

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – May 3, 2011

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, May 3, 2011, at 9:30 a.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, 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.

During the review of the agenda, Mrs. Cook requested that the item, Superintendent's Evaluation Instrument Process, be removed from this agenda; and, utilize that time to allow the Superintendent to call the Board into an Executive Session on bargaining.

- **Budget Update** – Dr. Janssen, Mr. Fred Matz and Mr. Kevin Smith presented an update on the proposed budget reductions, as follows:
 - **Transportation – Fundamental** – Dr. Janssen and Mr. Bessette presented the proposed areas for reducing costs. Ms. Clark suggested that the bus notices sent to parents include a request that they contact the Transportation Department if they do not wish to use the district's transportation system for their child. Mr. Williams requested that a survey be sent out to parents whose children attend a fundamental school and would be affected if the district removes transportation to see if their children would continue at that school, should the transportation be removed. Mrs. O'Shea requested that a question be included to specifically ask if the family intends to use the district's transportation for their students. Dr. Janssen suggested that district staff meet with those parents who will be affected. Ms. Clark suggested a question be placed on the application for all district programs asking that parent to indicate whether they will need district transportation for their child to attend that specific program. Mrs. Lerner stated that parents should also be able to change their decision, should their circumstances change.
 - **Transportation – SVEC** – Mr. Bessette stated that there are a total of 32 runs in order to transport students to the SVEC programs from Largo, Osceola and Seminole high schools, for a total cost of \$444,000. Both Mrs. Lerner and Mrs. Wikle indicated their interest in transforming this site into a career/technical academy. Mrs. Lerner requested that the Superintendent be ready to present some directions for that school at the May 17th workshop. Dr. Janssen stated that she will have Dave Barnes and Dr. Berry send to the Board their thoughts and suggestions on this subject. Mrs. O'Shea stated that it may be too late to change the program for next year; but, suggested that the issue and cost of transporting students to SVEC be looked at.
 - **Transportation – Gifted & Summer Reading Programs** – Dr. Janssen stated nothing is being changed.
 - **Transportation – Stavros** – Dr. Janssen stated that the use of district buses to and from this program will be reviewed. Mr. Bessette stated that our buses are used to

transport students from private schools and from other counties to and from this program at a fee.

- **Transportation – Extended Day/Exam Days** – This will be reviewed.
- **Transportation – In-County School Activities, After-School Care Centers, Out-of-Zone Students** – Dr. Janssen stated that she would like to dig deeper into these figures; and, that better information will be provided to the Board through Friday Update.
- **Transportation - Magnet & Career Academy Programs** – Dr. Janssen stated that she does not feel transportation should be removed for those already enrolled in the programs. Mrs. O’Shea and Mrs. Cook suggested that this provision be reviewed to look at all possible alternatives for transporting students to these programs.

At this time, the workshop recessed at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened at 12:39 p.m.

- **Remaining Recommendations – Substitutes** - Dr. Janssen stated that consideration is being given to rewarding teachers with \$100 for not missing any days that would require a substitute be brought in. Dr. Janssen also stated that the directive has been given that training opportunities will not be provided during a school day. **Staffing Model** - Ms. Clark stated that she is still concerned that the staffing model allows for the Magnet Coordinator to have a full-time secretary at the middle school level. Dr. Janssen and Mr. Madden will provide the Board with better information regarding the duties of this position at all levels. **C & I, Human Resources** - Mr. Williams restated his concern with the direction being taken regarding the EEO position, emphasizing the need for an employee to have trust in the individual they are going to when they have a concern that rises to that level. Mr. Robinson suggested that the Board allow staff to come back at a future workshop to discuss the concerns raised by Mr. Williams and others regarding the EEO position. **Budget & Finance, MIS** – Dr. Janssen stated that she will come back with an equitable plan, including the formula to be used to disperse technology. **Superintendent** – Mrs. Lerner questioned how much is being spent on the Lastinger/Masters Degree program; and, expressed concern with the amount of money being spent with so few teachers benefitting. More details on this program will be forwarded to the Board Members. A brief discussion took place on moving 12-month employees to 11.5-month employees. Mrs. Cook expressed concern with reducing the workdays and then applying furlough days to these same employees. Mrs. O’Shea stressed that the furlough days should be applied with a graduated scale. Dr. Ciranna stated that should the Board reduced the calendar for 12-month employees, they will have pay out their unused leave time. Ms. Clark requested more information on the cost vs. income to the district for various sports.
- **Budget Wrap-Up** –
 1. Provide more information on what athletics is costing the district, including additional costs at school level.
 2. Provide specifics on moving employees from 12- to 11.5-month contracts
 3. Provide more information related to transportation:

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- a) Number of families at Osceola High and Thurgood Marshall Fundamental Middle and the school-within-a-school fundamentals at Boca Ciega and Dixie Hollins who would not be able to attend if transportation was discontinued
- b) Need information on number of out-of-zone students who are being transported
4. Provide the breakdown on in-county after-school activities
5. Bring back information on SVEC
6. Provide information on additional duty days for guidance counselors
7. Bring a counter proposal on media specialists at middle school level
8. Provide staffing model specific to magnets at elementary, middle and high school levels
9. Provide information on amount of discretionary budgets and amount of discretionary budget carry-over
10. Explain how ESE support will be provided to teachers relative to what's being proposed in the Legislature
11. Provide additional information about caseloads of OPS and EEO in regard to Mr. Williams' concerns
12. Provide additional information on levels of technology support
13. Provide information requested by Mrs. Lerner/Mr. Williams on Lastinger:
 - a) Data or reports that show the effectiveness of this method of professional development delivery; i.e., FCAT scores or learning gains of students at Lastinger schools
 - b) Data or reports that show we're producing better educators as a result of this initiative.
 - c) Cost of master's degree program offered through UF Lastinger; number of teachers who have graduated from this program; number of them who work in Title I schools; where the money will come from now that it's no longer in the Title I budget
14. Provide information requested by Mrs. Krassner on cost associated with the regional superintendents and their offices:
 - a) Cost of upkeep on portables where they work
 - b) Cost of support staff
 - c) Cost of any additional expenses incurred
 - d) What is the benefit/downside of moving all of the region offices to the administration building?
15. Provide information requested by Mrs. Krassner in regard to site-based decisionmaking, which positions can be included in the site-based model, etc.

➤ **Public Participation Policy** – Due to lateness of the hour, 2:30 p.m., and the Board Members' obligations following this workshop, this topic will be postponed to the next workshop.

➤ **Leadership Discussion State Board Meeting**

- Dr. Janssen stated that the State Board of Education will be meeting in our county on May 17th; and, suggested that the Board adjust their start time for their workshop that day to allow those who wish to attend the State Board meeting to do so. School Board Members agreed to move the May 17th to Monday, May 16th, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The State Board of Education meeting will be held at the EpiCenter on May 17th at 8:30 a.m.
- Mr. Robinson stated that the Board Members had received a response to the PCTA flier that was distributed at a school and questioned whether the Board wanted him to send a response. Discussion followed by Board Members, Kim Black (PCTA), Marshall Ogletree (PCTA/PESPA) and Dr. Ciranna. The Board Members agreed that a joint message from PCTA and the Superintendent could be sent to employees to better explain the concerns mentioned in the PCTA flier.

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- Communications Audit – Dr. Janssen will send the report to the Board electronically. This report will be added to the May 16th workshop agenda.
- Board Self-Evaluation Tool – A subcommittee of the Board was formed of Ms. Clark, Mrs. O’Shea and Mrs. Wikle to study instruments and return to the Board with their recommendations.

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 2:48 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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