

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – September 15, 2015

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, September 15, 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; Mrs. Carol J. Cook, Ms. Rene Flowers, 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. Janet R. Clark, School Board Member

The following topics were discussed:

- **School Improvement Plans-** Dr. Mary Beth Corace, Director, Strategic Planning and Policy, shared an overview of the 2015-2016 School Improvement Planning Process. Dr. Corace reviewed the "Outline for School Improvement Plan" PowerPoint presentation, the agenda item for the September 22, 2015 board meeting *Request Approval of the 2015-16 School Improvement Plans* and the District Strategic Plan 2015-2016. Dr. Corace stated that she offered seven training opportunities for principals and staff that are responsible for the plan. There are eight steps for SIP success: 1) Assess current performance 2) Review/revise Vision, Mission, Core Values 3) Align Directions, Goals, Actions 4) Allocate resources 5) Approve (by the Board) 6) Communicate 7) Execute the plan 8) Monitor the plan. All schools use the PCS template for School Improvement except Differentiated Accountability schools, which are designated by the state. These plans are all connected to the District Strategic Plan. Dr. Peluso asked how these plans are monitored; they are monitored by the area superintendents and Dr. Grego. Schools will post their School Improvement Plans to their website.
- **Health Care Update-** Mr. Ted Pafundi, Director, Risk Management, along with representatives from AON, Ann Gebhard, and Humana, Ray Hodorski, reviewed the plan to move forward with self-funding the district's health insurance. Health insurance will still be provided by Humana. At the September 22, 2015 board meeting the agenda item *Request Approval to Establish a Self-Insured Health Plan That Meets the Requirements of Florida Statutes* will come before the Board. Ms. Flowers asked if optical and dental plans will also be self-funded. Mr. Pafundi said they will not. Mrs. Cook asked if we separate the optical and dental plans from the health insurance will that increase the cost. Mr. Pafundi said it will not. Dr. Grego shared that the discussion with the Board to move toward self-funding was started last September. He said this is the administration of the plan and does not impact health care cost.
- **Scale Up For Success-** Dr. Dan Evans, Executive Director, Assessment, Accountability and Research shared 17 documents related to the Scale Up For Success program. They are 1) History of Scale Up for Success Initiative and its Evaluation (email from Dr. Corbett), 2) Draft proposal for Scale Up For Success-August 17, 2014, 3) Final proposal for Scale Up For Success-September 8, 2014, 4) Scale Up For Success Evaluation Plan, 5) Logic Model Evaluation 2014-2015, 6-10) Scale Up For Success- Evaluation and Monitoring Activities October 2014-March 2015, 11) Formative Evaluation Report-Feb. 2015, 12) An Update to the Formative Report- April 2015, 13) Scale Up For Success Initiative Research Evaluation Report- August 2015, 14) Scale Up For Success-Year 2, 15) Scale Up For Success Year 2 Evaluation Overview, 16)Scale Up For Success Initiative Research and

Evaluation Timeline, and 17) Scale Up for Success PowerPoint. The Scale Up for Success initiative is focused on five elementary schools: Campbell Park, Fairmount Park, Lakewood, Maximo & Melrose. The Year 1 report will serve as a baseline; it will provide a snapshot of the project implementation and identify strengths and areas that need enhancement. Mrs. Lerner expressed concerns with suspension rates. Dr. Evans stated that Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) show reduced repeat offenses. His department is working to align TNTP (The New Teacher Project) and PBS to support improved discipline. They are also developing a paraprofessional handbook which supports their position as teaching partners. The Code of Student Conduct was also referenced, as there are some student infractions that require specific consequences. Mrs. Lerner asked about the mobility rate and how it impacts data. Dr. Grego shared that it is an area of concern, how do we stabilize a child's life to keep them in one school; JWB (Juvenile Welfare Board) and mental health counselors are assisting with that issue. Mrs. Lerner asked about the students that are really struggling and if other districts in Florida, that are more successful, are they delivering curriculum differently. Dr. Grego said we are using the same materials but are we doing it as long? Pam Moore, Associate Superintendent, Teaching and Learning Services, said there is no program that will fix everything; it is a topic among her colleagues. Teachers have student groups at varying levels, there is the Promise Time program and extended learning. Ms. Flowers shared that she does not want to make changes to curriculum because the students already experience enough change. She said she wants to be sure that after school tutorial programs are using the same curriculum methods because consistency is important. Dr. Evans shared that he is a former principal, and has visited these schools. He sees the teachers delivering a lot of good instruction with a lot of positive energy; we are in Year 2 and beginning to see results. Mrs. Lerner asked for a two page summary of the information.

