

**SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**WORKSHOP – May 10, 2016**

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, May 10, 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.

**Review of Agenda:** The workshop agenda was posted on Tuesday, May 3, 2016. On Monday, May 9, 2016, the agenda was revised. One topic was added; Charter School Update, with supporting documents. Another topic Elite Educator Program added one document (*College of Education Orientation/Information Session*).

Mrs. O’Shea stated that she found good cause to accept these revisions.

- **Budget Update:** Mr. Kevin Smith, associate superintendent, finance and business services, reviewed the following documents: *2015-16 Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) Fourth Calculation and Pinellas County Public Schools Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Fourth Calculation Analysis*. Mr. Smith highlighted several key points noted in these documents. The 2015-16 fourth FEFP Calculation is the basis for district funding through June 30, 2016. Statewide there was an increase in the number of students, but no increase in revenue. There are several factors affecting district revenue; some areas were increased and some areas experienced a decrease in funding, with the net change calculated at an increase of \$440, 936.00. However \$1,262.003 of the budget is allocated for school recognition awards (A+ money) which must be spent in specific ways. The impact of the expense increase for school recognition awards will cause the district to have a net reduction of \$821,067.00 in funds available for the district’s operating budget. Mr. Smith also advised the Board that two agenda items would be coming forward at the May 17, 2016 school board meeting. They are the request for proposals for an underwriting service and one for trustee services. This is part of the bonding process for issuance of the Certificates of Participation.
- **Legislative Update:** Mr. Steve Swartzel, legislative liaison, reviewed the following document: *2016 Legislative Review, 2016-2017 Education Budget*. Mr. Swartzel thanked Mrs. Carol Cook for her service as FSBA Legislative Committee Chair and to Mr. David Koperski for reviewing the impact of new legislation on our district. In reviewing the document, Mr. Swartzel touched on some key items. Pinellas County Schools received a 1.24% increase in student funding for 2016-17; but the figure is disappointing since the House recommended 1.75% and the Senate 2%. The final budget lowers the Required Local Effort millage, but does not fully replace it with recurring general revenue; this leaves a hole in the budget for next year. The district will receive a portion of the services provided by the University of Florida Lastinger Center for a reading program which will be used at some of our lowest performing schools. This is a supplemental reading program which was piloted last year at Melrose and Campbell Park elementaries. He spoke of HB7029, an education train

bill, which has a broad range of implications. Beginning in 2017-18 there will be numerous options for parents under school choice. As part of this plan, districts must adopt a controlled open enrollment process and post it on their website. Districts can set their own definition of school capacity within this process; Pinellas County Schools may continue with their current school capacity calculation. Regarding the oversight of charter schools, districts may now evaluate the applicant's prior history in the operation of such schools, to determine their viability for the charter. School construction has new regulations regarding the cost of per student stations and what will comprise a student station. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) will be involved in this determination. Currently, our district has no plans for building a new school. Mrs. O'Shea asked that we be certain to continue maintaining high standards in all of our construction projects; schools are built to serve the community long term. New legislation has created some changes to district's handling of participation in extracurricular programs /sports. Mrs. Krassner shared a concern about potential recruitment of players under these new guidelines. Mr. Swartzel said the Florida High School Athletics Association (FHSAA) has rules and by-laws addressing these issues and clarifications due to this new legislation will be coming. HB7029 Section 32 addresses suicide awareness and prevention. The DOE will develop a list of approved youth suicide awareness and prevention training materials; our professional development dept. will offer these trainings to staff. There will be a new high school degree designation, Florida Seal of Biliteracy, gold and silver levels. This will acknowledge graduates who have foreign language competency. Additionally, CSHB 1147: Character Development Instruction was passed via a competition "There Ought to be a Bill", sponsored by Senator Jack Latvala and Representative Chris Latvala. Countryside High School students participated and the bill they drafted became law. HB 1365: Competency Based Education Pilot Program will allow students to progress based on mastery of concepts and skills through personalized learning programs; Pinellas County schools is participating in this pilot and began the work in 2013 through the Next Generations Systems Initiative Grant. Another pilot program is HB 287 Principal Autonomy Pilot Program. Dr. Grego said the district will submit an application to participate. Mr. Swartzel advised that SB7076 Legislative Meeting Dates has set the legislative session to begin January 9, 2018.

