

## **SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – April 27, 2010**

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, at 1:30 p.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4<sup>th</sup> Street S.W., Largo, Florida.

Present: Ms. Janet R. Clark, Chairperson; Mrs. Mary L. Tyus Brown, Ms. Nina Hayden, Mrs. Linda S. Lerner, Mrs. Peggy L. O'Shea and Mrs. Robin L. Wikle, Members; Mr. James F. Madden, Deputy Superintendent; Mrs. Catherine Fleeger, Deputy Superintendent Chief Academic Officer; Mr. James A. Robinson, General Counsel; and, David Koperski, Associate General Counsel.

It was necessary for Dr. Julie Janssen, Superintendent, to leave for Tallahassee immediately following the Informal Hearing conducted earlier today. Mrs. Carol J. Cook, Vice Chairperson, was ill and unable to attend today's workshop; however, was able to listen and participate through a conference call during the section dealing with Title I.

The following topics were presented and discussed during this workshop session:

➤ **Life Skills Center Charter Renewal**

- It was mentioned by some Board Members that a one-year extension could be considered if the Board were to receive more definitive information containing realistic goals, more involvement by their board of directors, data demonstrating that there will be more students who are successful, data that demonstrates that the goals/objectives in the original charter will be met, etc.
- It was reported by Dot Clark that Life Skills Center has received almost 8 million dollars in FTE over the last four years and has graduated only 251 students during that same period. This equates to it costing over \$30,000 per graduating student at this center.
- Mr. Mark Rice, White Hat Management, agreed to work with Life Skills Center to provide the School Board with a very specific plan to address the deficiencies that will include benchmarks and a plan to meet those benchmarks in order to improve the program. This information is to be received by staff for their review no later than May 17, 2010; and, presented to the Board for their discussion at their May 20<sup>th</sup> workshop.
- The district's contract with Dr. Tom Massey was questioned since it states that it is his responsibility is to work with charter schools to set goals. Later in this workshop, it was reported that this contract has been terminated and that charter school evaluations will be performed in-house annually.
- The recommendation from the Superintendent will be brought to the June 15, 2010 Regular Meeting of the School Board.

➤ **Charter Schools – General Discussion**

- Questions submitted by the Board Members prior to the workshop were reviewed by Dot Clark and Charlene Einsel.
- Mr. Robinson questioned whether the Board Members would like those associated with the charter schools in Pinellas County to come to share information on their specific charter at Board meetings. Mrs. Lerner stated that should the Board agree to have such a presentation, she would prefer that it be done at a workshop, rather than at a regular meeting.
- Dot Clark informed the Board that the district has dissolved their relationship with Dr. Massey, USF. Dr. Berokh Ahmadi with our district will be assuming the role he had with charters.
- Mrs. Wikle questioned whether the vacant properties owned by the district will be offered for lease to charters, specifically to Plato Academy. Mr. Bessette stated that staff is preparing a list of the vacant properties with a list of all who have indicated an interest in leasing/purchasing one of these same pieces of properties. This information, along with the Superintendent's recommendations, will be scheduled for a workshop discussion.

➤ **Title I**

- A PowerPoint presentation was given by Mr. Madden. This presentation was electronically sent to the Board Members.
- Mr. Madden stated that he will ask Donna Winchester to put together some talking points regarding the proposed changes in the distribution of Title I funds for the Board Members to use when discussing this proposal with employees of the district and members of the community.
- Next steps –
  - Administration will work with schools to help them develop their plans to deal with either increased or decreased funding.
  - Talking points will be developed.
  - Superintendent will put a process in place to keep the Board Members informed regarding the schools and what they are doing.
  - If needed, the Superintendent and Board Chair may either call a Special Meeting or add an emergency item to an existing agenda in order to take action on the Superintendent's proposal, once schools have held their planning sessions.

➤ **Leadership Discussion**

- Topics to be scheduled for future workshops –  
May 20, 2010
  - Budget Update
  - Risk Management – Employee Benefits 2011
  - Life Skills – Update
  - Conversation with Plaintiffs in Bradley Case – MOU Student Discipline
  - Teacher Appraisal Process
  - Decentralized Decision Making – Update
  - Race to the Top - Update

June 8, 2010

- Surplus property – what is vacant, who has indicated interest in each piece and what will be the Superintendent’s recommendations
- Board self-evaluation instrument and process
- Mrs. O’Shea stated that she will be submitting a workshop request form to have the topic of “exam exemption policy” placed on a future workshop to review the existing policy and receive input. Mr. Madden stated that the Board will receive an update on this policy.

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 5:02 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Secretary

/db  
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