

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – November 29, 2010

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, November 29, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., in the Conference Hall, Administration Building, 301 4th Street S.W., Largo, Florida.

Present: Mrs. Carol J. Cook, Chairperson; Mrs. Robin L. Wikle, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Janet R. Clark, Mrs. Terry Krassner, Mrs. Linda S. Lerner, Mrs. Peggy L. O’Shea, Mr. Lew Williams, 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:

- **Student Assignment & Opportunities** – Dr. Janssen, Mr. Madden and Mr. Bill Lawrence presented information on the Superintendent’s proposed changes for student assignment and achievement.
 - Schools will contact parents/guardians to inform them of the options available when their child leaves a magnet/fundamental program and share the process to follow in procuring a new assignment through our Student Assignment Office for their child in order to avoid any lapse in that student’s education.
 - Mr. Madden provided the history behind the existing feeder pattern from Jamerson to Thurgood Marshall. Discussion followed. Clarification will be made that this feeder pattern will no longer be available. A letter will be written to explain this to the affected parents.
 - Board Members expressed a need for consistent criteria to be placed in writing regarding the acceptance into middle school magnet programs. These criteria should be included in the handbook. Mr. Robinson stated that such criteria should be board-approved and included in policy. Mr. Lawrence forwarded to the Board the link that contains the matrix. Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Robinson will work together to include this information by reference in the handbook.
 - Rezoning of Palm Harbor and changes to the Palm Harbor IB program - Mrs. O’Shea requested that staff look at rezoning Palm Harbor areas to pull in neighborhoods directly to the east of that school. Mrs. Lerner, Ms. Clark and Mrs. Krassner spoke against reducing the numbers for incoming ninth graders into the IB program. There was no consensus indicated at this time regarding the proposed changes to the Palm Harbor IB program. Board Members requested that Dr. Janssen bring a clearer, more definitive explanation to the Board meeting for her recommendation regarding Palm Harbor IB.
 - Mrs. Wikle suggested that Clearwater High be considered as a mid-county school when dividing the high schools into three zones.
 - Transportation for Thurgood Marshall Middle and Osceola High fundamental students – discussion took place. Dr. Janssen summarized by saying that the direction will be to continue the present busing practice for students attending Thurgood Marshall Fundamental Middle School and for those presently attending Osceola Fundamental High School, with a change only being put in place for the incoming ninth graders.
 - ISTEM – Kevin Hendrick and David Barnes presented information on this program that according to the Superintendent’s recommendation will begin next year with a countywide application process. The sequence of courses will be sent to the Board Members, as well as

more details as to what this program will look like, prior to the Board taking action on this recommendation.

- Relocation of Gulfport and Lakeview Fundamental programs – Consensus of the Board was to take an additional year to consider these options and the implications on families and students. Dr. Janssen will look at all options for the Montessori program presently located at Gulfport, including a potential relocation of the program to the SPC site.
- Kings Highway Elementary – Dr. Janssen stressed the importance of reopening this school site as a fundamental program for the 2011/12 school year.

➤ **Superintendent’s Evaluation and Improvement Plan**

- A subcommittee of the Board will work with Dr. Ahmadi to incorporate changes to the existing evaluation tool, incorporating measureable goals. Mr. Robinson reminded the Board that, according to the Superintendent’s contract, the instrument is to be designed through a joint effort of the Superintendent and the School Board. Changes to the organization chart will be sent to the Board electronically on an on-going basis, as changes are approved. Dr. Janssen stressed the importance of the one-on-one meetings scheduled between her and the Board Members.

➤ **Policy for Social Networking**

- Mr. Robinson stated that the proposal had been vetted with PCTA and that he had heard today that they were in agreement with the proposal. Mr. Robinson has asked Mr. Swartzel to speak with the other employee organizations regarding the proposed policy. Mr. Robinson will be seeking input, if any available, from FSBA on this policy proposal. Mrs. Wikle requested that Dr. Janssen speak with principals regarding this proposed policy during their upcoming SAA meeting.

➤ **Real Estate – Sale or Lease of School Board Owned Properties – Follow Up Discussion**

- A matrix for the sale/lease of the property will be designed based on the criteria.
- The impact on students will be a primary consideration.
- “Benefits to the community” will be a bullet included in the matrix.
- The process to follow should more than one charter be interested in leasing a facility will be included in the matrix.
- The matrix will be developed and then returned to the Board for further discussion.
- Rio Vista – The city is one of many parties interested in this property. Mr. Bessette and Ginny Pannell will negotiate terms, to include buyout clause, and return to the Board.
- Ginny Pannell updated the Board on the fencing issue for district-owned property adjacent to Cypress Woods Elementary. A “quit claiming” option for .2 acres was sent to the HOA on November 8, 2010. In response, the HOA expressed concern regarding their potential liability. If the HOA does not accept this opportunity, the district will rescind the offer and install the needed fencing on the existing lot line.
- Planet Green Group/South Ward site – Dr. Janssen explained that originally this group wanted to buy this site, but now prefers to lease it. Mr. Bessette questioned whether the Board was interested in selling or leasing the Euclid site. This topic and the proposed matrix will be brought back to the Board at a future workshop.

➤ **Leadership**

- Committee assignment list for Board Members will be brought to the next workshop for discussion.
- Mrs. Wikle’s report on her participation in the CPPW conference will be scheduled for the next workshop.
- Items for the next workshop – Social Networking Policy, CPPW, Committee Assignments for Board Members.

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- Retreat dates – The following dates and times were identified: January 18, beginning at 10:30 a.m. and January 21, ending no later than 3:00 p.m.
- Pinellas Planning Council – Mrs. Lerner will continue to serve as the Board’s representative. An agenda item will be prepared for Board action.
- Master Board – Board Members and the Superintendent agreed to participate in this FSBA program and the dates of April 28 and 29 were selected as their first choice for training dates, with September 22 and 23 identified as their second choice of dates.

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 4:36 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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