

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – August 17, 2010

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, August 17, 2010, at 9:05 a.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4th Street S.W., Largo, Florida.

Present: Ms. Janet R. Clark, Chairperson; Mrs. Carol J. Cook, Vice Chairperson; Mrs. Mary L. Tyus Brown, Ms. Nina Hayden, Mrs. Linda S. Lerner, Mrs. Peggy L. O’Shea and Mrs. Robin L. Wikle, Members; Dr. Julie Janssen, Superintendent; Mr. James F. Madden, Deputy Superintendent; and, Mr. James A. Robinson, General Counsel.

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

- **Presentation by Dr. Janssen** – Presented an overview of the workshop recently conducted for Pinellas administrators at a two-day workshop.
- **Budget Update** – Information was presented by the Mr. Fred Matz and Mr. Kevin Smith regarding the proposed budget, including preliminary information regarding the bill that could bring as much as \$554 million in jobs funding. Mr. Matz shared that only 41 employees chose to take advantage of the early retirement option which has resulted in the need to identify other areas to reduce the budget; and, as a result, department discretionary budgets will be reduced by a percentage. Mr. Smith, Dr. Janssen, Mrs. Cook and Mr. Steve Swartzel shared the following: that some of this funding may be able to be used to defray the “cliff” expected in 2011/12; that it may come through the normal funding formula or through Title I funding; that some of it may be able to be used to hire math and science coaches that are needed at the elementary level; that there are very specific guidelines as to how the money can be used; that those guidelines are forthcoming; that it must be spent on direct instruction only; and, that the Legislators may call themselves back into session to determine the structure. Mrs. Lerner requested that a summary of this be compiled and sent to the Board Members. Mr. Smith will distribute to the Board Members this afternoon the information he has received thus far.
- **MOU on Assignment to Programs and Classes and Crowley Settlement Agreement**– Joining the Board Members at the table for this item and next were the following: Guy Burns, Roger Plata, Clarence Givens, Watson Haines, Goliath Davis, Martin Rainey, Lew Williams, Norman Brown and Ray Tampa. Dr. Janssen stated that Mr. Bill Lawrence has been assigned as the administrator who will monitor the district’s efforts to meet the points contained within this agreement, specifically pertaining to decreasing the achievement gap and the collection/reporting of data specific to points promised in the MOU.
- **Attendance Policy** – Dr. Janssen, Dr. Behrokh Ahmadi and Dr. Allen Mortimer reviewed the results of the survey monkey performed on this proposed

policy revision. Board Members agreed that notification should be given to schools by parents/guardians to notify them of a student's absence and a written excuse must be submitted within 48 hours upon their return to school. Otherwise the excuse will be considered as an unexcused absence.

- **DMAC Recommendations** – Dr. Eugene Givens and Ms. Minetha Morris (DMAC) joined those at the table to participate in this discussion. Dr. Givens, Ms. Morris and Mr. Madden will work together to determine a process that will ensure that the DMAC recommendations are brought to the Board at a regular meeting; that a discussion on the recommendations will be scheduled for a Board workshop; and, that a method to provide feedback to DMAC will be included in the process.
- **Long-Range Planning** – Dr. Janssen and members of her staff provided an update on the following topic: Virtual course offerings, flexible scheduling for high school students, fundamental school opportunities, etc. A process is to be developed that will allow the Board Members to discuss and give direction on the following: expansion of the fundamental school concept with the determination with a definite timeline for implementation in the 2011/12 school year; possibly dividing the county into three areas for high school programs, offering choice in each area to include expansion of fundamental, IB, etc.; whether we will continue with two magnet programs at one high school, limiting access for students living in close proximity; whether we need to support four culinary programs or reduce that number of identical programs; discussion on the experience of converting an entire school into a fundamental school, i.e., specifically converting Kennedy Middle to Clearwater Fundamental Middle; the use of a proximity guide that would provide for automatic entrance for a percentage of students close to school; review by staff and School Board of the chart papers originated at the last Board retreat – Mrs. Beaty resent these results to the Board Members; consideration given to schools with great needs and creating a level playing field; data on the Osceola Fundamental High School wait list - where those on the wait list and those who are enrolled students in that program live; providing ample choice for parents to better ensure a diverse student population at south county schools; transportation should not be the driving force; proposals from Dr. Janssen and staff for north-, south- and mid-county schools, based on this conversation, etc. This conversation will be scheduled for the Board workshop on September 21, 2010. If the support for any change would require an amendment to policy/policies, the second reading for such a change would have to take place at the December Board meeting. Please see the second item under Leadership Discussion.
- **Leadership Discussion**
 - Future workshop dates were identified – September 21, 2010 – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; October 5, 2010 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; November 16, 2010 – immediately following the Organization Meeting and reception for new Board Members (approximately 10:30 a.m.) to 4:30 p.m.; November 29, 2010 – 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and, tentatively December 14, 2010 – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - An agenda item will be brought to the Board in the September 14th agenda book to move the start time for the December 7, 2010 meeting from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This will allow for a sufficient number of days between

