

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – August 30, 2011

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, August 30, 2011. The morning session, 8:30 a.m. to 12:07 p.m., was conducted at the Stavros Institute, 12090 Starkey Road, Largo, Florida; and, the afternoon session, 2:16 p.m. to 4:45 p.m., was conducted in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4th Street SW, 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; Mr. James F. Madden, Deputy Superintendent; and, Mr. James A. Robinson, General Counsel. Dr. John A. Stewart, Interim Superintendent, joined the Board in their afternoon session.

Mrs. Cook requested that the Board add a Centennial Update as the first item on the afternoon agenda

- **Ford Grant - Ford Partnership For Advanced Studies (PAS) Next Generation Learning (NGL) - Update** – Mr. David Barnes, Director of Career, Technical and Adult Education; Carl Lavender, Pinellas County Community Coordinator, Ford PAS NGL Grant; and, Rick Delano, National Project Manager, Ford PAS NGL, presented an update to the Board Members. Discussion followed by Board Members, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Lavender and Mr. Delano. Mr. Barnes stated that they would like to bring an update, with data, to the Board annually in a workshop setting.
- **Real Estate** – Mr. Michael Bessette, Associate Superintendent for Facilities, Operations, Safety and Security, stated that his staff has received completed appraisals on the following properties: Euclid Center, North Ward Elementary and Southside Fundamental. Discussion followed by the Board Members and Mr. Bessette. A cost comparison will be completed to determine whether razing the buildings on these properties will provide a cost savings to the upkeep and/or provide for a better benefit to the district from the sale of a property. Mr. Bessette requested a direction from the Board on these properties. **Euclid Center** – Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Wikle, Mrs. Krassner and Ms. Clark – Put out a Request For Proposal (RFP) with a bottom-line required amount – Mr. Williams, Mrs. Lerner and Mrs. O’Shea– Do not sell, at this point. Mr. Bessette and his staff will move forward with placing this item out on an RFP and return to the Board, at a future workshop, with the results received on that RFP. **North Ward Elementary** – The Board Members indicated that they do not want staff to proceed on this piece but to put a “hold” on this property. **Rio Vista Elementary** - Mr. Bessette also discussed the interest expressed by the City of St. Petersburg to be permitted to have a 30-year lease on the Rio Vista Elementary site and the opportunity to amortize any improvements made to that property, should the Board agree to this arrangement. Mrs. Wikle – No because she feels it is the district giving away this piece of property without having the knowledge of the fair-market value. Mrs. Lerner, Mr. Williams, Mrs.

O’Shea, Mrs. Krassner and Mrs. Cook – Yes, move forward with negotiations with the City of St. Petersburg on the lease of the Rio Vista property. Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Lerner and Mr. Williams expressed concern with the portion that stipulates that the district could take this property back only if they needed it for a school site.

- **Self Evaluation** - Ms. Clark, as head of this subcommittee, presented a draft of the self-evaluation instrument that Board Members could consider utilizing in evaluating their service during a meeting. Discussion followed by Board Members; and, a decision was made that each Board Member will continue to review this instrument on their own time and forward their concerns, questions or suggestions to Ms. Clark for consideration by the Board’s subcommittee.

At this time, the Board Members returned to the Administration Building in order to conduct their Regular Meeting scheduled for 1:00 p.m., as well as continue their workshop following the completion of that meeting.

