

**SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA  
WORKSHOP – April 18, 2017**

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at 9:00 a. m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Largo, Florida.

Present: Mrs. Peggy L. O’Shea, Chairperson; Ms. Rene Flowers, Vice-Chairperson; Mrs. Carol J. Cook, Mrs. Terry Krassner, Ms. Joanne Lentino, Mrs. Linda Lerner, Mrs. Eileen Long, Members; Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent, Dr. William Corbett, Deputy Superintendent, and Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

**Review of Agenda:** Dr. Grego requested the addition of a presentation from Seminole High School E-Commerce Academy students prior to the purchasing department presentation. The agenda was amended accordingly.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Budget / Audit Results Update:** Mr. Kevin Smith, associate superintendent, finance and business services, reviewed the following documents: *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016* and *District School Board of Pinellas County Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings 2014-15*. Mr. Smith stated that due to our bond issue, underwriters want a comprehensive annual financial report. Our district has virtually no debt; even with our bond issue, it is significantly lower than other school districts. He reviewed pages 140-145 which outlines the audit findings. In reference to the audit findings for information technology, he said that the requirements get tougher each year and guidelines change. Ms. Flowers asked if the district is advised of these changes. Dr. Grego said we have a committee that reviews these updates as it relates to the district. He also said that by having such a detailed audit completed, it gives the district the opportunity to make improvements. Dr. Grego told the board that Mr. Smith and his finance department won awards for their financial reporting; they will part of the April 25<sup>th</sup> school board meeting. (Note: The awards are the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and the Award of Financial Reporting Achievement.) Mr. Smith added that the bond rating is reviewed annually and this detailed annual audit is beneficial.
- **Legislative Update:** Dr. Grego, Dr. Corbett, and Mr. Kevin Smith, associate superintendent, finance and business services, reviewed the following documents: *Comparison of 2016-2017 Appropriations and Senate and House Proposed Budgets*, and *Legislative Update- Week of April 3, 2017*. The chart of the proposed budget compares the current budget, with the proposals by the Senate and House. Line items were discussed regarding the proposed funding. Dr. Grego stated that about 52% of the district’s budget comes from the millage levied. Ms. Lentino asked about the supplemental academic instruction funds regarding the 300 lowest performing schools in the state and the requirement for districts to continue these supports two years after a school is removed from the L300 list. Dr. Grego said that our district already follows that practice; it provides students the continued support they need to sustain improvement. There was a lot of conversation about the “Schools of Hope” line item recommended in

House HB5105. This funding is for charter schools. Mrs. O'Shea asked how many of the legislators supporting this bill have a vested interest in charter schools. She said that Pinellas County Schools is a leader in choice programs and career education. We are seen as moving forward, yet, some of our representatives are not supporting us. Dr. Grego suggested board members read the article written by Nikolai Vitti, superintendent, Duval County, regarding Schools of Hope; and, to bring elected officials into our schools to really see what is happening. He also thanked the staff of FSBA for keeping boards updated on what is happening in the House and Senate. Mrs. Lerner is concerned that House Speaker Richard Corcoran wants this legislation; he is in favor of "Schools of Hope". Mrs. Cook shared that Senator Jack Latvala has been in our schools and supports this district. Ms. Flowers said that Senator Darryl Rouson serves on the Appropriations Subcommittee on PreK-12 Education and he may be a good point of contact. Dr. Grego went on to speak about the "testing bill" SB926. There may be some improvements in current practices. In regards to budget proposals, Dr. Grego said that we have to prepare for potential budget issues; and, with the rise in healthcare and diesel fuel costs, we have to be mindful. We must be fiscally sound whatever budget we receive. Mr. Smith said that he always looks at worst case scenario when preparing budget projections.