- **Property Update:** Mr. Clint Herbic, associate superintendent, operational services, provided an update on the status of the following properties:
  - Norwood- An appraisal has been requested for this property located in a residential area. There was consideration at one time to utilize it as a maintenance facility, but with the improvement to the roadways near Walter Pownall Service Center, travel time to district sites has been reduced. Mrs. Lerner asked that we be certain to explore uses for these properties, such as alternative education sites, since the county is built out, before we decide to sell.
  - North Ward Elementary-The City of Clearwater is finalizing its development plans for the area surrounding this site. There is strong public sentiment that this location be used for educational purposes. At this time the district will keep this property.
  - Clearview Elementary- The initial proposal by the Dream Center to develop a portion of this property is not going to move forward due to their inability to finance

the project. Two of the buildings on the property will house adult education programs scheduled to open January 2017. The district is exploring a partnership for a day care program to open on the property through a joint use agreement.

- South Ward Elementary-The Clearwater Historical Society has an agreement with the district for this property and recently awarded funds from the state legislature.
  - Riviera Middle School-The district met with the YMCA to discuss a possible partnership for this site including a school on the property. There is no date set and currently only in the discussion stage. In Lake Mary, Florida, this type of partnership exists. The YMCA's plan is to focus on athletic programs; the district wants to explore some dual use areas that can support tutoring and mentoring programs as well as athletics. The property does have some concerns as it is low lying. After some discussion, Dr. Grego suggested a feasibility study be done.
  - Palm Harbor Elementary-Mr. David Koperski shared that we are hoping for a resolution this summer regarding the status of this property.
- **Charter School Update:** Mr. Kevin Smith, associate superintendent, finance and business services, Ms. Heather Wallace, assistant school board attorney, Ms. Lori Matway, associate superintendent, student and community services, and Mr. Rick Wolfe, director, charter schools and home education, reviewed the following documents: *Request Approval of Issuance of a Ninety (90) Day Notice to Terminate the Charter Agreement with Windsor Preparatory Academy*, *Request Approval of Issuance of a Ninety (90) Day Notice to Terminate the Charter Agreement with East Windsor Middle Academy*, *Request Approval of Issuance of a Ninety (90) Day Notice to Terminate the Charter Agreement with Florida Virtual Academy of Pinellas*, *Request Approval of Issuance of a Ninety (90) Day Notice to Terminate the Charter Agreement with Newpoint Pinellas Academy*, and a chart with pertinent information about Newpoint Pinellas Academy, Windsor Preparatory Academy, East Windsor Middle Academy and Florida Virtual Academy of Pinellas. Ms. Heather Wallace introduced this topic by stating that the Board sponsors all governing boards of charter schools and has the overall responsibility of ensuring that they are good stewards. The board has the right to issue a Ninety Day Notice to Terminate a Charter Agreement if problems arise. The following concerns with the four schools are as follows:
- Newpoint Pinellas Academy-On February 23, 2016 a Corrective Action Plan letter was sent to the Commissioner for deteriorating financial condition and the response received was inadequate. An audit was requested and the auditor they hired was unable to complete the audit due to the lack of documentation. When PCS administration became aware that the audit was not going to be completed they felt it best to recommend a ninety day notice of termination. Then Newpoint Education Partners was indicted on May 4, 2016 by the State Attorney's Office in Escambia County. There are very significant financial concerns. They serve grades 6-8.
  - Windsor Preparatory Academy- On February 23, 2016 a Corrective Action Plan letter was sent to the Commissioner for deteriorating financial condition and the response received was inadequate. An audit was requested and the auditor they hired was unable to complete the audit due to the lack of documentation. When PCS administration became aware that the audit was not going to be completed they felt it best to recommend a ninety day notice of termination. Then Newpoint Education Partners was indicted on May 4, 2016 by the State Attorney's Office in Escambia County. There are very significant financial concerns. They serve grades K-5. There have been concerns with gifted services and limited curriculum for the student population. Exceptional Student Services were suspended due to lack of qualified staff.
  - East Windsor Middle Academy- This charter is associated with Windsor Preparatory Academy serving students in grades 6-8. They share some staff with

Windsor Preparatory. Currently there is \$3,400.00 in their budget. The management company, Newpoint Education Partners, was indicted on May 4, 2016 by the State Attorney's Office in Escambia County. Concerns about financial viability exist.

