

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – January 20, 2015

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, January 20 2015, at 9:00 a.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4th Street S.W., Largo, Florida.

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

Absent: Mrs. Peggy L. O'Shea, Vice-Chairperson

The following topics were discussed:

- **Budget Update-** Mr. Kevin Smith, assisted by Ms. Karen Coffey, presented an update on the budget. The materials reviewed included these topics: Pinellas County Schools December 2014 Revenue and FTE Forecasts Summary; General Revenue Estimating Conference; Principal State School Trust Fund; Educational Enhancement Trust Fund; Ad Valorem Revenue; FTE Student Enrollment Projections; Implications for the FY 2015-2016 FEFP Budget and District Funding Implications. Mr. Smith stated that he does not predict his estimation of increases in funding to our budget to be different than anticipated. Board Members who have questions about the budget may contact him.
- **Health Plan/Self-Funding Update-** Mr. Ted Pafundi and AON representative [Ann Gebhard](#) presented the Board with information for the purpose of opening the discussion of self-funding the district's health plan. The main areas discussed were Truths and Myths of Self-Funding; Benefits of Self-Funding: Reduced Taxes and Increased Flexibility; Definitions of Self-Funding; Self-Funding Example of Costs; Self-Funded vs. Fully-Insured Responsibilities; Other Surrounding Districts, Self-Insured and Fully-Insured; Example of a Board Policy Addressing Reserves; and Self-Insured Case Study: Miami-Dade (01/01/10). The intent is to continue this discussion at numerous workshops so the Board has a full understanding of the impact prior to making a decision.
- **Instructional Calendar for 2015-2016** –Dr. Ron Ciranna shared the *drafts* of the proposed calendars for 2015-2016 school year and *draft* Special Observance Days. The calendars are Student Calendar, Instructional Calendar, 10-Month Teacher Calendar, 11.5 Month Teacher/Staff Calendar. Dr. Ciranna assured the Board that the committee develops the calendars with the best interests of students in mind. He pointed out that the first semester has 79 instructional days vs. 101 in the second semester which is done to accommodate exams prior to winter holidays as is the modified block scheduling. It was clarified that the vast majority of courses are yearlong. Dr. Ciranna intends to request approval of these calendars at the January 27, 2015 Board meeting. Mrs. Lerner thanked Mrs. Krassner for serving on the committee.
- **Job Descriptions** – Dr. Ron Ciranna presented the proposed changes for the following job descriptions: Public Information Officer; Supervisor, Title I to Title I Specialist; Senior Police Dispatcher, Intrusion System Specialist, Resource Teacher (Industrial, Technology Education, and Agribusiness Departments) and Resource Teacher (Apprentice/Industry Services Training Program) to Resource Teacher (Industry Services Training Program). Mrs. Cook asked for clarification

between Senior Police Dispatcher and Police Dispatcher. Dr. Ciranna stated that he will get the explanation to the Board following the workshop.

- **Process to Add Sports** –Mr. Nick Grasso provided an update to the Board on the process used for adding new sports to Pinellas County Schools. Initially a “Process to Add Sports” form would be completed which includes the rationale for adding the sport, the financial impact to the District and the Gender Equity impact. Annually, Mr. Grasso meets with representatives from all high schools and during this meeting if a “Process to Add Sports” form has been received it will be discussed. With a 2/3 vote of the group the sport will be considered and at that time, it would be brought forward through the Superintendent’s office. This process is in alignment with Florida High School Athletics Association (FHSAA). Mrs. Linda Lerner stated that there have been occasions that public speakers have expressed an interest in our offering some sports; Mr. Grasso acknowledged that and stated that anyone may utilize the same process and it will be discussed with the committee. This occurred in 2001 with the addition of flag football for girls. Mr. Grasso spoke of a program that someone in the public is promoting, but it is a pay for play program and Pinellas County Schools doesn’t offer pay for play. He stated that we want all students to have access to the sports programs we offer.
- **Support for Scale Up for Success Schools** –Dr. Bill Corbett and Mr. Rob Ovalle presented a proposal to provide additional support to the Scale Up for Success schools. Mr. Ovalle, principal, Campbell Park Elementary, shared what he is experiencing with TNTP (The New Teacher Project). TNTP is a non-profit out of New York that is dedicated to the improvement of teachers. TNTP works with teachers on the classroom management piece. Mr. Ovalle shared that the culture of his school has improved dramatically which has significantly reduced referrals. Mr. Ovalle, Ms. Pam Moore and Ms. Sandy Downes have witnessed that students are visibly more engaged in the learning. The professional development occurs prior to the school day. Teachers have an opportunity to plan/coach/and implement instructional strategies the same day. There is a cost associated with these programs. This year \$300,000 is allocated through Title I federal dollars and in 2015-16 school year the district wants to spend approximately \$700,000 of federal money to expand the program to the balance of the elementary schools in the Scale Up for Success initiative; Fairmount Park, Lakewood; Maximo and Melrose. It was pointed out that by not losing so many new teachers the overall cost of the program is less. The agenda item for this program will come to the Board table on January 27, 2015.
- **Renaming of Lealman Intermediate** – Dr. Barbara Hires shared that the name change to Lealman Innovation Academy was presented to the staff at Lealman Intermediate and three name choices were offered. The staff had an opportunity to respond on survey monkey. The name change is due to the changes occurring at Lealman. The Academy will now serve students in grades 6-12 instead of 5.5-9. Mrs. Lerner voiced concern about the at-risk students that Lealman currently serves. Dr. Grego pointed out that the school is set up for struggling students by using personalized learning. Parents are choosing to attend. He also stated that some high schools will imbed this program so students can continue in that model of personalized learning. The agenda item for the name change will be presented to the School Board at the January 27, 2015, meeting.
- **Transportation Update** –Mr. Clint Herbic provided the Board with updates from the Transportation Department. He shared that an agenda item will come before the Board at the January 27, 2015 meeting for a joint use agreement for the property where High Point Elementary resided previously. The Pinellas County

