

**SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**WORKSHOP – February 14, 2012**

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, February 14, 2012, at 9:00 a.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4<sup>th</sup> Street S.W., Largo, Florida.

Present: Mrs. Robin L. Wikle, Chairperson; Mrs. Carol J. Cook, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Janet R. Clark, Mr. Glenton Gilzean, 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

The topic, Employment Agreement with Superintendent, was removed from the agenda at the request of Dr. Stewart. Dr. Stewart shared that he wishes to remain with the present agreement regarding length of time and compensation.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Budget Update** – Mr. Kevin Smith provided the Board with an updated on the Budget. Mr. Smith will forward to the Board the 2006/07 base student allocation information.
- **Race to the Top (RTTT)** – Dr. Jan Urbanski and Ms. Jozelle Johnson will provide the Board with the following information:
  - Enrollment numbers by school for AICE and the Cambridge programs.
  - Number of students enrolled in programs who go onto college, tracking of students once they leave a program.
  - Number of students who enrolled in the Cambridge program but subsequently dropped out of that program.
  - The name of the MIS platforms that are being used and what is the goal for each.
  - Information on what is being done to help all teachers to be successful in their classrooms.
  - How successful programs will continue when grant dollars come to an end.
- **North Ward Elementary Site** – Mr. Bessette, Ms. Ginny Pannill and Ms. Debbie Forster presented an update on this property. This item will also be scheduled for the March 13, 2012 workshop where further information will be offered on the following:
  - List of district-owned properties with specific recommendations.
  - A proposed process for leasing and/or selling properties.
  - Information as to whether charter schools can use PECO money to renovate a site they lease.
  - Information as to which schools are C-3 schools.
  - The amount of work that is anticipated at each vacated site.

It was suggested that the Office of the General Counsel could inform the organizers of the Learning Village of Pinellas County charter of the discussion scheduled for March 13, 2012 regarding all of the district's vacated properties.

- **Strategic Plan** – Dr. Behrokh Ahmadi and Dr. Nicole Carr presented the existing document for discussion. The Board requested the following:
  - Something should be added to demonstrate a tracking of student absences.
  - Wording on page 8 regarding attendance will be changed to reflect more accurate recording of absences.
  - Dr. Stewart will give Cabinet Members the direction to add the respective goal(s) to their board agenda items, once the Board approves the Strategic Plan. This directive will apply to all agenda items that can reflect an identified goal.
  - The Strategic Plan will be brought back to the Board each year for their review and discussion.
  - The budgeting process will include the requirement that each budget request be tied to a specific aspect of the Strategic Plan.
- **Leadership Quality Training** – Dr. Mary Beth Corace led the Board and Dr. Stewart through a quality refresh session. Next steps are as follows:
  - A session will be scheduled to have Dr. Corace lead the Board through designing evaluation tools for the Superintendent, General Counsel and themselves.
  - A list of all the committees presently existing in the district will be provided to the Board Members.
  - A list will be provided to the Board of all district departments, the names of who works in each of those departments and their responsibilities.
  - Dr. Stewart will work with Dr. Corace to schedule her participation and leadership in selected workshop topics.
  - Information regarding the Education Summit will be placed on the Board Members' calendar.
- **Leadership:**
  - **Superintendent's Update** –
    - 1) Shared that concerns have been received regarding the short period of time that was provided to employees in order to complete the climate survey. Dr. Stewart stated that an extended opportunity will be provided to all employees to add their comments to the results. Mrs. Lerner requested that the opportunity to complete a survey be provided to all departments, including Walter Pownall Service Center.
    - 2) Shared that Mr. Gilzean had requested information on the amount of money that has been spent on professional development. Dr. Stewart provided that data to the Board. Dr. Stewart stated that they are working on a strategic plan for staff development and that this plan will be brought to the Board for their review and discussion.
  - **Board Operating Manual** – Mrs. Cook shared that the Operating Manual is completed and that the manual will be sent to the Board electronically, unless a Board Member wishes to have a hard copy.
  - **CPPW** – Mrs. Wikle stated that the Board should receive an update on this grant and questioned whether it could be placed on a workshop. This will be placed on the March workshop.

- **Graduation Ceremony Schedule** – Board Members took turns selecting the ceremonies they would like to attend.
- **Committee Assignments** – Board Members reviewed the list and determined their assignments. This information will be communicated to district and community groups.
- **Superintendent’s Contract** – Mrs. Lerner suggested that, since Dr. Stewart does not desire an increase in compensation, possibly the Board could offer him additional vacation days. Dr. Stewart thanked Mrs. Lerner but restated that he did not desire any change in his present agreement with the Board. Mrs. Lerner stated that through Dr. Stewart’s leadership, the Board will know better what they want in their next superintendent.
- **Purchasing Policy** – Mr. Gilzean requested that his fellow Board Members support his request to schedule a workshop discussion on the district’s purchasing policy, specifically as it relates to local businesses, etc. Board Members indicated their support of this request. Information will be gathered and the discussion will be scheduled for March 13, 2012.
- **Misinformation** from earlier this morning – Mr. Bessette stated that the charter group wanting to use the North Ward facility is not an approved charter. Therefore, their request for a lease will not be brought to the Board.
- **Secretary to the Board Office** – Mrs. Wikle suggested that a subcommittee of the Board be formed to organize and perform the interviews for this position. The subcommittee will include Mrs. Wikle, Mrs. Krassner and Mrs. Cook; and, will work with Mrs. Beaty and Dr. Ciranna to complete the task.
- **Born to Read** – Dr. Stewart shared information on a program that he and his wife put in place in Polk County called, Born to Read. Dr. Stewart shared that a partnership was formed with their local Rotary in order to provide each newborn and their family with a children’s book to take home from the hospital as an encouragement to the family to begin reading to their child at a very early age. Dr. Stewart requested support from the Board to begin this initiative in Pinellas County: Support was given.
- **Doorways Scholarship in memory of Lew Williams** – Dr. Stewart shared that an event will be held on March 14 at Gibbs High School at which time the scholarship in Mr. Williams memory will be presented.
- **Twitter** – This opportunity will be provided, with guidelines, to employees in order to promote the many positive things that are happening in Pinellas County Schools.

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 4:00 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Secretary

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