- **Centennial Update** – Ms. Sharon McNeal, Coordinator Communications & Marketing, presented an update on the events planned for the district’s 100th year celebration and opportunities for the Board Members to participate in the events.
- **Melrose Professional Learning Center** – Mr. Bill Lawrence, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, presented an update on the proposal of placing a Professional Learning Center at the Melrose site. Mr. Lawrence stated that this program would require some changes to policy regarding the application process. Questions presented by the Board that will require answers are as follows: 1) What is the capacity of that school? 2) Is it under- or over-enrolled? 3) If it is under-enrolled, why? 4) What is the definition of a “professional learning center”? 5) Will the teachers working there be required to sign a commitment letter; and if so, is that a bargaining issue? Mr. Madden stated that should be ready to return to the Board for discussion at the September 20, 2011 workshop and to the Regular Meeting of September 27, 2011.
- **Board Subcommittee Report – Policy 0169.1 – Public Participation at Board Meetings** – Ms. Clark, as committee chair, presented for discussion the proposed policy rewrite. The Board Members agreed that the planning for scheduling special meetings to recognize students should begin. Mrs. Wikle requested that the Board Members agree to place a six-month review in the policy, providing the Board with a time-certain for determining how the revised procedure is working. Mrs. Krassner requested that the notice of the change be sent to School Advisory Committees, PTAs, etc. Mrs. O’Shea suggested that a question and answer section be placed on the website to help better explain the revisions and process to be followed by speakers. Ms. Donna Winchester was charged with preparing an explanation of the changes to be placed on the web and for communicating this to organizations. The first reading will be at the Regular Meeting of September 13, 2011.
- **Superintendent Search – Next Steps** – School Board Members discussed the “next steps” in identifying the next superintendent for Pinellas County. Mrs. Lerner stated that the Board will have to design a Request For Proposal (RFP), to determine whether they want to do a local or national search and schedule a public hearing to hear from the public what the Board should be looking for in a superintendent. Mrs. Krassner shared that Dr. Law, SPC, is very interested in assisting the Board in this process, if that should be the Board’s desire. Mrs. O’Shea reviewed the process used in the past and stated that the use of Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) resulted in significant savings for the district. Mrs. Wikle

stressed the importance of the firm or organization selected to perform the search reaching out to the Board Members to see what characteristics or qualifications the Board would like to see in the next superintendent. Next steps: 1) The September 27, 2011 meeting will be rescheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m., rather than 10:00 a.m. 2) A public hearing will be scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. on September 27th to allow the public to provide their input on this subject. 3) The Board identified a subcommittee of the Board to bring back to the Board recommendations as to what next to do, following the public hearing. That subcommittee was selected as follows: Mrs. Lerner (chair), Mrs. O’Shea and Mr. Williams. A new workshop was scheduled for October 4, 2011 to allow this subcommittee to bring their findings and recommendations to the Board for discussion. Though it was suggested that the October 4th workshop be scheduled for a half-day, Mrs. Cook requested that the Board keep the entire day open should the discussion require more time than originally anticipated. Dr. MaryBeth Corace will be asked if she is available to facilitate the Board’s discussion on October 4th regarding this subject. Dr. John Stewart, Interim Superintendent, requested that the Board Members schedule an opportunity for them to share with him areas of concern they have regarding the district. A workshop was scheduled for Tuesday, September 6, 2011, 9:00 a.m. for this discussion; and, Dr. Corace will be invited to facilitate the conversation. Dr. Stewart will invite members of his cabinet to join in this priority-setting discussion.

➤ **Leadership Discussion**

- Mrs. Cook stated that the Pinellas Education Foundation would like to hold a Superintendent’s Roundtable, with the Interim Superintendent and Board Chairperson, on September 15, 2011; and, would like to know whether the Board Members will attend this event. Board Members agreed to have this event placed on their calendar and those who are able will attend. The Roundtable will begin at 12:00 p.m. and be held at the Stavros Institute.
- Mrs. Lerner brought forward for discussion the initiative by the Pinellas Education Foundation to form committees comprised of local business men and women to review processes and expenditures of the district. Mrs. Lerner stated that the Board received good information on this through Friday Update and that there are many positive aspects of the effort. Mrs. Lerner requested that the Board agree to have this initiative to be presented at a future workshop; and, that a letter be sent from the Board to Craig Sher, Pinellas Education Foundation, to invite them to that opportunity. Board Members agreed to follow through with Mrs. Lerner’s requests.
- Mr. Williams stated that he is still receiving calls regarding bus drivers not being able to use certain restrooms. Mr. Robinson stated that the drivers are asked to use the restrooms located in or near the teachers’ lounges. Mr. Madden and Mr. Bessette will follow up on this and provide Mr. Williams with further information.
- Mrs. Cook reviewed the list of workshop topics remaining and direction for completion was provided: Communications Reorganization – to be scheduled; Seminole Vocational Education Center – information to be provided through Friday Update; School Improvement Plans - information to be provided through Friday Update; APQC & Walter Pownall Service Center – to be scheduled; Legislative Programs (PCS & Consortium) – to be scheduled; Thurgood Marshall & Osceola High transportation & programs – to be scheduled for September 20th workshop; Bonding & Alternative Funding Methods for Capital Outlay Projects – to be scheduled for October 18th workshop; Budget Update – to be continually scheduled; SRO – to be scheduled; and, Education Foundation Initiative – to be scheduled at the September 20th workshop.

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 4:45p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

/db

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