

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – January 17, 2012

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at 1:30 p.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4th Street S.W., Largo, Florida. The Board Members and the Superintendent participated in an FSBA Master Board Training session earlier today from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 203 ABC, Administration Building.

Present: Mrs. Robin L. Wikle, Chairperson; Mrs. Carol J. Cook, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Janet R. Clark, Mrs. Terry Krassner, Mrs. Linda S. Lerner, Mrs. Peggy L. O’Shea, Members; Dr. John A. Stewart, Superintendent, Mr. James F. Madden, Deputy Superintendent; and, Mr. James A. Robinson, General Counsel. School Board District #7 seat remains vacant, pending the appointment by the Governor.

The following topics were discussed:

- **SRO, Brass Knuckles, Discipline Actions, etc.** – Chief of Schools Police Tom Gavin presented an overview of the SRO program within our schools. Questions brought forward to be answered were: Who evaluates the SROs; are there standards for the SROs; and, does Chief Gavin attend meetings of local organizations that hold similar responsibilities to his? Additional questions will be forwarded to the Superintendent by the Board Members.
- **Professional Development: System Update and Teacher** – Ms. Lisa Grant reported that the State has approved our evaluation system; that three years of data will be used, including the student data from the 2011/12 school year; that meetings have been held with staff from which a question and answer report is being compiled to be used in communicating the new system; that specialists will have a different evaluation system; and, that new resources can be found on Moodle E-Learning. Ms. Grant also shared an update on the Professional Development System, stating that the main focus will be on student achievement; that their next planning meeting is scheduled for February 1st; and, that they are in the process of developing a strategic plan for our district. Dr. Stewart requested that Ms. Grant and her staff include in the professional development planning components that will assist our employees who are in need of their GED or high school diploma in order to improve their employment opportunities. Mrs. Lerner requested that a summary be provided to the Board Members as to where we are with professional development and where we are going, the essence of the department. Mrs. Wikle requested that an easy-to-get-to quick-link be placed on our web page for Professional Development. Board Members indicated their support of these two requests: Dr. Stewart stated that both requests will be addressed.
- **Differentiated Accountability, Potential Impact From Changes** – Ms. Winchester will take necessary steps to ensure that information regarding the changes get to the district’s teaching staff. Board Members should forward any additional questions they may have on this subject to Dr. Stewart.
- **Title I, Repurposing of Funds** – Mr. Bill Lawrence and Ms. Mary Conage presented the following update: The funds, if the proposal for repurposing these funds is approved by the Board, will be allocated to elementary and middle schools that have at least 72% of their

student population on the free and reduced lunch program; the focus will be on prevention in the earlier years; that funds must be spent in the classroom; that learning centers for summer and after-school are going to be put in place; and, that summer programs will be enhanced through partnerships with SPC and USF-St. Petersburg. Mrs. Wikle requested that information be provided regarding some of the pilot programs, including data that demonstrates the success of each of the programs. Board Members agreed with this request. Staff will put together a list of schools and the various sources of funding each school receives, i.e., Title I funds, grant funds, etc.

- **Bradley Mediation, Update** – Joining the Board during this discussion were the following individuals representing the Plaintiffs in the Bradley Case: Mr. Watson Haynes, Mr. Roger Plata and Mr. Goliath Davis. The following item will be brought to the Board at their January 24, 2012 meeting for approval: Request Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Administrative Staff Assignment and Faculty Between the Parties in the Bradley Case.
- **Homeless Network, Update on the Organization** – Ms. Clark shared that The Homeless Leadership Network and the Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless, Inc. have merged responsibilities and activities in a new organization, The Homeless Leadership Board, Inc., effective February 1, 2012. Ms. Clark stated that under the new structure, the School Board will not serve on the committee but will be listed as a provider under the Providers Council. Mr. Robinson explained that the agreement to be brought to the Board at their next meeting is basically a recognition of the coordination of efforts to serve homeless students and their families. This committee will be removed from the Board’s listing of Committee Assignments.
- **Leadership:**
 - 1) **Superintendent’s Update:**
 - MLK Banquet, January 13, 2012 – Dr. Stewart shared that it was a wonderful program and that the main speaker, Mr. Wintely Phipps, was exceptional and talked about after-school programs that provide academic assistance for secondary students. Dr. Stewart shared that Ms. Winchester and he will be researching this program and defining what this program could look like in Pinellas County. Ms. Winchester shared that Mr. Madden and she have begun looking into this and found that Orange County already has the program.
 - Bargaining – Dr. Stewart shared that he will ask the Board to move into an Executive Session following next week’s Board Meeting.
 - 2) **Mrs. O’Shea** stated that she presently serves as the Board’s representative to the ESE Advisory Committee; stated that she will be unable to attend their next meeting on January 25th; and, requested that another Board Member take her place. Mrs. O’Shea also requested that the Board Members take time at a workshop to review the committee assignment list.
 - 3) **Mrs. Krassner** questioned whether Board Members wanted to take time during workshop leadership discussion to review their calendar of events to determine which events needed to have at least one member in attendance. Board Members determined that the process in place which is to have the Board Members and the event sponsors work through the Board Office, would remain the procedure to follow in covering events. Either Mrs. Capps or Mrs. Beaty will convey to the Board Members the urgency expressed by a school, department or organization to have a Board Member attend their event.
 - 4) **Mrs. Lerner** questioned whether the Board Members wanted to delay their quality training until the appointment to the District #7 seat has been made by the Governor. It was decided that the training would be scheduled for the February 14, 2012 workshop, regardless.

- 5) **Mrs. Wikle** questioned whether press releases were going to continue under the new organization of the Communications Department. Mrs. O’Shea added her concern that the press clippings notifications to the Board have been discontinued and asked what the plans are for that service. Discussion followed by the Board Members and Ms. Donna Winchester. Mrs. Wikle requested that the Board allow her to work with Ms. Winchester on a way-of-work regarding these two items.
- 6) **Mrs. Wikle** reminded the Board Members to forward to Dr. Stewart any additional questions they have pertaining to the role and responsibilities of the SROs in our schools.
- 7) **Mrs. Wikle** shared that Mrs. Lerner brought up during the Board’s Master Board training earlier in the day the issue of a professional dress code and questioned whether the Board wanted a committee formed to review this issue. Board Members did not support a committee being formed.
- 8) **Mrs. Wikle** shared that FSBA has, on their website, links to strategic plans from other districts.
- 9) **Dr. Stewart** shared that staff will be working on identifying a symbol to be used to demonstrate the Board’s direction of 100% Student Success.

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 5:07 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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