

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – September 16, 2014

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 11:00 a.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4th Street S.W., Largo, Florida.

Present: Mrs. Carol J. Cook, Chairperson; Ms. Janet R. Clark, Ms. Rene Flowers, Mrs. Terry Krassner, Mrs. Robin L. Wikle, Members; Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent; Dr. William Corbett, Deputy Superintendent; and, Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

Absent: Mrs. Linda Lerner and Mrs. Peggy L. O’Shea

The following topics were discussed:

- **Connect for Success Update** – Dr. Mary Conage and Ms. Sue Lemire presented an update on the expansion of the Connect for Success program. Dr. Conage shared that this program has now expanded to 42 schools in third, fourth and fifth grades. Mrs. Krassner questioned whether the instruction of keyboarding skills was included in the software. Dr. Conage responded that she was not aware of such; but, that research could be performed regarding the addition of this to the platform software. Dr. Grego agreed that it would be a good idea to include this into the elementary and/or middle school day; and, requested that Dr. Conage pursue this.
- **Revised Process for Construction Projects** – Mr. Clint Herbic, Associate Superintendent for Operations and Ms. Heather Wallace, Assistant Board Attorney, presented a proposal for revisiting the process for board agenda items related to design and construction projects. Ms. Wallace shared that the new process would be to bring an agenda item to the Board that contains the total project costs, broken down; the Board would then receive items to approve the architect and construction firm contracts; and, that the Board would receive monthly update reports showing the original total cost, the status of the project and the percentage of dollars spent at that point. Ms. Wallace stated that guaranteed maximum price documents and change orders would be signed by the Superintendent or his designee, unless the total cost of the project was increased. Mr. Herbic and Ms. Wallace will contact other counties to see how this process is handled. Board Members agreed that this revision effort could move forward.
- **Technology Plan** – Mr. Tom Lechner, Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Information Systems, presented the 2014-2019 PCS Digital Classroom Plan. Discussion followed by Board Members. This item will be presented to the Board at their Regular Meeting of September 23, 2014 for formal approval before it is sent to the state.

- **School Improvement Plans** – Dr. Mary Beth Corace, Director of Strategic Planning and Policy, presented an overview of the 2014-15 School Improvement Plans. Dr. Corace stated that monitoring of the plans will take place month-to-month and according to student groups. The plans and the executive summaries for each will be presented to the Board for formal action at their September 23, 2014 meeting.
- **Reorganization and Job Descriptions** – Dr. William Corbett, Mr. David Koperski, Mr. Tom Lechner and Dr. Ron Ciranna presented proposed organization changes for the Attorney’s Office and TIS, as well as revised job descriptions for the following: Director, Strategic Communications; Legal Clerk; Legal Assistant; Principal Coach/Mentor; and, Grant Account Technician. Ms. Flowers questioned whether the positions in the legal department would be advertised. Mr. Koperski stated that they would be advertised and people may apply. Mrs. Wikle, referring to the Director, Strategic Communications position, expressed concern that the qualifications for this position are being lowered, specifically the reduction from ten to five years professional experience and the inclusion of the phrase, “or related fields.” Dr. Grego shared that this position reports directly to him, and that it doesn’t need to be advertised. Dr. Grego stated that the phrase, “or related fields” can be removed. Dr. Corbett stated that the Grant Account Technician position will have to be negotiated. These proposed items will be taken to the Board at their September 23, 2014 meeting for formal action.
- **School Improvement Plans Presentation of Charter Schools with School Grades of D or F** – Presentations of school improvement plans were made to the School Board by principals and members of the boards for the following charter schools: Alfred Adler, Newpoint Pinellas Academy, University Preparatory Academy and Windsor Preparatory Academy. Discussion followed the presentation by the Alfred Adler Charter School Improvement Plan; and, Ms. Dot Clark, Director of Charter Schools, stated that her recommendation will be to remove this plan from the September 23, 2014 Board meeting in order to acquire additional information.
- **2014 - 2015 Assessment Calendar** - Ms. Pam Moore, Ms. Rita Vasquez, Mr. Dywayne Hinds and Ms. Sandy Downes presented the 2014-2015 assessment calendar for each of the three levels, elementary, middle and high.
- **Support Plan for Schools** – Dr. William Corbett, Ms. Pam Moore, Ms. Sandy Downes and Dr. Valerie Brimm provided an update on the support plan for Melrose, Maximo, Lakewood, Campbell Park and Fairmount Park elementary schools.
- **Student Progression Plan** – Ms. Pam Moore, Ms. Rita Vasquez, Mr. Dywayne Hinds, Ms. Sandy Downes, Dr. Lisa Grant and Mr. Mark Hunt presented the proposed changes to the Student Progression Plan for their respective levels.
- **Legislative Platform** – Mr. Steve Swartzel provided the Board with an update on the process being followed to develop the district’s 2015 Legislative Platform. Mr. Swartzel stated that if the Board plans to schedule a breakfast with the Legislators, the adoption of the platform should take place first. Mr. Swartzel stated that he will continue to monitor the development of the FSBA Legislative Platform, as well as that of the Consortium. Mr. Swartzel stated that he will work within the Superintendent’s calendar to schedule meetings with members of our local delegation and provide that schedule to the Board Members so that they, too, may attend the meetings. Mrs. Krassner, referencing #15 under A. Funding

