

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – March 12, 2013

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 1:00 p.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4th Street S.W., Largo, Florida.

Present: Mrs. Carol J. Cook, Chairperson; Mrs. Peggy L. O’Shea, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Janet R. Clark, Ms. Rene Flowers, Mrs. Terry Krassner, Mrs. Linda S. Lerner, Mrs. Robin L. Wikle, Members; Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent; Mr. Michael Bessette, Associate Superintendent for Operational Services; and, Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

The following topic was discussed:

- **Sale of Southside Fundamental Property** – Mr. David Koperski presented the following summary on the steps that have taken place to-date regarding the Southside site: A workshop discussion took place on February 21, 2013, during which time the majority of the Board indicated that the process should go forward with the sale, not lease, of this property; the next day, Mr. Bessette, Ms. Dart and Mr. Koperski had a discussion with the charter group to share the direction requested by the Board and to request that they submit their offer; the district staff requested that the 2011 appraisal of property be updated which was performed and came back with a combined appraisal value of \$1.435M, \$775,000 for the land alone and with improvements taking the value to \$1.435M; district staff made several efforts through e-mails and phone calls to receive an offer from the charter group; an offer was finally received the evening of March 11, 2013, for \$700,000, saying that their appraisal was returned to them at \$505,000; and, according to Mr. Guy Burns, the offer submitted was based on vacant land. Mr. Koperski advised the Board to not get into a discussion at this point regarding a negotiated price; but, requested that the Board allow Dr. Grego, Mr. Bessette, Ms. Dart and him to discuss this further and return to the Board at their April 2nd workshop with their recommendation. Board Members, through consensus, provided Dr. Grego and staff with direction to continue to move forward on this; bring the results of their discussion to the April 2nd workshop; and, place a finalized sale agreement on the agenda of the April 9th Regular Meeting, if warranted.
- **Leadership Discussion:**
 - **Superintendent’s Update** –
 - 1) Shared with the Board that he will have the opportunity to attend the House committee meeting tomorrow to discuss the high school bill. Dr. Grego distributed to the Board relative information produced by Ms. Rita Vasquez and Ms. Judith Vigue. Dr. Grego stated that once the House committee votes on the high school bill tomorrow further action can be taken.
 - 2) Stated that he and a few other superintendents had a meeting with the new Commissioner of Education yesterday. Mrs. Lerner expressed concern with the requirement of the end-of-course tests being used to set a course of study for all students; and, stated that this needs to be addressed. Mrs. Krassner stressed the need to educate our Legislators on VAM.
 - **Mrs. Lerner** – Stated that she serves on the education committee for the Holocaust Museum and that she was asked to arrange a visit for the Board and the Superintendent to

tour the museum. Mrs. Lerner suggested April 26th for a quick tour since many of the Board Members and Dr. Grego will be at the Museum of Fine Arts that morning. Board Members agreed to have this scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on April 26th.

- **Mrs. Cook** – Stated that when the Board met with Students Rights & Responsibilities Committee, the students brought up issues related to advanced placement and honor courses. Dr. Grego shared that he and staff are working on this and will provide the Board with an update.
- **Mrs. Cook** – Requested that the Board Members set workshop dates through the summer months. Those finalized workshop dates are as follows: Thursday, June 27th; Tuesday, July 16th; and, Tuesday, August 6th. These dates will be placed on the Board Members' calendars.
- **Mrs. O'Shea** – Stated that many of the Board Members will be traveling to Tallahassee next week and suggested that the Board determine a unified direction regarding the \$2500 raise being proposed for all teachers by the Governor. Board Members, through consensus, agreed that should this amount be allocated through the Governor's budget, it should be sent to the districts for an across-the-board distribution. Mr. Koperski reminded them that the monies would still need to go through bargaining with the teachers' union. Mrs. Cook stated that the Consortium will hold their meeting on the evening of Wednesday, March 20th. Mrs. Cook also shared that Mr. Swartzel will be arranging appointments with our legislators for the Board Members who are traveling to Tallahassee; and, that he will meet with the Board Members to determine how the Board should address issues with the legislators.
- **Ms. Flowers** – Stated that she would like to continue the efforts initiated by both Mrs. Mary Brown and Mr. Lew Williams during their tenure on the Board of making sure that the community knows how to do business with the district. Ms. Flowers shared that she had discussed this with Mr. Bessette, Ms. Linda Balcombe and Mr. Ed Ural; and that, as a result, there will be an event on April 15th, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., hosted by the Urban League to share information and answer questions. Discussion followed and it was decided that this would be a district-sponsored event; and, that the appropriate district staff will be asked to organize and properly promote this event. Board Members expressed concern that the proper process should be followed by Board Members wishing to organize such an event, specifically bringing their request forward for a workshop discussion first.
- **Mrs. Krassner** – Distributed a sheet of paper listing of links and websites that contain important information for families that appear on our district's website.

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 1:54 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

/db W13Mar12