

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – August 6, 2013

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, August 6, 2013 at 9:00 a.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; Dr. William Corbett, Deputy Superintendent; and, Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Budget Update** – Mr. Kevin Smith presented an update on the budget and highlighted areas of the Yellow Brick Road Comparative Data Report, 2009/10 through 2011/12. Dr. Grego stated that talking points regarding the budget will be provided to the Board Members for their use as they speak to the public.
- **Teacher Evaluation - Update** – Dr. Lisa Grant and Ms. Claudia Guerere presented an update to the Board on the teacher evaluation system. In response to a request presented by Mrs. Lerner, Dr. Grant will forward to the Board the formula that is used in calculating the VAM score for teachers. Dr. Grego stated that this system will be brought to the Board at next week’s meeting for their approval. In response to a request presented by Mrs. Lerner, this item will appear under the Nonconsent portion of the agenda, rather than the Consent portion.
- **Parental Choice Plan Options** – Mr. Bill Lawrence and Mrs. Dee Burns presented the information to the Board.
- **Student Assignment and District Application Policies** – Mr. Bill Lawrence and Mrs. Dee Burns presented to the Board an overview of the proposed changes to the handbook, Procedures for District Application Programs, and related policies. Mr. Lawrence stated that he will forward to the Board a copy of the handbook and policies that displays the changes noted in the right column.
- **Attendance Committee Report** – The Area Superintendents, led by Mr. Ward Kennedy, presented to the Board. Mrs. Cook questioned whether there has been any discussion regarding exam exemptions: Mr. Kennedy responded that there has been some. Ms. Clark requested further information regarding incentives that are offered to students to improve their attendance. Mrs. Lerner requested that the Board receive further information on the role of the Attendance Specialist and the staffing model for this position. Mrs. Cook requested that the Board receive further details on reasons for absences of those students coming to the Board during expulsion hearings.
- **Planning Committee Report** – Dr. Ron Ciranna, Mr. Dywayne Hinds and Mrs. Rita Vasquez presented to the Board the final recommendations from the taskforce charged with formulating recommendations for providing planning time to teachers. Ms. Kim Black, PCTA, requested that the second column heading on the recommendations be changed to read, ~~District Task Force Members’~~ Recommendations/Insight.

- **Strategic Plan** – Dr. Grego and Dr. Mary Beth Corace presented the Strategic Plan with some proposed revisions, as well as the addition of actions to some of the goals. Dr. Corace stated that the policy will reflect a change in the date of review to read that it will be performed annually. Mrs. Wikle expressed her concern that “annually” may be too broad. Dr. Grego suggested, and consensus was provided, to have that area read, “annually in conjunction with the district’s budget.”
- **FACTS Brochure Review** – Ms. Donna Winchester presented a draft of the revised FACTS brochure for the Board to provide their input. Mrs. Cook suggested, and agreement indicated, that the list of Important Phone numbers be changed to read: School ~~Board~~ District Administration Building...588-6000 and School Board Members Office...588-6300. Ms. Winchester shared that her team is putting together a PowerPoint for Mrs. Wikle to use in her presentations to various community organizations. Dr. Grego stated that one should be made that any Board Member may have access to for use in their speaking engagements.
- **Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement** – Mrs. Judith Vigue reviewed with the Board the four proposed revisions to the Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement with St. Petersburg College. Dr. Grego shared that efforts will be made to change the law that emerged from this past legislative session that caused this issue of concern.
- **Leadership Discussion:**
 - **Superintendent’s Update** –
 - 1) Thanked those Board Members who were able to attend the back-to-school event.
 - 2) Shared that a message is being prepared that he will deliver to all employees that will share information regarding various initiatives.
 - 3) Shared that a recording is being prepared that will share the good news of the district with callers while they are on hold.
 - 4) Shared that he will be recording a message to go to parents on the Sunday before schools starts to welcome the students and families back to the new school year.
 - 5) Shared that he will be attending the orientation meeting for rising sixth-graders at Meadowlawn Middle School this coming Thursday. Dr. Grego stated that Board Members are welcome to attend this event.
 - 6) Shared that a visitation schedule is being formulated for the administrative team to visit priority schools.
 - 7) Distributed to the Board an informational piece titled, Bridging the Gap, that shares the communication plan for the district’s efforts to close the achievement gap. Mrs. Cook suggested that the “external” section on the first page should reflect the whole community. Mrs. O’Shea, referring to the second page, suggested that “south county” references be removed since the achievement gap is not isolated to the south portion of the county. Dr. Grego invited the Board to review this document and provide him with their additional input.
 - 8) Requested that Dr. Corbett provide the Board with an update on campus monitors. Dr. Corbett presented information, saying that final touches were just incorporated into the model. Dr. Corbett stated that we now have a model we can replicate every school year. Dr. Grego stated that the Area Superintendents are working with their principals to determine their individual school’s needs. Mrs. Krassner requested that the information clearly indicate to these individuals that they may be required to ride a bus.
 - 9) Shared that he has asked that Dr. Corbett begin work to review the salary discrepancy issue for administrators.
 - 10) Requested that Mr. Bessette discuss the issue of bringing “drawdowns” to the Board for formal action. Mr. Bessette explained that the Board takes formal action to approve projects with an estimated total cost; and, that the items that are presently coming to the Board are only

“drawdowns” against that already approved amount. This practice will discontinue. Mr. Bessette assured the Board that if there is ever a true change in the scope of a project, this information will be brought to the Board, as well as the other portions of any project that must, by law, come to the Board for their action. This new process will be phased in.

- **Mrs. Cook** – Shared that the next Master Board module scheduled for the Board and Superintendent is titled, Improving Student Achievement by Aligning the Work of the School District. Mrs. Cook stated that in reviewing this module, she believes this leadership team is already doing that. Board Members requested that Mrs. Cook speak to the design team at FSBA to see if Creating Meaningful Change might be a good substitute for the September training session; and, if not, what topic would be more appropriate for the Pinellas team.
- **Mrs. Wikle** – Stated that it seems that we are getting administrators in place for the start of school and questioned how we are doing with teachers and support staff. Dr. Grego stated that an update will be provided to the Board in an email.

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 2:58 p.m. A Special Board Meeting was conducted immediately following the closure of this workshop.

Chairperson

Secretary

/db
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