

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – August 11, 2015

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, August 11, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4th Street SW, Largo, Florida.

Present: Mrs. Linda S. Lerner, Chairperson; Mrs. Peggy L. O'Shea, Vice-Chairperson; Ms. Janet R. Clark, Mrs. Carol J. Cook, Mrs. Terry Krassner, Dr. Ken Peluso, Members; Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent, Dr. William Corbett, Deputy Superintendent, and Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

Absent: Ms. Rene Flowers, School Board Member

The following topics were discussed:

- **Pinellas Technical College Update-** Mr. Mark Hunt, Executive Director, Career, Technical and Adult Education, introduced Dr. Arlene Corbin, Director, PTC-Clearwater and Mr. Boe Norwood, Director, PTC-St. Petersburg. The administrative team is actively promoting both campuses to increase enrollment and provide job training for our community. A four page advertising supplement was placed in the Tampa Bay Times, July 31, 2015. Community partnerships have been developed with the Weekly Challenger, Boley Centers, Career Source Pinellas, Pinellas Education Foundation, Bay Area Manufacturers Association, National Tooling and Machining Association, Independent Electrical Contractors, the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Contractors Association and the City of St. Petersburg. Pinellas Technical College is receiving assistance from Honda and Snap On with their automotive programs. The American Manufacturing Skills Initiative is a machining apprenticeship program and there is an internship with St. Petersburg College and the Lew Williams Center for Early Learning. The PowerPoint presentation showcased improvements planned during the \$15 million renovation to the Clearwater campus. It will include creating an entrance hub at the Culinary program building one, a new bistro area, new fencing, and a student services area. Current program improvements included a four room hospital ward laboratory and a commercial vehicle driving simulator. New programs are scheduled for 2015-16 at both sites; the semester begins August 24, 2015. The Pinellas County Emergency Management Facility at Ulmerton Road and Seminole Blvd., houses 500-700 employees. The facility has a new commercial kitchen and they have partnered with the PTC-Clearwater Culinary program to operate a cafeteria. PTC-St. Petersburg has promoted the use of its facility for meetings which will increase awareness of what the campus has to offer. High School guidance counselors will be asked to promote PTC for students wanting industry certifications. Mrs. Lerner asked how many 2015 Pinellas County high school graduates enrolled at PTC. Dr. Grego requested that more programs be offered late in the day to accommodate adults currently employed who want additional education or job training.
- **District Application Program Procedures-** Mr. William Lawrence, Director, Student Demographics, Assignment and School Capacity and Ms. Melissa Campbell, District Application Program Specialist, reviewed the proposed changes to the District Application Program Procedures. Mr. Lawrence stated that the changes are minimal as noted in the five handouts shared during the workshop. The documents discussed are the Agenda Item: Setting a Public Hearing and Authorizing the Advertisement of the Public Hearing to Consider the Amendment to Policy 2250-FUNDAMENTAL SCHOOLS, MAGNET PROGRAMS, AND CAREER ACADEMIES (This is the first reading.); Policy 2250-

FUNDAMENTAL SCHOOLS, MAGNET PROGRAMS, AND CAREER ACADEMIES; Procedures for District Application Programs handbook; Policy 5120-ASSIGNMENT WITHIN DISTRICT; and Policy 5120.01-CONTROLLED OPEN ENROLLMENT PLAN. Mr. Lawrence shared his intent to apply for a Federal Magnet Schools Assistance Grant. The grant funds will be used to expand magnet programs at four district schools. The plan is to add a Fine and Performing Arts program at Sandy Lane elementary; an IB program at Lakewood elementary; Leadership and Entrepreneurship at Maximo elementary, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) at Fairmount Park elementary. The purpose is to add diversity and address the desire the community has for magnet programs. Currently we have long waitlists for entrance into Perkins and Jamerson elementaries due to the quality of these programs. A quality program will be developed at each of the four schools and through incremental increases in enrollment over a three year period; the long range goal will be achieved. Choice seats will be a portion of the school population but all students will be involved in these new programs. Facilities department will plan ahead to accommodate the growth. The process does take time. The grant application is due February 2016, with a May 2016 approval date. If approved, then the training will begin and the programs would open in the 2017-18 school year. Dr. Grego stated that this plan is so important that we will move forward with or without the grant money. It will be easier with the grant money and we may struggle, but this plan is too important not to move forward. Mr. Lawrence updated the Board on his plan to accommodate late student registrations. He shared that his department will remain open until 7 pm on Thursday, August 13th and Tuesday, August 18th; and from 8 am-2pm on Saturday, August 22nd to assist families. Room E-111 will be used beginning August 13th to handle persons who come to the administration building to register their students.