- **Community Meetings-** Mrs. Lerner introduced the topic of community listening sessions. She said the Board has discussed the feasibility of meeting with stakeholders in different settings across the district. Ms. Flowers shared that it is important to provide handouts and answer questions in the community; there is a lot of misinformation. Dr. Peluso said the District Strategic Plan communicates the direction of the district very clearly. Mrs. Krassner suggested attending PTA/SAC meetings. Ms. Flowers expressed concern that these meetings are often not well attended. Mrs. O'Shea said that public input is important in our decision making process, but often unless there is a "hot topic" the forums are not well attended. She attends many community group meetings. Mrs. Lerner suggested building on what Dr. Grego has been doing. He has parent cadre meetings in three parts of the county. Dr. Grego suggested board members attend some of the parent meetings that are already scheduled, for instance, the ESE Fair at Pinellas Park HS and the Career Fair at Countryside HS. Mrs. Lerner recommended a subcommittee to decide on some dates, venues, and how to communicate to the community. It was agreed that Mrs. Lerner, Mrs. Krassner, Ms. Flowers and Dr. Peluso will meet with Dr. Grego.
- **K-5 Parent Brochures-** Dr. Grego stated that the K-5 parent brochures were developed as a result of previous discussion. Ms. Sandy Downes, Executive Director, Elementary Education, shared that when working with parents a common question is "how can we help our kids? ". The purpose of the brochures is to address this question. There is one for each grade level K-5; and within it are student expectations and how a parent can help at home. These brochures will also be translated in several languages and printed for every child. Mrs. Pam Moore, Associate Superintendent, Teaching and Learning Services, stated that online learning is a great resource for parents. Mrs. Krassner asked that the online learning link be added to the brochure.
- **Legislative Platform-** Mr. Steve Swartzel, Legislative consultant, reviewed the document Pinellas County School Board 2016 Legislative Platform draft. The three main areas are:

Accountability, Funding, and Constitutional Authority Governance. Changes from 2015 were shown by strike throughs for items eliminated and underlined for additions. Mrs. Krassner asked why we were considering only asking for K-5 summer funding and not K-12. Dr. Grego feels that by limiting the request there is more potential for receiving the funding. He also said that he will meet next week with other Florida school superintendents and they will come together in "one voice." Mrs. Cook said FSBA (Florida School Boards Association) will meet in a few weeks to discuss their legislative platform; she is FSBA Legislative Committee Chair. Adoption of the legislative platform occurs in October.

- **2016 Greater Florida Legislative Consortium-** Mr. Swartzel, Legislative consultant, stated that Mrs. Cook and Mrs. O'Shea met with the Greater Florida Legislative Consortium in August for their annual legislative meeting. The documents reviewed are: The Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards' 2016 Legislative Program, Pinellas Revenue Chart (Operating Funds per Student and Capital Outlay Funding), School Board/Superintendent directory, the GFCSB letter and a draft the Florida Association of District School Superintendents platform. The proposal from GFCSB is shared with the school boards and they adopt both "Priority Issues" and "Additional Items." The priority issues adopted are printed and distributed to legislators. The "Additional Items" are presented if the issue arises. There was conversation about the legislative breakfast. Mrs. Cook suggested the week of December 7-11, 2015. It was requested that Mr. Swartzel check the legislators' calendar for the best dates during that time, and Mr. Mark Hunt check on the availability of the dining area at both Pinellas Technical Colleges.
- **Leadership Discussion**
 - Dr. Grego distributed a document from FADSS (Florida Association of School District Superintendents) dated September 1, 2015. It is titled "Florida Superintendents Still Have Serious Concerns Regarding Validity of Florida Standards Assessment." He also provided an Executive Summary from our Office of Assessment, Accountability and Research regarding the Alpine Testing Solutions validity study. The study concludes that the results can be used for "group-level decisions", such as school grades and teacher evaluations. Much of the concern centers around the nature of the test questions, many do not match the Florida Standards; he said the match should be closer to 100%. Ms. Flowers stated that the findings revealed that pen and paper tests were actually more accurate than those taken on computers. Dr. Grego said that we still need to move forward as directed by the state. Computer testing will continue; it is the way of the world. Dr. Dan Evans shared that test data will be released soon; followed by school grades.
 - Mrs. Carol Cook spoke about the proposed FSBA legislative platform. On September 25, from noon - 2:00 p.m. the FSBA legislative committee and staff will be available for questions. The contact information has been shared with the board members. On October 15, the committee will meet from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Collaborative Labs of St. Petersburg College. The end result will be the FSBA legislative platform.
 - Dr. Peluso asked about the Pinellas Technical College notebooks of information the Board received. Mrs. Lerner stated that she asked for them so the Board would have all the information on the programs offered at PTC.
 - Mrs. Lerner shared an invitation from the Suncoast Center for a program on the morning of September 25. The Suncoast Center provides community services, outreach programs, and works toward breaking down the stigma associated with mental health issues.

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
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Secretary