Issues, stated that she had a conversation with Dr. Grego regarding Summer Bridge and the L300 schools; and, questioned whether it might be better to use “extended school day” rather than the use of the word, “hours.” Dr. Grego stated that many districts are moving to extended school year. Dr. Grego and Mr. Swartzel will review this language and provide their recommendation to the Board. Mrs. Wikle, referring to #10 under A. Funding Issues, questioned whether the wording should be changed from Sunshine State Standards to Florida State Standards. Dr. Grego stated that there are a few changes that will be made before it is brought to the Board for formal approval. Mrs. Wikle suggested that another change may be from the use of “technology” to “digital learning.” Mrs. Wikle also stressed the importance of Mrs. O’Shea reviewing the platform before it is finalized. Mrs. Cook requested direction from the Board as to whether or not to schedule a legislative breakfast. The direction provided was to go forward with the planning; and, that the composition of the committee for this event will be Mrs. O’Shea, Ms. Clark and Ms. Flowers. Mrs. Cook stated that the Consortium Legislative Platform will be discussed on October 24th; and, that the FSBA platform will be brought to the School Board at their October 21st workshop for discussion.

➤ **Leadership Discussion:**

- **Superintendent’s Update –**
 - Shared that from what he sees throughout the state, the scheduling of the legislative breakfast, as well as the scheduling of the individual meetings with the legislators, is a good thing and sends a good message of wanting to work together with common goals.
 - Shared that he had a wonderful parent cadre meeting at Countryside High School with good parent representation from the schools in that region.
 - Shared that Dr. Law and he sat on a panel this last week at a gathering that included many major business people. Dr. Grego stated that others on the panel were Dr. Judy Genshaft, President, USF, representatives from Hillsborough Community College and Ms. Cathy Valdes, Deputy Superintendent for Hillsborough County Schools. Mrs. Wikle, who also attended this event, complimented Mr. Mark Hunt for involvement in the session she attended
 - Shared that he is enjoying some of the Friday night football games.
 - Thanked the School Board Members for their effort in meeting the rich agenda that filled today’s workshop and earlier meeting with the SPC Board of Trustees.
- **Mrs. Cook** – Shared that Mrs. Lerner had sent an email that conveyed the request from the Career Education Board to have the opportunity to present to the School Board at the October 21, 2014 workshop to discuss their Annual Report and to have an opportunity for questions and answers. Mrs. Cook stated that the report will then be presented to the School Board during a Regular School Board meeting. Board Members, through consensus, agreed to invite the Career Education Board to present their Annual Report at the October 21st workshop.
- **Ms. Flowers** – Shared that she had originally wanted to have a discussion on felons and their ability to volunteer on our campuses; but, that she has since spoken with the Board Attorney and is withdrawing that request.
- **Dr. Grego** – Shared that he has received positive feedback regarding the opening of our Board meetings with the vision and mission of the district. Dr. Grego stated that this practice will begin immediately and that the same pieces will be placed on our district’s letterhead.

- **Mrs. Cook** – Requested that administration look into the issue being presented to the Board through the electronic petition method. Dr. Grego stated that he will check into this and report back to the Board.
- **Dr. Grego** – Shared that the Superintendent’s meeting is taking place in Tampa next week.

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 3:39 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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