

**SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**WORKSHOP – October 5, 2010**

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, October 5, 2010, at 10:00 a.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. 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.

Dr. Janssen requested that the Board enter into an Executive Session immediately following the presentation on the budget.

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

- **Budget Update**
- **Executive Session on Bargaining** – The session began at 10:12 a.m. and ended at 10:58 a.m.
- **General Counsel’s Improvement Plan**
- **Real Estate – Sale or Lease of School-Board-Owned Properties** – Mr. Michael Bessette and Ms. Virginia “Ginny” Pannill presented the options that are before the district at this time on a spreadsheet and through two packets information specific to the Euclid project and the North Ward project, both produced by the Planet Green Group. Mr. Bessette and the Superintendent will bring back to the Board for a workshop discussion further details and recommendations for the identified pieces of properties and results of any negotiations. The criteria and template to be followed in the sale or lease of vacated properties are to be placed in writing and brought back for discussion by the Board. The criteria will then be placed on a Board agenda for action by the Board. Ms. Pannill discussed the issue of needed fencing for the district-owned property surrounding Cypress Woods Elementary and butting up to the property housing condominiums. Mr. Bessette and Ms. Pannill will discuss the options and the needs further with those neighboring homeowners and report back to the Board with their progress.
- **Update – Subcommittee of the Board – Auditor** – Mrs. Wikle stated that the committee had invited the Board Members to submit any questions they may have after the committee’s presentation at the last workshop and that she had not received any. The committee will meet further in order to bring their final recommendation to the Board at the November 16, 2010 workshop. The newly elected Board Member, Terry Krassner, will be allowed to send any questions or input she may have into the Board Office.
- **Policy for Social Networking** – Mr. Robinson, along with Mr. Jim Lott and Mr. John Just, presented for initial discussion information regarding the potential need for a policy that would direct school district staff to utilize only those network opportunities that are provided by the district when communicating with students. Mr. Robinson distributed the following documents: PowerPoint “Emerging Communication

Technology & the Law”; Manatee County’s “Guidelines For Use of Social Networking Web Sites and/or Blogs”; Manatee County – Exhibit A – “Notification of Intention to Electronically Communicate with Student Outside of School” form; and, Florida’s Attorney General’s Legal Opinion, subject: “Records, municipal facebook page”. Mr. Robinson will return to the November 16, 2010 workshop with a proposed policy for further discussion and direction by the Board.

- **Long-Range Planning – Student Assignment & Opportunities** – Dr. Janssen presented further details on her Envision 2014 and long range planning proposals for the assignment of students, placement of programs, requirement of uniforms for all K-8 students, etc. Board Members requested that they receive an update on the information distributed at an earlier date by Ms. Dee Burns, Project Graduation, pertaining to the dropout prevention programs, the plan and what has been implemented. This will be presented at the November 16, 2010 workshop. Board Members requested further information on the Cambridge AICE program, its focus and startup costs. Dr. Janssen will also bring back for further discussion the start times for high schools, stating that the district needs to get to later start times for this level. Further information is to be brought back regarding IMAST and MEGSSS students and whether they will ever be guaranteed seats into an IB program. Board Members are to e-mail any additional questions they wish to have answered regarding the Superintendent’s plan. Regarding parent contracts, Board Members agreed to 1) solicit input from principals regarding the potential of implementing contracts; 2) possibly having the Board only provide guidance in this area, allowing the individual schools to draw up their own contracts; and, that the contract’s main focus is to provide guidance to parents as to how to become involved in their child’s education. A workshop was scheduled for Thursday, October 28, 2010 for the following two topics: 1) Student Assignment & Opportunities – Review of Public Input; and, 2) Superintendent’s Evaluation.

- **Leadership**

- Mrs. Cook stated that the questions that were presented at the recent PCCPTA workshop will be e-mailed to the Board with the answers so that the Board will be aware of the concerns brought forth during that session.
- Mrs. Wikle expressed concern that the comments section of the St. Petersburg Times blogs are blocked to Board Members and district employees. Dr. Janssen, reiterating what Mr. Just said earlier, stated that the blocking was an unintended consequence to the installation of a new filtering system; that the comments will be made available to the Board Members; and, that it is still her feeling that they did not need to be viewing the comments on during their workday. Mrs. Lerner and Mrs. Wikle voiced their concerns with this action. Dr. Janssen stated that she will seek and follow guidance from Mr. Robinson on this issue. Ms. Clark expressed her concern that even some teaching tools are blocked to teachers. Dr. Janssen stated that teachers experiencing trouble should send a request for access to MIS. Mr. Robins requested that he be allowed to speak with Dr. Janssen before this issue is discussed further.
- Mrs. Wikle requested an update on student assignment and the sibling issue. Dee Burns stated that she believes all such issues that were brought to her attention have been solved, if they could.

- Mrs. Lerner distributed an e-mail dated October 4, 2010, subject “FSBA Legislative Proposal” containing the following proposal: Change the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards to allow CAPE Academies (career and professional education) the flexibility to implement applied math and science courses. CAPE Academies are relevant and rigorous high school programs that keep students engaged, direct students to degrees and jobs that are in demand and have demonstrated success with raising student performance. Mrs. Lerner stated that Terry Boehm at the Education Foundation has helped her to develop this proposal and that she has submitted, as an individual board member, to FSBA with a request that it be included as a priority in their legislative platform. Mrs. Cook will work with Mrs. Lerner on this.
- Mr. Robinson stated that since the closing of Life Skills, he has been in negotiations with Whitehat Management to get back the properties that belong to the district on the closing of the charter. Mr. Robinson stated that he has, so far, been unsuccessful in reaching an agreement; and, that he may be coming to the Board seeking authority to bring suit on behalf of the School Board against Whitehat.

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 4:55 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Secretary

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