- **Property / Construction Update:** Mr. Clint Herbic, associate superintendent, operational services, reviewed the following document: *Tarpon Springs High School*. Mr. Herbic shared some of the history of Tarpon Springs High School. It was built in 1961; and, the 1990's was the last time there was an addition. The layout of the school site has very little open space on the interior of the campus. All school traffic utilizes South Gulf Road. There are also water drainage problems; the property flooded five times in the last six years. He reviewed the plans by Rowe Architects, Incorporated. The plan includes moving the bus circle, adding courtyards, adding drainage, and renovation of the gymnasium. The current auditorium will be improved; space will be added and repurposed to address its usage. The plan is to complete the work by the beginning of school year 2018-2019. Ms. Lentino asked if the school is located in a flood zone. The property is not in a flood zone or evacuation zone; but, the lot slopes to the east and there is a canal between the high school and Sunset Hills Elementary. The district is working with the city of Tarpon Springs to address the drainage issue. Mr. Herbic also updated the board on the plan to increase the size of the bus compound near Belcher and Drew Street in Clearwater. They are exploring the purchase of adjacent property to increase the size of the bus compound property. The former Norwood Elementary site near I-275 and the former Palm Harbor Elementary will both be put up for sale.
- **YMCA:** Mr. Clint Herbic, associate superintendent, operational services, and Mr. David Jezek, president/CEO, YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg, reviewed the joint partnership concept at the former Riviera Middle School site. Dr. Grego opened the discussion by sharing that he and Mrs. O'Shea visited a YMCA joint venture project in the Orlando area. He said there are \$5-6 million dollars earmarked for Meadowlawn Middle School to add a classroom wing to alleviate overcrowding; that money could potentially be used for this project. He thanked Mr. Jezek for attending this meeting. Mr. Jezek introduced his staff and board members that were present. Mr. Jezek cited the success of the YMCA

programs in the St. Petersburg area and said their findings indicate that a Y in that area would fare well. He said that family involvement is the single greatest contributor to student success; and, Y programs do that well. He stated his belief that this is a tremendous opportunity for the neighborhood and to advance the quality of life in St. Petersburg. He said there are currently 200 YMCA projects nationwide and 95% of those are partnerships. Mr. Herbic shared a proposed timeline. The construction of the school would begin in 2020 and open in August 2021; the end of our five year capital outlay plan. The Y would have two years to run a fundraising campaign, and they would plan to open the Y in January 2021 to coincide with their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mrs. Lerner asked about the projected cost. Mr. Herbic said the estimate is \$15-17 million. The school would have about 40 classrooms. The money earmarked for Meadowlawn could be used for this project. Dr. Grego said at the Lake Nona project the Y built the gymnasium which is more cost effective for the district. Ms. Flowers asked about projected enrollment and said that previously there was conversation about making this school a K-8. Dr. Grego said there isn't a need for seats in the lower grade levels at this time; but, they could plan the project to allow for that accommodation in the future, should it be needed. She asked about the student population projections. Dr. Grego said it is part of the process when planning for the project. Mr. Jezek is aware that approval from the Department of Education must be obtained; and, if it is not, they may still be interested in the site. Ms. Lentino and Mrs. Lerner asked about security for our students. Mr. Jezek said separate entrances can be built into the plan and members using the Y would have to have a background check. He said at Lake Nona the school principal and the Y executive director work very closely together. Mrs. O'Shea said that we can learn from other projects and make improvements. She also asked about the number of student seats planned for the new school. She was told they would plan for 800 students. Mr. Jezek said there are a lot of community partners interested in this project; it will create jobs. Dr. Grego asked for a head nod from the board to indicate consensus in moving forward with researching the proposal; he received the go-ahead.

