

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – September 18, 2012

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 at 9:00 a.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4th 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. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Budget Update & Employment Agreements** – Mr. Kevin Smith presented an update on the district’s budget; Dr. Ron Ciranna and Mr. Steve Swartzel presented an update on the district’s effort to negotiate agreements with the various employee groups. Mr. Swartzel requested that the Board allocate time on their October 16th workshop to have the proposed legislative platform presented to them for their input. Board Members were asked to send any input they may have for the platform to Mr. Swartzel prior to that workshop; and, Mr. Swartzel will send to the Board what he already has for their consideration.
- **Job Descriptions** – Dr. Ron Ciranna presented to the Board the revised job descriptions for the various positions as a result of the FADSS study.
- **Special Needs Services – Overview of Programs & Offerings for Students** – Ms. Cindy Bania presented, through a PowerPoint, an overview of the services and programs offered by the district for students with special needs. This presentation was provided to the Board Members in hard copy and electronically. Ms. Bania also provided the Board with the Transition Services Resource Guide. Board Members requested that the charts, i.e., graduation rates, reading and math proficiency comparisons, etc., be forwarded to the Board in more legible files. Board Members also requested that a comparison of our district to others in graduation rates for ESE students be supplied to the Board with the data broken down by the specific disability. This topic, at the Board’s request, will be placed on a future workshop for further discussion of possible solutions.
- **Technology & Information Services (TIS) Update** - Mr. Norman Kelton provided the Board Members with most recent list of technology terms being used within Pinellas County Schools. Mr. Kelton will collaborate with Ms. Lisa Grant in Professional Development to provide the Board Members with information and directions pertaining to Moodle, how it works and how Board Members may use various opportunities found through the Moodle site. Mr. Kelton shared with the Board that, since he has assumed the position in TIS, a system has been implemented that ensures that the level of security allowed to an employee is truly identified by the position held, rather than the employee’s name. Mr. Kelton also shared that he and his team are working to identify a standardized tool to be used by all who hold the responsibility of updating their department’s or school’s website; and, that assistance will be provided to those responsible for initiating the updates. Dr. Stewart stated that this was a topic of discussion at a recent Cabinet meeting; and, that the Area Superintendents will be asking

their Principals to make sure that their sites are kept up-to-date, with the Area Superintendents monitoring this concern.

- **Transportation Policy 8600, School Bus Drivers Policy 8600.02** – Dr. Mary Beth Corace, Mr. Michael Bessette and Mr. Rick McBride presented an overview of the proposed policies. Mrs. Cook expressed her desire that the district provide some flexibility for students needing to embark at one location and disembark at another, as long as it did not mean adding a stop and as long as the alternative stop remained within the same school zone. Mrs. O’Shea shared some examples where it could be helpful to comply with such a request. Discussion followed by Board Members, Dr. Corace, Mr. Bessette and Mr. McBride.
- **Real Estate - Lease Agreements & Repurposing, Riviera Middle School - City Garden** -- Mr. Michael Bessette and Ms. Deborah Forster presented an update to the Board on the closed and vacant properties owned by the district. Next steps are, as follows: 1) A spreadsheet will be prepared to demonstrate the cost to the district for maintaining the vacant and closed properties. This information will be forwarded to Mrs. Beaty for distribution to the Board Members. 2) A lease for the Martin Luther King, Jr. site will be brought to the October 16th workshop for further discussion; and, then will be placed on the agenda of the October 23, 2012 Regular Meeting. 3) Mr. Bessette and his staff will look at any potential for trading unwanted properties with local governing bodies. 4) Staff will review each property to make sure that properties are not sold if there is a potential of future use by the district of the same. 5) A recommendation to sell the Euclid property will be presented to the Board at their next meeting. 6) Two options for South Ward will be brought to the Board at their October 16th workshop. 7) Regarding the Southside Fundamental site, Dr. Stewart will make contact with Mr. Guy Burns to provide him with the status of that property and to ask for clarification as to their intention or interest in that property. Dr. Stewart will update the Board following his discussion with Mr. Burns. 7) Mr. Koperski will familiarize himself with the Safety Harbor Secondary site; and, the proposal to lease that site by the City of Safety Harbor will be brought back to the October 16th workshop for further clarification and discussion. 8) Mr. Madden will provide the Board with an update on the potential use of the Kings Highway site for an Early Head Start program and the possibility of partnering with R’Club. Mr. Madden stated that he would like to bring a lease agreement to the Board at their next meeting. The Board requested a workshop discussion prior to that occurring. Mr. Koperski shared with the Board that when they lease a property, they are able to consider the best interest of the Board in approving a lease. Dr. Stewart and Mr. Bessette shared that there are two separate approaches coming to the district for the Riviera Middle School site, one coming from the Mayor of St. Petersburg and the other from one of the city’s Commissioners.
- **Public Comments at Meetings** – The subcommittee of the Board – Ms. Clark, Mrs. Cook and Mrs. O’Shea – presented options to be considered by the Board. The Board, through consensus, decided they will remain with the present policy (0169.1) and practice. Citizens will continue to have three opportunities to present their comments to the Board: Thirty minutes prior to the meeting and following the adjournment on non-agenda topics; just prior to the Adoption of the Agenda on any agenda topic; and, to any Unfinished Business Public Hearing on second readings to policy amendments.
- **Charter Schools – Effect on Communities** – Mr. Koperski will work with Mr. Steve Swartzel and Ms. Dot Clark to make contact with the County’s Planning Department and/or the appropriate municipality to inform them that a charter school has plans to locate in their particular area. This notice will provide the opportunity for the County or a city to share any concerns they may have with the impact a school could have on their community.

