

**SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – March 21, 2017**

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, February 21, 2017, at 11:35 a. m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4th 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: There were no changes to the agenda.

The following topics were discussed:

- **School Board Operating Procedures Manual:** Mrs. O’Shea stated that Mrs. Cook is the chair of this committee. Mrs. Cook reviewed the following document: *School Board Operating Procedures Manual*. She noted that procedure manuals are no longer part of district policy; once the updates are completed, the procedures manual will no longer be in draft form. Mrs. Cook referenced page 4 that reflects the current strategic directions and goals; and pages 6-7 that speak about social media. There was discussion about workshop topics and how they are brought forward; and, the difference between a workshop topic and a board member’s request for additional information. Often, that information can be received through a conversation with administration. Mrs. Cook clarified that a topic is broader. Ms. Flowers prefers the process of completing the school board workshop topic request form because this gives more clarification as to the desired outcomes. Also, there are times when the information is readily available and can be shared with a board member more quickly once they make the request. Mrs. Krassner agreed that there needs to be consensus by four or more board members to bring a topic to a workshop. Mrs. Cook said that some requests can be brought forward during the leadership discussion at workshops. Dr. Grego complimented the board on the relevance of workshop topics. They are well-informed when items come forward on the agenda. Ms. Lentino asked for some clarification; if the board has received information on a topic, does that preclude it from becoming a workshop topic? Mrs. Cook said there is always the opportunity to speak with the superintendent and/or deputy superintendent and questions/topics can always be brought forward during the leadership discussion. There is also the workshop topic request form. Ms. Lentino spoke about teacher evaluations. Dr. Grego validated that it is an important topic and conversation needs to continue. Mrs. Long said she serves as the board representative on the Homeless Leadership Board. At those meetings, there is information or a request. She wanted to know when it is appropriate to address those items. She was advised that if it is something that needs to be addressed promptly by the district, to speak with Dr. Grego; otherwise, it can be shared during leadership discussion. Mrs. Cook communicated that during the school board meeting, under *New Business, Items Introduced by the Board*; there needs to be some recommendation as to how board

members want to use that time. She asked them to think about it and come back with some ideas to be included in the manual.

- **Educational Alternative Services (EAS) Options for Students Returning from DJJ Services:** Dr. Barbara Hires, area superintendent, and Ms. Michelle Topping, director, educational alternative services, reviewed the following documents: *Catapult Learning, Catapult Academy and Catapult Academy Re-Engagement (CARE) Center* and a reprint of the article *Catapult Academy Quickly Expanding to Help Students*, by Anastasia Dawson, Times Staff Writer, published February 29, 2017, updated March 8, 2016. Dr. Grego introduced the topic by thanking his staff for their leadership. Dr. Hires stated that teachers, principals, and school board members, have asked for a way to help students who exhibit chronic misbehaviors, overage students and students struggling to complete high school. She said that Catapult was founded in 1976 in Camden, New Jersey. In Florida, they operate in Volusia, Duval, Marion, Hernando and Hillsborough counties. Through a partnership with Pinellas County Schools, Catapult plans to open two sites; Catapult Academy and Catapult Academy Re-Engagement (CARE) Center. The cooperative agreement includes the standard 90/10 FTE funding model. Catapult will provide the location, staff, curriculum, and support services. Our educational alternative services department will provide the oversight. They will serve 100-200 students in grades 6-12. This is a district wide program and Catapult will offer transportation through PSTA. Dr. Hires shared the plan to begin these programs in August 2017. Ms. Flowers said that it sounds like a wonderful program as did Mrs. Lerner. Mrs. Lerner shared concerns about PSTA transportation. Mrs. O'Shea agreed that the program sounds great; she also had concerns about transportation. Dr. Grego noted that Catapult is motivated by student attendance; wait and see how things work out. Mrs. Long asked how many overage students are currently in our district. Dr. Hires said there are between 60 and 80 overage students not currently enrolled in one of our educational alternative services programs. Dr. Grego advised that this will come before the board in April.
- **Magnet Grant Update:** Dr. Grego introduced this topic stating that the Magnet Schools of America grant is highly competitive. Mr. Bill Lawrence, director, student demographics, assignment and school capacity, shared that staff have been working diligently on this grant proposal as there is a short turnaround. It is due April 11, 2017. It will also come before the board on April 11; but if the board is not in agreement to move forward with it; he can rescind the application. Mrs. Lerner asked if this is the same grant opportunity as previously offered by Magnet Schools of America. Mr. Lawrence said it is not the same one; this has slightly different criteria, and based on the new criteria, he feels we have a better opportunity for receiving the award. This grant is for the enhancement and expansion of existing magnet programs. The district would strengthen its feeder pattern from Bay Point Elementary to Bay Point Middle to Lakewood High; the emphasis will be on STEM and technology. An arts pathway would be created for Sandy Lane Elementary to John Hopkins Middle to Gibbs High. The magnet curriculum would include zoned students. Ms. Flowers asked if these plans allow for additional seats at these schools. Mr. Lawrence said all but Bay Point Elementary currently have significant