- Florida Virtual Academy of Pinellas-In November 2015, the school was issued a Corrective Action Plan for violation of its Governance Structure (7.0) and the required parent liaison resigned March 1, 2016. It was later verified that the liaison actually resigned in January 2016. They are also in violation of Assessment Programs agreement (3.3.1) and received a school grade of "I" (Incomplete). They serve grades K-9. They had repeated inaccurate reporting in multiple surveys-over 300 errors while serving approximately 150 students.
- **Elite Educator Program:** Dr. Grego, Dr. Kimberly Hartman, dean, St. Petersburg College of Education, Ms. Pam Wilkins, SPC senior academic coordinator, and Ms. Pat Roger, SPC administrative services specialist shared the document: *College of Education Orientation/Information Session- Elite Educator Program*. This partnership program is designed to prepare college students to teach grades K-6 with an endorsement in English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Reading upon graduation. Admission requirements to the program are high. This program is geared to graduate students in four years and offer employment with Pinellas County Schools upon completion of an internship. This program is for individuals who are passionate about educating children. The cohorts take classes together; attend workshops and seminars specific to their field. Dean Hartman shared that this is becoming a model program. Ms. Roper stated that the college is increasing their recruitment efforts by working with guidance counselors and will participate in the College and Career Fair to be held at Countryside High and Pinellas Park High in September. SPC requested Ms. Rene Flowers, board member, deliver multicultural training for program participants.
- **Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teachers (ECET2) Update:** Mr. Lou Cerreta, director, professional development, and Joanne Wright, instructional staff developer, professional development, shared the purposed of the ECET2 meeting. The first program was held in February 2015; the second program was held in August 2015 and was comprised of accomplished teachers including teachers of the year. A video and details of this program are available on our district website located under the professional development department. This year principals were asked to recommend teacher leaders to participate; the event is scheduled for July 2016. It is expected to have about 400 participants. The vision is to inspire the leader within, while providing an environment and setting where teachers are validated and equipped to grow other teacher leaders on their campuses, and in effect, bring about positive change. Mrs. Krassner shared that she visited 74<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary; they are hosting the Springboard to Success training program. This free teacher training program prepares new teachers with the practical skills needed to be immediately successful in the classroom. Currently 15 St. Petersburg College graduates are participating in this non-paid opportunity.
- **Community Tampa Bay:** Ms. Lori Matway, associate superintendent, student and community services, and Ms. Jennifer Russell, executive director, Community Tampa Bay, shared the Community Tampa Bay proposal with the board. PCS has contracted with Community Tampa Bay to continue with ANYTOWN, a week long leadership workshop. In 2015-16 fifty three students attended; the proposed number of participants for 2016-17 is sixty-five. This is a relevant community based practice for reducing discrimination. Students who participate receive .5 credit in social studies. A study of black males who graduated from ANYTOWN between the years of 2010 and 2012 demonstrated that 100% of these students graduated from high school. Another contracted service is the Youth Leadership Conference. The conference is an all-day experience designed to give youth

the tools they need to create a more inclusive environment in their community/schools. In 2015-16 twelve conferences reached more than 550 students; the goal for 2016-17 is fifteen conferences. Community Tampa Bay also delivers cultural competence training to district professionals aiming to address cultural competence and assist in bridging the achievement gap. School leadership that is culturally aware is better able to understand the needs of a diverse population. In 2015-16 six schools participated; the plan for 2016-17 is to reach fifteen schools. All of these initiatives are tailored to help the district achieve strategic plan goals and bridge the achievement gap. The district has had a long and productive relationship with Community Tampa Bay.