- **Health Care Update:** Ms. April Paul, director, risk management and insurance, and AON representative, reviewed the following document: *Pinellas County Schools Financial Update, April 18, 2017, prepared by AON*. Mr. Kevin Smith, associate superintendent, finance and business services, explained that F.S. 112.08 addresses self-funded insurance and the requirement for a monetary reserve. The requirement is \$20 million. The district is filing the required extension to allow us to meet this threshold by 2019. Mrs. Lerner asked about our Humana costs. Humana processes the district's medical claims and the current cost is \$47.17 per employee per month; this cost will remain the same for 2018. The risk management department continues to educate employees about wellness and how to manage health care costs. They actively promote the use of urgent care facilities instead of emergency rooms and which are appropriate to use depending on the circumstance. There are 43 locations in Pinellas County to obtain urgent care for our insured. Insurance enrollment increased slightly in 2017; with a projection to increase in 2018. Based on projected increased plan costs in 2018 options will be explored as to how to meet this increase.

- **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Update:** Mr. Tom Lechner, associate superintendent, technology and information systems, reviewed the following documents: *ERP Update 4-18-17* and *New ERP-board workshop presentation*. Mr. Lechner reviewed the timeline of events regarding vetting the proposed products to replace TERMS. It is outdated and costly to keep current. The recommended product is SunGard-recently purchased and now called PowerSchool. It will have the capability of replacing ELKE work order software as well as TERMS. In the fall of 2017, two departments will pilot the project. It is believed that this product change will increase productivity. The goal is to adopt our way of work to the software's capabilities; which is less expensive than having the product modified to accommodate how things are currently done. This is a difficult process and will take a bit of time. TERMS and PowerSchool will both have to be used for a while until a complete rollover can occur. Several Florida school districts are using this software, such as Charlotte, Clay and St. Johns. Dr. Grego liked the idea of piloting the project and Mrs. Lerner wants to be sure that employees will receive adequate training. Ms. Flowers asked if the product will be compatible with our auditing process and if it is adaptable to changes as they occur. She was advised that it is both compatible and adaptable. This new product will bring together TERMS, Manatee Accounting System, ELKE, SearchSoft Applicant Tracking, and Microsoft Access Databases into one system.
- **E-Commerce Academy at Seminole High School:** Seminole High School students enrolled in E-Commerce Academy, reviewed the following document: Seminole High School Academy of E-Commerce. They distributed the pamphlets describing the seven academies at Seminole High School: Academy of E-Commerce, Center for Education and Leadership, iHawk Academy, Seminole Sports Career Institute, Graphic Media Communications Academy, Academy for the Advanced Achievement in the Arts, and Engineering Academy. This is the first graduating class of the Academy of E-Commerce; the program started in 2013. It is an online business project developed by students which focuses on two target audiences: students and adults. It is an online store. Students have had the opportunity to engage in a real world business model. This year they had prom tickets sold online and the sales were greater than \$20,000. They recently started working with another student group for an app. Seniors in the program have been working side-by-side with underclassmen to train them to take over this online business upon their graduation. Students also trained with many district departments including finance, bookkeeping, and auditing. The profit margin is small at this time and has been put into an E-Commerce account. The students all shared their postsecondary plans with the board members.
- **School Board Policy 6320 Purchasing and Policy 6320.01 Bidding:** Ms. Linda Balcombe, director, purchasing, reviewed the agenda item: Setting a Public Hearing and Authorizing the Advertisement of the Public Hearing to Consider the Amendment to *Policy 6320-PURCHASING AND BIDDING and Policy 6320.01-NON-DISCRIMINATION IN PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING (This is the first reading)*. Ms. Balcombe shared that the purchasing handbook, which is procedural, is currently incorporated in Policy 6320 and will be separated from it, if this agenda item is approved by the board. It was stated that both Mr. David Koperski, school board attorney, and Ms. Heather Wallace,

assistant school board attorney, have worked closely with Ms. Balcombe to ensure that the current changes and practices have conformity. The handbook will still need board approval. The first reading is scheduled to come before the board on May 9, 2017.