capacity to increase the student population. Dr. Grego voiced his approval of this proposal. Ms. Lentino said this will give the neighborhood children a great opportunity.

- **Lakewood High School Plans Update:** Mr. Clint Herbic, associate superintendent, operational services, reviewed the document: *October 12, 2016, New Construction, Remodel & Renovations, Lakewood High School, Hoffman Architects, P.A.* Mr. Herbic stated that when working on this project, they looked at the campus as a whole; how are students currently using the space and what improvements and modifications would benefit the school community. Mr. Herbic said that he was an administrator on the campus at one time and is familiar with the property. The entry to the school needs to be made more open and inviting; security will be added; a lobby area will be added at the front of the auditorium; the auditorium will be updated; and, the courtyard will be covered. The hallway between the cafeteria and classrooms will be widened and a covering will be installed overhead to give a more open feeling. The portables at the school will be removed. New space will be added near the gymnasium, and a lobby will be created there. The entrance to that area will be cleaned up and made more attractive. Ms. Flowers asked if the bleachers will be refurbished; Mr. Herbic said they will. He said the student population is about 1,100. He will need to check with the state to find out the allowable size of the gymnasium. Mrs. O'Shea asked which part of this proposal is being funded through bonding. Mr. Herbic said the new construction in the back of the building. Mrs. Cook referenced the Magnet Schools of America grant and, if awarded, how it will impact the student population and the current plans for site improvement. Mr. Lawrence said it is projected to increase the student population by a few hundred; and, Mr. Herbic added that a population of about 1500 is comfortable for this site. Dr. Grego thanked the board for their support for this project.

- **Leadership Discussion:**

- **Mrs. Lerner:** She requested that board members sign up for graduations be done. Mrs. O'Shea had the graduation ceremonies 2017 schedule distributed. She went around the table and each board member gave their first choice and so on until a board member was assigned to each graduation. Mrs. O'Shea said that any board member can attend any graduation they choose; it does not have to be just one person, but at least one should attend each ceremony.
- **Mrs. Long:** She said that she is the school board representative on the Homeless Leadership Board. At the meeting it was mentioned that the 211 service would like to be more connected to Pinellas County Schools and the services families are already being provided. Ms. Flowers added that they want connectivity to prevent duplication of services. It was discussed that there are confidentiality issues. Mrs. Long also shared that HUD and PCS do not share the same criteria for what is considered homeless. Mrs. O'Shea stated that these are some of the same issues that were discussed at the joint workshop with Pinellas County School Board, Juvenile Welfare Board, and Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (January 31, 2017). Dr. Grego said he will work with Ms. Lori Matway, associate superintendent, student and community services, and, Ms. Donna Sicilian, executive director, student services, to address issues shared at the Homeless Leadership Board meeting.

- **Mrs. O'Shea:** 1) She spoke about her attendance at the Council of Great City Schools Legislative conference, and the pre-conference workshop Males of Color. This was an information sharing session and that conversation revealed that all large urban districts are experiencing many of the same issues and concerns; such as poor attendance and communicating the importance of an education. No district has the magic bullet. Our district is using some of the same strategies as other districts. Also, the Council of Great City Schools is reaching out to the new federal administration in the department of education to work with them while retaining their goals. 2) The Council is offering four scholarships; two males; two females; two African American; and, two Hispanic students on behalf of former astronaut Dr. Bernard Harris. The deadline to apply is April 10, 2017. 3) She spoke about legislation that is being discussed at the federal level to increase funding for charter schools and vouchers. Title I funds may be decreased; we need to be watching what is proposed.
- **Ms. Lentino:** She received the grade level guides and shared that physical education guidelines are not listed; she would like to see them added.

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 2:56 p.m.

Chairperson
w.21March17

Secretary