- **Job Descriptions:** Dr. Ron Ciranna, assistant superintendent, human resources services reviewed the following job descriptions: *Vehicle Maintenance Specialist; Managing Officer, Employee Benefits, Health, and Workers' Compensation; Demographic Specialist; Financial Reporting Analyst; Head Plant Operator (Elementary, Middle, High); Internal Accounts Technician; Senior Payroll Technician; Night Foremen (Middle or High); Senior Data Management Technician; Mail Services Technician; Data Management Technician; Paraprofessional; Intern; and, Occupational Specialist (Postsecondary)*. Dr. Ciranna stated that many of the job descriptions are updated as a result of the FADSS study that was conducted. The Head Plant Operator and Night Foreman job descriptions were negotiated with SEIU prior to the changes. The Internal Accounts Technician position is new and will increase support to schools. Mrs. Lerner asked about the qualification underlined for the Data Management Technician that reads "Completion of PCSB DMT training course required within six months of start date in the position." Kevin Smith stated that DMT training is often specific to the population the school serves; many who apply for these jobs have had the training, this serves as a refresher. They also have a lot of oversight from our FTE office due to the need for accuracy in reporting.
- **Transformation Zone Update:** Dr. William Corbett and Dr. Antonio Burt, director, school transformation, distributed the following document: *Transformation Zone*. Dr. Corbett opened this topic by stating that work began on the Scale Up for Success Schools in 2014. In 2015-16 the plan was initiated and Dr. Burt was hired in 2016. Dr. Burt reviewed the document and the five domains (pillars) it addresses: Teaching and Learning, Culture and Climate, Systems and Operations, Aligned Staff, and Leadership. He referenced the Six Assurances that were reviewed at the April 12, 2016 board workshop as part of the District-Managed Turnaround Option. Dr. Corbett spoke about Aligned Staff and shared that the principal and area superintendents review data and recommendations; the final decision rests with the principal. He said the goal is to put the most effective teachers in front of the students. It was also noted that some teachers opt-out of these schools because they are unable to make the commitment necessary for additional work hours etc.; many of them have young families. It is not always a result of being dissatisfied. Mrs. Krassner asked about district curriculum and professional development. Dr. Burt said it will be vetted by the school based team along with a year-long professional development calendar. She also asked about overage students. Dr. Burt said there are enough personnel to address these concerns; guidance counselors, psychologists, and social workers. He will work with the staff on effective utilization of resources. Mrs. Lerner asked about overage students at Sandy Lane and High Point (Transformation Zone Schools.) Dr. Burt advised that each of the seven schools has a third grade STARS (Students Targeted for Achievement, Recognition and Success) program. She also asked that the School Improvement Plans provided on the district/school websites be easily accessible since the Transformation Zone plans are integrated into these plans. Dr. Burt said data will be updated every 45 days. He spoke of school culture and climate which can be influenced by cultural competency training. Dr. Karen Mapp, The Harvard Graduate School of Education family engagement author and expert, is working with the district on the family engagement

piece. Dr. Burt shared that community organizations can be engaged through a grass roots effort.