- **Code of Student Conduct:** Mr. Ward Kennedy, area superintendent, reviewed the following document: *Code of Student Conduct Summary of Recommended Changes*. Mr. Kennedy noted that this is not a major revision year; that occurs every two years. There were many stakeholders involved in these recommended changes: School Advisory Councils, PTAs, school leaders, community members, and, Student Rights and Responsibilities committee members. Restorative practices have been included and a change was made to eliminate the practice of collective tardies being used as an absence. There was discussion about discipline: on page 50-Expulsion around the statement "...the Board may decide not to allow the student to attend any school, including Teleschool." It was decided to keep that statement in the document. Though we hope to never have to exercise it, we never know what situation may arise; it is good to keep it in the code as a safety net. It was also decided to change one word under page 50-Expulsion-Add: to read "...and the completion of some classes ~~will~~ may be delayed."
- **AdvancED Accreditation Update:** Ms. Pam Moore, associate superintendent, teaching and learning services; Dr. Mary Beth Corace, director, strategic planning and policy; Mrs. Judith Vigue, director, advanced studies and academic excellence; and, Ms. Leanna Bolyard, senior coordinator, professional development achievement data analyst, reviewed the following document: *AdvancED Progress Assessment Report Summary*. Ms. Moore thanked the board for their encouragement and to allow the district to utilize this process as part of our continuous improvement. The AdvancED accreditation process utilizes five indicators that required supporting documentation for verification; site visits to numerous schools and work sites; and, an interview process for different employee groups. The AdvancED External Review Report noted three areas for improvement; instructional leadership, adult advocacy, and, instructional strategies. The district has included these areas of improvement into the district strategic plan to ensure monitoring. Ms. Lentino asked how this process helps the district. Dr. Grego said that AdvancED accreditation is internationally recognized. In school year 2020, the district will have another review process to maintain the accreditation.
- **Leadership Discussion:**
  - Dr. Grego: 1) He said that next week he will be attending the support employee breakfast with Mr. David Melnick, who was named support employee of the year at the district level. The state winner will be named at the breakfast in Orlando.
  - 2) He shared that there will be some changes to the extended transition program; Dr. Corbett will share the details.
  - 3) He said Dr. Corbett will share with the board the next steps for the Marzano teacher evaluation system which we are using in the district.
  - 4) He stated that the board has had information about what is happening in our Transformation Zone schools and he wants to bring that topic back to the board. They are examining what has been learned and how that can be expanded to other schools. Progress is being made at the eight schools.

- Dr. Corbett: 1) He spoke about the extended transition program which helps students become successful adults. It is an expensive program compared to the FTE it earns; but, the district supports it because of the positive outcomes. The program is currently housed at Disston Academy. The plan for next year is to split the program and house it at four high schools across the district: Gibbs, Northeast, Pinellas Park, and Countryside. Compatible services are already being offered at these schools. There will be one principal for this program and they will oversee these four programs. Disston Academy is having great success with their credit recovery program and there is a need there for more seats for students interested in credit recovery; this is part of our educational alternative services programs. 2) He gave a brief review of the teacher appraisal system. It was mandated by the state that districts had to select an appraisal system. Initially the district used a Marzano / Danielson blended model; but the state mandate required that we choose one. The district chose Marzano. The Marzano system now offers a modified system with 23 elements and the district has an advisory committee that is reviewing it. The school board workshop in May will address this topic. The board was advised that we have to continue training our staff and administration.
- Ms. Flowers: She shared a request form that could be utilized by school board members for events that they are requested to attend. It would include more specific details about the expectation of the board member such as: arrival and departure times, parking, seating, dress code, the board members role, and if speaking the length of time allotted.  
After some discussion, most board members did not feel that this form had value to them, but the board office will retain the form, and if a board member wishes to utilize it, it will be available.
- Mrs. Lerner: 1) She said the student presentation at today's workshop was very uplifting. 2) She said that she is glad that the district is expanding the educational alternative services programs. 3) She is asking for some detailed information about Pinellas Secondary School and our re-integration plan for students; she would like a report that pulls it all together.

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 2:30 p.m.

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Chairperson  
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Secretary