- **Employment Agreement with Dr. Michael Grego** - Mr. Koperski explained that the Board does not have an agreement in front of them at this point because negotiations are still taking place. Mr. Koperski stated that Mrs. Wikle and he have met several times with Dr. Grego and his legal counsel; and, will be meeting tomorrow at 10:00 a.m., at which time an agreement should be reached. If that occurs, the agreement will be forwarded to the Board. Mrs. Lerner questioned whether there would be any surprises: Mr. Koperski shared that there is discussion regarding performance pay. Discussion followed by Board Members. The consensus of the Board was they did not have sufficient information related to implementing a pay-for-performance incentive into this contract. Mrs. Cook requested that any Florida statute related to this contract be sent to the Board with the drafted agreement. The Board, through consensus, agreed to meet in a workshop session at 8:00 a.m. prior to the Regular Meeting scheduled for September 25, 2012, should there be a pay-for-performance item included in the finalized agreement.
- **Leadership Discussion:**
- **Superintendent's Update** –
Dr. Grego shared with the Board that he has never really prescribed to pay-for-performance; and, that it is not just the Superintendent that changes a school. Dr. Grego shared that he believes in the district operating as a team.
 - **Mrs. Wikle** – Stated that she wants to make sure she is operating the workshops according to the will of the Board as it relates to community members wishing to participate in the Board's workshop discussions. Mr. Koperski stated that the Board has a policy that speaks to this. The consensus of the Board was to not allow this unless the Board agrees ahead of time to invite that participation
 - **Mr. Gilzean** – Shared that he recently visited JDC (Juvenile Detention Center) to see the dropout prevention program in action and was somewhat troubled by what he saw. Mr. Gilzean requested that the Board Members agree to schedule a workshop discussion as to what is being offered to these students and what support and/or training is being provided to the teachers who provide their education. Board Members agreed to schedule this topic. Mrs. Cook suggested that Board Members visit JDC and other programs in preparation for the discussion.
 - **Mrs. O'Shea** – Requested that the Board's legislative subcommittee – Ms. Clark, Mrs. Cook and Mrs. O'Shea - set a meeting date to begin planning for this year's Legislative Breakfast. Mrs. Lerner stated that at a recent meeting of the Students Rights & Responsibilities Committee, students indicated they may be interested in attending this breakfast with Legislators.
 - **Mr. Gilzean** - Stated that our Exceptional Student Education teachers are required by the state to have many additional certifications; and, questioned whether there is any way that the Board and the district can seek flexibility from the state regarding these requirements. Mr. Steve Swartzel will be asked to look into this and to share with the Board as to whether something could be written into the legislative platform to speak to this concern.

 - **Mrs. Lerner** - Stated that she is sure Dr. Grego's contract will be approved and suggested that a meeting of the Board, the Cabinet and Dr. Grego be scheduled, similar to the session held with Dr. Stewart upon his arrival. Mrs. Cook suggested, and Board Members agreed, to have the first session include the Board and Dr. Grego only.

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- **Mrs. Wikle** – Stated that in one of the Friday Updates there was something that spoke to a reduction in e-mails; and, questioned what that would look like. Ms. Donna Winchester clarified that this would only affect the groups beginning with “All...”
- **Ms. Clark** - Questioned what is being done to reduce the e-mails labeled, “Marketing.” Mr. Norm Kelton responded.

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 3:43 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

/db

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