- **2016 Magnet Schools Grant Update:** Mr. William Lawrence, director, student demographics, assignment and school capacity, reviewed the following documents: *Transformations, A Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) Grant Application to the U. S. Department of Education; 2016 Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) Grant Information and A Brief Description of Proposed Magnet Themes*. Mr. Lawrence shared that the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for this year's MSAP grant is a very short turnaround time and only eight to ten will be awarded nationwide. He said there is also the likelihood that in 2017 this grant opportunity will occur. The proposed themes are as follows: Fairmount Park Elementary-STEAM; Lakewood Elementary-International Baccalaureate PYP; Maximo Elementary-Entrepreneurship and Leadership; Sandy Lane Elementary-Fine and Performing Arts; and Melrose Elementary-Center for Communication Arts and Technology. The former Marine Science magnet at Campbell Park would be reestablished. All current and future zoned students will remain at the school and participate in the thematic magnet curriculum. These are not magnet programs within a school. Currently, many of the students zoned for these schools do not attend. There was never a plan to displace students as a result of this proposal. The district wants to attract zoned students back to those schools. Dr. Grego said he wants buy in from the community to move forward with the application. Mrs. Krassner wants students to be focused on improvement, rolling out this new plan may be too much. Ms. Flowers expressed concern over the short timeframe and the transformation plans being launched. Mrs. Lerner said that the enrichment gained by a magnet program would be beneficial and we should pursue the grant. Mrs. O'Shea said she would hate to miss the opportunity to receive these funds, but there is no guarantee we would be awarded the grant. She also said she is understanding of the limited timeframe and will support Dr. Grego's recommendation. Mrs. Cook asked Dr. Corbett to address the content of the memo from Dr. Rick Davis, COQEBS, May 9, 2016 regarding the plan for magnets at six elementary schools, and what she is hearing. Dr. Corbett said that many documents have been shared at COQEBS meetings, but they do not like the formatting. Also, at one point they had requested information that had not yet been shared with the school board. He said that we are all talking about the same goals. Mrs. Lerner noted that this magnet plan was not to be a school within a school, which is what some people in the community are saying. Dr. Grego said he will continue to communicate with the community. He also said that he was unsure where the idea of displacing zoned students is coming from since that had never been discussed. The district wants to attract zoned students back into these schools. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to have these discussions in the sunshine.

- **Leadership Discussion:**

- Mrs. O'Shea- 1) She spoke about the FSBA legislative committee representative and alternate. They serve from July 1-June 30. Ms. Flowers would like to continue to serve in this capacity if there are no objections. There were none. Ms. Clark was the alternate, but she would prefer not to continue in the position. Dr. Ken Peluso voiced his interest; there were no objections. The legislative representative also serves on the federal relations committee. The FSBA Board of Directors also serves from July 1-June 30. Mrs. O'Shea is the representative and Mrs. Krassner is the alternate. They would both prefer not to continue in these positions. Dr. Ken Peluso offered to serve; Mrs. Carol Cook offered to be the alternate. There were no objections. FSBA will be notified. She also noted the FSBA Board of Directors Leadership Development and Training is scheduled for September 14-15, 2016 in Winter Haven. 2) She was recently advised of an additional graduation ceremony at R.L. Sanders scheduled for June 1 and asked who would like to attend. Ms. Janet

Clark volunteered to represent the Board. 3) On September 19 and 20, 2016, the College and Career Fair will be held at Countryside High and Pinellas Park High respectively. Last year it was only at Countryside High. She and Dr. Peluso attended and felt that it was a positive and more casual environment to engage with families. She asked the Board if they wish to participate in September. The board members agreed. 4) She reminded board members that it is a busy time of year and to make every effort to attend events for which they have committed. Often situations arise that are unpreventable, so if unable to attend, please notify the school board office so they can contact the appropriate person.

- Mrs. Lerner- 1) She is aware that the district is making improvements in gifted testing for students who are sometimes disruptive because they are not appropriately challenged. The district has added many enrichment programs for academically talented students. 2) She shared some of the Marzano scales for first grade and feels that it is too difficult and needs to be modified. She has spoken with Dr. Shana Rafalski, executive director, elementary education, who shared that the scales are going to be rewritten. She asked if the board could have a presentation on this topic. 3) She commented on the personalized letter she received from the FAST organization which she feels misrepresented her stance on student arrests. This brought some discussion forward regarding student arrests and Mr. Koperski said we cannot dictate the actions of law enforcement, they are deputized.
- Ms. Clark- She spoke about the direct instruction and success for all reading programs that FAST promotes; she is not in favor of these programs.
- Ms. Flowers-She addressed the arrest issue also. She stated that we have an MOU with local enforcement and she is looking for consistency in addressing non-violent actions and also looking at the monetary threshold for theft. She is aware that in some circumstances a parent may contact the States Attorney office; which is something the district cannot control. She is seeing more consistency in reporting by the DJJ and JDAI. Dr. Grego shared that he will speak with Chief Stelljes about her concerns.
- Mr. Koperski- He advised the board that the contract for assistant school board attorney, Heather Wallace, is coming up for renewal at the next board meeting. He is recommending her renewal.

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 2:55 PM

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Chairperson  
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Secretary