- **Wellness Policy and Administrative Guidelines for Wellness Physical Activity and Nutrition Summary Report Update-** Ms. Peggy Johns, Pk-12 Health Education Specialist, Lynn Geist, Director, Food Services, and Catherine Gerard, Manager Food Services, spoke to the Board about the Wellness Summary 2014-2015. Ms. Johns stated that every school has action plans and goals imbedded in their School Improvement Plan to address wellness. The district utilizes criteria from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and modules in the Center for Disease Control's School Health Index. These resources are free of charge and 29,000 schools across the United States are using this database. Only 12 schools of the 29,000 received gold status and we are proud to report that Sexton Elementary has achieved gold. Eight other schools received bronze or silver status in the Healthy Schools Program. After reviewing the documents, Mrs. Lerner asked for a summary of achievements and opportunities for improvement. Dr. Grego stated that a one page summary of talking points will be shared with board members. He stated that the district is receiving positive recognition in the Healthy Schools Program due to Ms. Johns' efforts.
- **Improvement at Seminole School Cluster-Road/Crossing-** Mr. Clint Herbic, Associate Superintendent, Operational Services, introduced Dan Glaser, P.E. from Pinellas County Office of Engineering and Technical Support, and his staff, and Mr. Jerry Reynolds and Mr. Terry Huberty, General Managers of Operations, Pinellas County Schools. Mr. Glaser said a community meeting was held on July 30th at Seminole HS. One thousand letters were mailed and phone calls made to residents in the area. More than 100 persons attended. At that time several options for improvements to the area were presented. The areas being recommended for improvements are: 131st Street N. /82nd Ave. N., 131st Street N. /86th Ave. N., and 86th Ave. N./125th Street N. The schools in these areas are: Seminole HS, Seminole MS, Bauder Elementary and Career Academies of Seminole. Numerous safety concerns exist including: lack of paved shoulders, visibility issues, roadway parking,

drainage ditches, narrow sidewalks and repeated automobile accidents. Mr. Dan Glaser stated that the project, if approved, would occur in fiscal year 2018 due to the numerous steps that must occur. The funding is part of the Penny for Pinellas. Mrs. O'Shea asked what can be done now to help with some of the problems and if the information is on the county website. Mr. Huberty and Mr. Herbic stated that the district is working on signage, educating parents, students, and crossing guards, and working with the sheriff's office and School Resource Officers to improve the situation prior to a more permanent solution. Information is available on the Pinellas County website: <http://www.pinellascounty.org/resident/transportation.htm> under the Roadwork heading "Seminole High School Road Improvement Study". Mrs. Krassner requested the information be placed on the school websites that are affected.