policy changes, should any be required related to the proposals discussed in the Long-Range Planning session today and at the September 21, 2010 workshop.

- Remaining topics yet to be scheduled – Parent Contract/Family Involvement; School Resource Officers; Report from Board Subcommittee – Auditor; Report from Board Subcommittee - Operating Manual. All information collected thus far regarding the topic of parent contract/family involvement is to be sent to the Board Members and this topic will be scheduled for a very preliminary discussion at the September 21, 2010 workshop. A Board evaluation instrument will be tied into the Board's standards. The following is a summary of the topics to be scheduled for the September 21 workshop: long-range planning/student assignment, reports from two subcommittees of the Board – Operating Manual and Board Auditor; parent contract/ family involvement with the desired outcome to be a contract for all parents/guardians to sign. Dr. Janssen will have all related materials sent to the Board.
- Strategic Plan – Mrs. Lerner expressed concern that the Board spent many hours developing the last strategic plan and had indicated their desire to have social studies included as part of the measures and accountability. Dr. Janssen stated that an issue is that there are no standard tests and measures for this subject. Mrs. Cook requested that the Board receive information as to the number of students who are taking this course and whether that number has increased. Dr. Janssen and Ms. Fleeger will forward to Mrs. Beaty this information.
- Mrs. Cook checked to see that all Board Members had received their invitation to attend the Consortium meeting in September to be held in Key West.
- Mrs. Cook suggested that the Board form a subcommittee to identify the various items that must come to the Board for approval and create a calendar for those items to be brought in a timely manner to workshops and Board meetings, backing up the planning of each item in order to provide sufficient time. Board Members agreed and the subcommittee was formed of Mrs. Cook and Mrs. O'Shea. Dr. Janssen will provide the Board with a calendar that is used by her administrative team.
- Mrs. Cook shared that Lee County is putting a policy in place that prohibits teachers from corresponding with students on social networking pages such as Facebook, My Space, etc. Board Members agreed to have Mr. Robinson explore existing policies and bring to the Board his recommendations for a discussion.
- Mrs. Wikle stated that the pictorial directory of school administrators sent to the Board last year was very helpful. Dr. Janssen agreed that this tool can be produced again for this year for the Board.
- Mrs. Wikle complimented Dr. Janssen on her back-to-school video.
- Mrs. Wikle requested an update on student assignment processes for this year. Mr. Madden responded saying that the issues that Board Members are receiving are mainly due to the class size requirements resulting in siblings being unable to attend the school of the older brother or sister. Mr. Madden

stated that other issues were the fact that the student information system did not allow parents to change address information over the summer and that there was a “hiccup” in the use of the new program, Portal. Mrs. Cook questioned the hold on seats in each school for late arrivals. Mr. Madden stated that the seats being held at each school for those students who may show up late will be released after the ten-day count. Mrs. O’Shea stated that at the middle school level they are still experiencing scheduling problems in the core subjects. Mr. Madden stated that some of the issues may be a result of the change from SASSI to Portal; and, that he will look into this further.

- Ms. Clark stated that the Board had just received an e-mail from Mr. Robinson regarding the need for a possible change in the Decentralized Decision Making policy. Mr. Robinson said he spoke with Dr. Janssen and Mr. Madden regarding the need to have a change in this policy to reflect the practice and reality. Mrs. Lerner requested that the Board receive information on what DDM changes are taking place in schools. A discussion on possible changes to the DDM policy will be scheduled for the Board workshop of September 21, 2010.
- Mrs. Lerner thanked Mr. Robinson for the discipline process he sent to the Board.
- Dr. Janssen stated that she has a rough draft on the organization chart; however, before giving it to the Board, she would like time to run it past departments. Dr. Janssen agreed to have hard copies of a “final draft” delivered to the Board Office by the end of this 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 4:37 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

/db
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