Update:** Ms. Patricia Wright, area superintendent, stated that Goal 3 of the District Strategic Plan is where the discipline data is noted. She said that she and Mr. Bob Poth, area superintendent, attended the Discipline Summit in Washington, D.C. This was an invitation only event. Stakeholders from across the nation participated in brainstorming sessions to exchange ideas on how to improve behavior in schools. In our district, each school has a behavior plan that is reviewed semi-annually, February and September. In spring 2015, our Student Code of Conduct was reviewed. Twenty-nine of our schools conducted Positive Behavior Support (PBS) training. Practices have been revised and students will not be suspended for more than ten days during a semester without the consent of the area superintendent. At the monthly operational meetings, consequences for behaviors are discussed and difficult conversations encouraged to work toward better understanding of student behavior to create more awareness. Mr. Bob Poth shared that a community meeting was held to discuss discipline issues and the impact on academics; the Juvenile Detention Center offers credit recovery. A change was made to allow suspended students to receive full credit for make-up work done during their suspension. It is also recommended to use the On Campus Intervention Program (OCIP) instead of out-of-school suspension practice.

The district is looking at new ways of managing in-school suspension, to include a qualified instructor. Peer mediation is another tool. Ms. Flowers shared that there needs to be a conversation with law enforcement regarding methods of interviewing students to ensure their rights are not violated. Mr. Poth shared that disorderly conduct arrests will end and civil citations will be issued. He said that the current practices are not changing behaviors; we need to look at the goal of the consequence. Mr. Ward Kennedy, area superintendent, stated that there has been an 18% reduction in referrals. Mrs. Cook asked about behaviors that previously warranted an out-of-school suspension, what are the consequences. Ms. Wright stated that the school wide behavior plan addresses these issues and states the consequence option. Dr. Grego shared that policy changes will be reflected in the Code of Student Conduct and will be coming before the board. Chief Stelljes, Schools Police, meets monthly with our municipalities' law enforcement, to continue the dialogue. Dr. Grego said that training assistant principals is critical because they typically handle discipline issues at the school level and area superintendents own the behavior issue overall.

- **School Safety/Security Update:** Mr. Clint Herbic, associate superintendent, operational services, spoke to the topic of safety. He stated that you cannot practice for every safety issue but you can be prepared. He is working to prepare prospective assistant principals so they will be trained on day one of the new job. Last year he compiled a self-assessment for principals and assistant principals with 211 indicators and is currently reviewing the results. Schools conduct practice drills for fire, weather and lockouts. Principals will be trained to train staff. School campuses have all been fenced. He is currently working on securing the front office of each school. He is working with the technology and information systems (TIS) department to have the ability to lockdown a facility from a remote location. Dr. Peluso clarified with Mr. Herbic that local law enforcement is involved in developing these processes. Mr. Herbic shared that if a lockdown occurs at a school, someone from Schools Police goes to the site to review what occurred and how it was handled. On Friday, January 22, a briefing is being held for all administration building employees, Workplace Safety in Today's World; there will be a morning and afternoon session.
- **Real Estate/Facility:** Mr. Clint Herbic, associate superintendent, operational services, shared that he has five property/facility issues to review with the board.
  1. North County Maintenance Yard: Currently there is a Pinellas County Utilities maintenance yard in Tarpon Springs; the county is not utilizing the yard to its potential. It has been negotiated that they will allow PCS to share the use of this yard through a joint-use agreement. The district will invest less than \$3,000.00 to install some security features. There is office space in one of the buildings with the potential to move forty district employees to work from this location. Use of this facility is scheduled to begin in summer 2016.
  2. Gulf Coast Bird Rescue: There is an easement on 94<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seminole, near the Career Academies of Seminole. The owner of the bird rescue wants this small parcel of land to build an aviary hospital and educational building. An agreement will be drafted if it is agreed that the land is to be used for an educational building. This will tie in with the veterinary assisting program at Career Academies of Seminole.
  3. Clearview Avenue Elementary: This site (3815 43<sup>rd</sup> Street N., St. Petersburg) was to be leased by the Dream Center, but they are having difficulty securing all the financing for a facility this large. It is being proposed that two buildings on the site could be used for Pinellas Technical College adult education program. Mr. Mark Hunt, executive director, career,

technical, and adult education, has toured the site and is in support of this idea. The location is very accessible. The site is still classified as a school and the existing cafeteria would be renovated to be used by culinary students. An existing building that is in poor condition would be razed; and a parking lot would be placed there. Renovation cost, including the kitchen renovation, is estimated at one million dollars. Mrs. O'Shea clarified that it is in the Lealman area. Pastor Bill Lossaso, with the Dream Center, is in agreement and has shared that a smaller property lease is financially attainable for them. Dr. Grego said funds for this project will come from the CTAE department because it will house an adult-education program.