- **Teacher Evaluation iObservation Overview-** Mr. Lou Cerreta, Director, Professional Development, and Jessley Hathaway, principal, Walsingham Elementary, demonstrated the iObservation electronic tool for teacher evaluations. The teacher evaluation is based on the Marzano framework which has 60 elements within the four domains. Domain 1: Classroom Strategies and Behaviors, has 41 elements. Each of the elements has a reference scale which reduces subjectivity during the observation. The scale can be viewed in a drop down box on the iPad. Robert Marzano was a researcher, not an educator, and he aggregated the elements that have traditionally shown a correlation to student academic achievement. From this he built the framework. Schools that were part of the pilot project have already used this technology, now it will be used throughout the district. Principals and teachers are being trained. Administrators conduct four teacher observations annually. Mr. Hathaway has experienced an increase in collaboration and dialogue among his staff through the use of this tool. Mrs. Lerner asked that some articles be sent to the Board to enhance their understanding.
- **Job Descriptions-** Dr. Ron Ciranna, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, reviewed the following job descriptions: Administrator, Adult High School; Exceptional Student Education Specialist; Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources Systems (FDLRS) Specialist (Gulfcoast Associate Center); Senior Coordinator, Evaluation (Title I); World Languages Specialist; General Manager, Facilities Planning; and, Coordinator, Food Service Distribution. Dr. Ciranna stated that the changes were due to the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) input.
- **Strategic Plan Update-** Dr. Mary Beth Corace, Director, Strategic Planning and Policy, presented the draft of the Pinellas County Schools Strategic Plan 2015-16 with Goals and Actions. She advised the Board that each of the five goals have action items to accomplish the goal. Supporting documentation and data is collected throughout the year to show evidence of the progress being made. Dr. Grego stated that we are moving ahead with this work plan.
- **Opening of School Review-** Dr. Michael Grego shared a document entitled School Readiness Summary Report. He reviewed this information with the Board to demonstrate the preparations made for the start of the new school year. Mrs. Lerner asked about areas of need for school staffing. Dr. Ciranna stated that there are openings for school guidance counselors, school psychologists, ESE teachers and Science teachers. Mr. Herbic reported on the progress of preparing the school facilities for teachers and students. On Thursday, August 13th, teachers will need access to their classrooms. There may be some issues at Belleair and Sawgrass Lake elementaries. And Cypress Woods has an increase in enrollment and will need five portables. In some cases, projects have been delayed due to the recent heavy rainfall, but his staff is working diligently to make progress as quickly as possible. Mr. Herbic also reported on the status of school bus drivers. Transportation covers 474 routes and he will have 490 drivers which provides for coverage of absences.

➤ **Leadership Discussion-**

- Dr. Michael Grego touched on the requirements of the class size amendment. He shared that this year he will look more closely at the data to be sure that he is making educationally sound decisions for our students. The state is affording some leeway in this area and he will, of course, follow the law. However, there may be situations that will incur a small penalty, and if that situation arises, he will inform the Board. He also spoke to the letter issued by Seminole County Public Schools referencing the Florida State Standards Assessments. The Florida Department of Education Commissioner has informed school districts that it is not legal to ignore the state requirements.
- Ms. Carol Cook brought up the topic of the district's legislative priorities. She said the Florida School Boards Association will be meeting very soon to begin work on this topic. Dr. Grego advised that he will work with Steve Swartzel, our district legislative liaison, to gather information. It will also be a topic at the September 15, 2015 workshop.
- Mrs. Linda Lerner complimented Dr. Grego on the School Readiness Summary Report. She said that it is an excellent document. She stated that she will work with Dr. Grego on the planning of the legislative priorities rollout. Mrs. Lerner shared an article *St. Johns County School District reduces amount of district-required testing by nearly 50 percent*, posted August 4, 2015, by Jake Martin. She said that she is aware that we have also reduced testing and requested a list of those changes from our Strategic Communications Department.
- Mrs. Terry Krassner discussed a Tampa Bay Times article *Pinellas proposes spending \$1 million to improve behavior at five schools*, dated January 22, 2015 by Lisa Gartner. She requested an update. Dr. Grego stated that there is a full annual evaluation of the Scale Up for Success program currently in process.
- Dr. Ken Peluso advised the Board of a September 11th memorial service that is held at Curlew Hills Memory Gardens. It begins at 10:00 am and is very well attended. The event is simulcast for those unable to attend.

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 2:15 p.m.

Chairperson
w.11Aug15/als

Secretary