

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA WORKSHOP – January 21, 2014

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 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. Linda S. Lerner, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Janet R. Clark, Ms. Rene Flowers, Mrs. Terry Krassner, Mrs. Peggy L. O’Shea, 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, Ms. Karen Coffey and Ms. Lou Ann Jourdan presented an update on the budget, including information on the recalibration of FTE. Mrs. Lerner stated that some Board Members will be attending the upcoming luncheon with the Pinellas Legislators; and, requested that the Board have a handout to provide to the Legislators regarding this issue. Mr. Smith will send to the Board a piece that will clearly explain this matter.
- **Humana Executive Summary Report** – Mr. Ted Pafundi and Dr. John Montgomery, Humana Medical Director, presented the Executive Summary of our health plan costs, recommendations to control costs and initiatives available to employees suffering from diabetes and/or the use of tobacco products. Mrs. Lerner requested that a list be provided of urgent care centers that could be recommended to employees by Humana and our Risk Management Department. Mrs. Wikle requested that recommendation #8 on page 12, Consider a Tobacco Free discount on member premium, be considered for implementation.
- **Collaborative Agreement - School Discipline – Follow Up** - Dr. Grego stated that this item had been presented to the Board at their last workshop; and, subsequently, a joint meeting was held between the School Resource Officers and district principals during which time both Sheriff Gualtieri and he addressed the group regarding the proposed collaborative agreement and a new way to work, while understanding each other’s responsibilities. Mr. Koperski stated that the present agreements between the School Board and local law enforcement agencies mainly deal with interviewing students; and, recommended that the proposed agreement be written to make it specific to Pinellas. Mr. Bessette commended Schools Police Chief Rick Stelljes for orchestrating the joint meeting; and, stated that the proposed agreement will work towards decriminalizing petty acts of misconduct occurring in our schools. Mr. Bessette stated that meetings still need to be scheduled with the heads of each law enforcement agency throughout the county to discuss the proposed agreement. Mrs. Lerner and Mrs. O’Shea requested that judges, State Attorney Bernie McCabe and others who will be involved in the implementation of this new agreement be invited to a presentation and discussion of the agreement. Dr. Grego thanked Ms. Flowers for bringing the agreement from Broward County to his attention. Mrs. Cook questioned whether any change to this agreement would require the

document to go through the full approval process each time. Dr. Grego stated that the key would be to monitor this continually by all who are involved. Mr. Koperski suggested that wording could be included to say that insignificant changes in wording could be made by receiving agreement. Mr. Koperski also stated that the changes resulting from this agreement will be reflected in the Student Code of Conduct.

- **Calendar 2014-15** – Dr. Ron Ciranna and Mr. Dave Richmond presented the proposal for the 2014-15 school year calendar. Discussion followed by Board Members, Dr. Grego and Dr. Corbett. Dr. Grego stated that he will be speaking with the leadership of other districts regarding the design of their calendars; and, that effort will continue with the Legislature to seek the five-day allowance for the start of school. Dr. Grego also requested that the calendar be called the Instructional Calendar.
- **Pupil Progression Plan** – Mrs. Pam Moore, Ms. Rita Vasquez and Dr. Mary Beth Corace presented an overview of the proposed updates to the pupil progression plan.
- **Professional Services Selection Committee Policy** – Dr. Grego stated that the Board had requested a brief clarification as to how the new policy will change the process. Mr. Bessette presented the overview and stated that the new process is working well. Mrs. Lerner suggested that the matrix used provide points for those companies located within the county and who support the Education Foundation. Mrs. Wikle agreed with Mrs. Lerner saying that companies who give back to the community should receive priority. Mrs. Lerner suggested that the district’s architect should be a part of the committee: Dr. Grego stated that the structure of the committee can be reviewed.
- **Teacher Partnership with St. Petersburg College** – Dr. Grego and Dr. Mary Beth Corace presented the proposed teacher partnership with St. Petersburg College, a plan designed to better ensure the availability of highly qualified teachers. The plan will first develop a partnership with our local colleges and universities to develop our own teacher development program; second, design with our partners a curriculum capable of earning the high quality standings of exemplar programs in the United States, Finland and Canada; third, obtain cooperation from lawmakers to negotiate state requirements, political barriers and legislative mandates; and, fourth, recruit candidates for the program from the top quarter of high school graduates. Dr. Grego requested that the Board provide him with a consensus to move forward with this proposal. Discussion followed by the Board Members: The Board provided that direction of support.
- **Gulf Beaches & Kings Highway** – Dr. Grego, Mr. Bill Lawrence, Mrs. Pam Moore, Mrs. Pat Lusher and Mr. Bessette presented further information regarding the proposed programs planned for the reopening of these two sites. Mrs. Wikle suggested that the Board consider renaming these schools. Mrs. Lusher described a new classroom design being considered for these schools.
- **Standard Charter Contract – Update** – Mr. Koperski presented an update to the Board. Mr. Koperski stated that he will be discussing this matter with other board attorneys in order to provide a unified message and will apprise the Board of those discussions at an upcoming workshop or meeting.
- **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Next Generation Systems Grant** – Dr. Grego, Mrs. Rita Vasquez, selected high school principals and administrators along with Mr. Alec Liem, retired district administrator, presented information to the Board regarding the proposed grant with the Gates Foundation.