Sheriff's office, School Resource Officers and School bus drivers will use the property for driver training. The Sheriff's Office is paying for the construction and maintenance of the property. Mrs. Lerner asked about liability issues because the District owns the property. Mr. Koperski stated that each group will be responsible for their own liabilities. Mr. Koperski also stated that the details of the agreement are being finalized. The next topic shared was the purchase of 58 new school buses; 58 buses with over 200,000 miles will be retired. The plan is to purchase propane powered buses instead of diesel; they run cleaner and cheaper. A propane fueling station will be put at Coachmen Service Center. The cost of the propane powered bus is about \$4,000.00 more but with better fuel economy and federal government rebates the estimated savings is \$2,000.00 per year per bus.

- **Update on Review of Policy 9180-Volunteer Policy** –Ms. Laurie Dart and Dr. Valerie Brimm spoke to the topic of reviewing and updating our Volunteer Policy. They are reviewing the policy to determine if it hinders parents who have a criminal background from volunteering. They have researched what other districts are doing and have formed a committee to discuss the possibility of revision. The committee includes principals from all levels, community members and community leaders, Chief Stelljes, Dr. Hires and Ms. Val Walker. Dr. Grego stated that it is healthy to explore changes to policies. Ms. Flowers is grateful that they are discussing a revision. Mrs. Cook asked if the PTA was represented on the committee. They were not but will be added. The committee is scheduled to meet on Thursday this week.
- **Accreditation Process-Update** –Dr. Mary Beth Corace provided an update on the accreditation process. She reviewed the schedule including February 1: Meet and Greet, February 2: Opening Session and Board interviews, February 4: Exit Report. There will be 26 schools visited and the accreditation team selected them to include District Areas, socio-economic levels, types of programs, location of school and level (elementary, middle and high). Mrs. Terry Krassner thanked Dr. Corace for her leadership.
- **Energy Management Program** – Mr. Clint Herbic updated the Board on previous efforts made in energy conservation e.g. low energy light bulbs; light sensors and low flow toilets. The District requested an RFP (Request for Proposal) in November 2014. Cenergistic's plan for our District was brought forward. The company will: optimize our infrastructure; change behaviors through awareness; monitor the Duke Energy rates; utilize software that tracks issues; and provide six energy specialists who will work with our staff. The program is cost neutral and is guaranteed to produce enough savings to cover the cost of the six energy specialists. The actual cost of the software program is \$16,600.00; Cenergistic is entitled to 50% of the savings for five years. Dr. Grego asked when the relationship would end. After five performance years, the first 6 months there is no compensation. But after the five years the District would have to maintain the software program and could choose to hire the six energy specialists. Dr. Grego thanked Clint Herbic and Mike Hewitt for their leadership in finding ways to be more efficient and effective.
- **Proposed Resolution on Accountability** – The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida Resolution on Assessment and Accountability was shared with all Board Members and if in agreement will come before the Board under Nonconsent agenda at the January 27, 2015 Board meeting. Mrs. Cook asked what will be done with the resolution, if adopted. Dr. Grego said it would be shared with legislators, the governor and educational organizations; a list will be developed.
- **Leadership Discussion:**

- **Ms. Janet Clark** asked about the invitation from FSBA for Master Board program. After some discussion, it was decided that the Board Members did not feel that they needed to participate at this time since they completed the program within the last few years.
- **Mrs. Linda Lerner** encouraged Dr. Peluso to ask questions as he is learning and mentioned that there may be some brief training opportunities that FSBA may offer the Board. She also brought forward the interest in having a School Board Retreat. Retreat topic suggestions were reviewed and there was discussion about which topics are suitable for a retreat and which are workshop topics. Possible retreat dates will be discussed at the February 17, 2015 workshop.
- **Dr. Grego** spoke about a community forum and the importance of a relevant topic to create interest. He mentioned that parents are coming out this Saturday for information sessions while their students are taking the SAT. Programs like this are well attended. He then advised the Board of the upcoming Pinellas Education Foundation Business Partner of the Year program on January 28, 2015 beginning at 5:30 pm. He asked Board Members to attend if possible as he will be meeting with the Governor in Tallahassee on Wednesday.

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 2:50 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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