4. Melrose Elementary: Dr. Grego stated that this property needs to be upgraded and that options needed to be discussed. Mr. Herbic said the school sits on 5.9 acres which makes rebuilding the school a challenge; it was built in 1962. Since the 1970's there have been portable buildings on the site. Within five years the school will need a new roof and within ten years it will need new windows. The district will need to determine if the school is worth investing that much capital to remodel. The City of St. Petersburg has some HUD owned property on 22<sup>nd</sup> street, and have asked the district for a formal letter of interest. After some discussion, it was decided that the 22<sup>nd</sup> street location is problematic for students and there is no interest in building on that site. Ms. Flowers shared some background on the Melrose Elementary site. She said there is a Women's Club building that is old and in poor condition and that according to an environmental report could be razed. Mr. Herbic said that the building was appraised for \$150,000.00 at one time; Ms. Flowers said that the area has changed and that the property may be assessed for less now. Mrs. Cook suggested the possibility of having a portable city on the site during the construction. Mr. Herbic believes they could rebuild with minimum impact on the school population. Mrs. O'Shea stated that we need to look at adding academic programs and reinventing the model for the neighborhood; not all attractors will work and needs that are currently not being met need to be considered. She suggested a conversation with the Melrose community. Dr. Grego said we need to survey parents, offer some options, and open the discussion to include the business community. Ms. Flowers said to include the Women's Club in the conversation and said many in the community are alumni.
5. Tarpon Springs pool: The Tarpon Springs City Commission has approved \$1.5 million to move forward with the pool project.

Mrs. Krassner thanked Mr. Herbic for the Spruce Up Campaign. She has seen a lot of improvement to facilities that have been chosen for this project.

- **Attendance Boundaries:** Dr. Bill Corbett reviewed handouts on a small portion of the East Lake Woodlands area that is currently zoned for Forest Lakes Elementary. There are twelve homes that would be affected. It was shared that there is some difficulty with school buses navigating the area. Dr. Corbett proposed that it be rezoned for Cypress Woods Elementary. Mrs. O'Shea said that taking twelve homes and changing their attendance area would not be good for the neighborhood to single out this one small area and have those children attend another school.
- **Job Descriptions:** Dr. Ron Ciranna, assistant superintendent, human resource services reviewed the following job descriptions: *Manager, Budget, FTE & Cost Reporting; Senior Financial Reporting Analyst; General Manager, Planning; and Senior Professional Development Coordinator*. There were no questions or objections to these changes.

➤ **Leadership Discussion:**

- **Dr. Grego:** He asked school board members if there was agreement with the proposed school board workshop dates. There was agreement and the dates are to be posted on the district website. He shared that Garrison-Jones Elementary is celebrating 25 years on February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm; the event will be placed on the board calendar. Michael Marcotte, an eighth grade student at Clearwater Fundamental achieved a perfect SAT score. Starting Right Now, located at 4600 Haines Road, is having a ribbon cutting on Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 12:30-3:30 pm. They are asking for volunteers to assist in sprucing up the property at this time as well; this would be a good opportunity for students who need volunteer hours. Starting Right Now is as a residential program for unaccompanied youth. He added that this weekend he will be attending the NSBA Equity Symposium in Washington, D.C. (On Thursday, 1/21/16 the symposium was cancelled due to weather.)
- **Mrs. O'Shea:** She shared that she will be attending the Evening of Excellence on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> and the FSBA Day in the Legislature, February 3-5, in Tallahassee.
- **Mrs. Lerner:** She said that she wanted to share a concern with the Resolution for Daily Physical Activity. She supports the idea, but does not feel it appropriate for the board to bring forward. She believes it is not a good precedent and not appropriate for the board. Dr. Grego said that it is an advocacy piece, a means of partnering with the community. Mrs. Cook said she understands Mrs. Lerner's point. She asked if this rises to the level of other resolutions brought forward by the board. Mrs. O'Shea asked if there was another way to present it and that the intent of the document is good. Dr. Peluso shared that he thinks it is important to bring forward. Mrs. Lerner stated that if the board chooses to bring it forward, that she will not vote for it. Ms. Clark said that if we support it that strongly, why don't we mandate it? Dr. Grego said that he can look at other options with Ms. Pam Moore.

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 2:49 p.m.

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Chairperson  
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Secretary