- **Youth Career Connect** – Mr. David Barnes, Mrs. Joni Jonas and Dr. Jan Urbanski presented information to the Board regarding the Youth Career Connect grant program that is designed to encourage America’s school districts, institutions of higher education, the workforce investment system and their partners to scale up evidence-based high school models that will transform the high school experience for the youth. Mr. Barnes stated that the grant is to be submitted by January 27th; and, the district should hear something by mid-April. Dr. Grego stated that this initiative will align with our academies.
- **Public Participation at Board Meetings** – Dr. Mary Beth Corace and Mr. Koperski presented the proposed policy. Dr. Corace stated that this version includes the changes presented by Mrs. Cook during the first reading. Mr. Koperski questioned the Board Members as to whether they wanted the meeting times to change or remain at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. There was consensus to move the start times to 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.: This recommendation will be brought to the Board for their action at the same meeting that the second reading on this item is placed on the agenda.
- **Leadership Discussion:**
 - **Superintendent’s Update** –
 - Invited Ms. Lori Matway, Mr. Sean Clark and Dr. Valerie Brimm to demonstrate the Digital Portfolio being designed through the multimedia team.
 - Invited Ms. Amie Hornbaker, Ms. Donna Winchester and Mr Sean Clark to present information regarding the “social media launch” initiative by the district, i.e., Facebook, Twitter, etc. The rollout is planned for February 17th. Discussion followed by Board Members. Ms. Hornbaker clarified that these sites will be one-way communication only and that no posting will be allowed. Mrs. Lerner requested that the Board receive further information regarding the legal issues related to this rollout. Mrs. Cook requested that the Board, prior to the rollout, receive the guidelines that are to be put in place. Mrs. O’Shea suggested that our district staff contact their counterparts in Orange County to see how they have managed a successful launch.
 - Shared that he will continue to keep the Board abreast of the meetings taking place with focus groups. Dr. Grego stated that he will be meeting this week with first-year teachers and those teachers who are first-year in Pinellas County; and, that he will be meeting with the ten finalists for Teacher of the Year. Dr. Grego stated that he will be posing questions to them during these meetings in order to gain insight from them as to how to improve education.
 - Stated that the practice of introducing newly appointed administrators to the Board at their meetings is being reinstated. Dr. Grego invited the Board Members to attend his leadership meeting with principals and administrators February 6th to allow for those newly appointed administrators who were approved by the Board during the void in that practice to be introduced to the Board. Dr. Grego stated that the portion of the meeting that the Board is invited to will begin at 8:00 a.m. on February 6th; and, that upon their departure, he will then continue his staff meeting with the administrators.
 - **Mrs. Cook** – Stated that she has received some comments of concern from some Board Members regarding the number of assorted items being added to the Board calendar. Mrs. Cook shared that she worked with Mrs. Beaty and Mrs. Frazier to offer some options to the Board. Those options were distributed to the Board Members. The following direction will be provided to Board Office staff: Invitations received for one Board Member will not go on the calendar; if the invitation is received for more than one Board Member and received in the Board Office, it will be placed on the calendar; if it is an invitation to a community event received by one Board Member but then forwarded to the others, it will not be placed on the calendar unless more than one Board Member indicates an intention of attending; and, there

will be no notation as to whether it is a district event or a community event added to the calendar. Mrs. Cook also conveyed the importance of Board Members attending events that they have indicated that they responded to in the affirmative.

- **Mrs. Lerner** - Distributed an example of the data she believes is important for the Board and district to have available to them. Mrs. Lerner requested that the Board schedule further discussion on this need. Dr. Grego stated that this request is very timely; that he has spoken with Mrs. Lerner on this matter; and, that staff is working to develop such an item that will be consistent with the district's Strategic Plan.
- **Mrs. Lerner** – Shared that she has met with FAST group and that she believes we are heading in the right direction. Mrs. Lerner stated that Dr. Hires and Ms. Matway will also be meeting with this organization next week; and, that she will be forwarding to the Board some additional information that she has provided to this group.
- **Mrs. Wikle** - Thanked Dr. Grego and his staff for providing updates on the Seminole Middle School student who was injured recently. Mrs. Wikle also shared that the Plant Operator at Sunset Hills Elementary passed away.
- **Mrs. Wikle** – Shared that the Board had received an update on grants through the Friday Update and congratulated those in the grant department for their work. Dr. Grego stated that, in accordance, with policy the Board will receive an update every six months.
- **Mrs. Wikle** – Requested that she receive a supply of the tri-fold Pinellas Pathways brochure. Dr. Grego stated that he will ask staff to place some in the Board Office.
- **Mrs. Krassner** – Requested that Ms. Joan Reubens, Resource Teacher, be invited to a future Board workshop to provide an update on bullying, etc. Mrs. Cook reminded Mrs. Krassner that she is to complete a Workshop Topic Request Form in order to have this topic considered for scheduling.

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 3:49 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary

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