

**SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – February 19, 2019**

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at 9:03 a.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4th Street SW, Largo, Florida.

Present: Mrs. Carol J. Cook, Vice-Chairperson, Mrs. Lisa Cane, Dr. Nicole Carr, Mr. Bill Dudley, Ms. Joanne Lentino, and Mrs. Eileen Long, Members; Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent, Dr. William Corbett, Deputy Superintendent, and Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

Ms. Rene Flowers, Chairperson, arrived at 9:05 a.m.

Review of Agenda: There were no changes to the agenda.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Food and Nutrition Update:** Ms. Lynn Geist, director, food and nutrition, reviewed the power point *Request to Increase Paid Meal Prices 2019/20 SY*. Ms. Geist shared that the food and nutrition department is a revenue based self-supporting department within the district; they receive support from the US Department of Agriculture and Florida Department of Agriculture; including Fresh from the Farm. When she became director in November 2014, her goal was to be a fiscally balanced department; they had been losing money. She reviewed food costs; assessed preparation times; and, made meals more desirable in order to increase participation. The prices established for meals has been constant since 2012. With inflation, a cost increase is necessary to maintain quality and remain fiscally sound. Additionally, a 3-month fund balance must be held on reserve. She is requesting a 25 cent increase per meal. Ms. Lentino asked about secondary level students and their portions. Ms. Geist stated that secondary students do receive a larger portion. However, secondary student participation can be challenging. At Seminole High School they are piloting Second Chance Breakfast; carts are brought out to the hallways for 10 minutes after homeroom to encourage students to eat. Mr. Herbic shared that at Tarpon Springs Middle School they are also bringing breakfast carts into the classrooms to encourage participation; and have seen an improvement in student engagement in academics. Ms. Flowers thanked Ms. Geist for allowing students to get breakfast even when they arrive late; and, for the improved quality and presentation of the meals. She also thanked her for feeding students even when they have no money in their account. Ms. Flowers asked about the percentage of free lunch students. Ms. Geist stated that it is currently at 49.8%. Dr. Grego spoke about the increase in employee costs, increase in food pricing, and, increase in cost of equipment; those items all affect their department's budget. The consensus was that this is a modest increase considering everything the department provides for our students.
- **Budget Update:** Mr. Kevin Smith, associate superintendent, finance and business operations, reviewed the following document: *Florida Education Finance Program 2019-20-Governor Recommended Calculation*. Mr. Smith stated that the governor's proposed budget is an optimistic starting point. The proposed safe schools and mental health dollars have increased; but, even if those increases occur it still does not cover what the

district spends to support a safe learning environment. The proposed base student allocation is \$50.00 per student, instead of the 47 cents received in the current budget. The district lottery funds appropriated go to individual schools for their school grade, not the district; and the .748 millage compression and funding compression allocation adversely affects Pinellas—we receive zero dollars from those line items. Mr. Smith noted that the House of Representatives budget recommendations typically prevail and their plan is not as optimistic. Dr. Grego stated that the base student allocation should keep pace with inflation, but it does not, it is less than our cost per student. Mr. Dudley asked about our budget reserve. Mr. Smith said the state requires 3%; Pinellas is currently at 5.6% and should be at 6% by the end of the year, with the goal being 10 percent.

- **Compensation Procedures:** Ms. Paula Texel, assistant superintendent, human resources services, reviewed the following power point *Compensation*. Ms. Texel spoke about the district's designation from the National Council for Teacher Quality, Great District for Great Teachers. We received this designation in 2017; it is based on five criteria: professional development, effective management, career opportunities, support for students, and compensation. Compensation for teachers is given for a variety of duties performed in addition to their 7.5 hour work day. Teachers may be eligible for additional pay through stipends, supplements, part-time work, and contracted services. Stipends are paid at \$20.00 hour for either conducting or participating in training. Supplements are given for extra duties for academics, athletics, and fine arts. Part-time work is for before/after school ESE services; after hours counseling; and part-time intervention instruction to name a few. Contracted services pay is for work with all county performances; curriculum development; planning of professional development; and club sponsors, for example. Dr. Grego shared that each school site reviews their budget to support their programs and students' needs; the money is not just allocated. Dr. Carr asked how the supplements are awarded, how is it done equitably. Ms. Texel stated that each staff person is not eligible for more than three supplements; and, if more are requested it is reviewed through human resources to provide checks and balances. There are some situations, athletics for example, when sports are played during different seasons, then additional supplements may be approved. She added that instructors already have a full plate so they are cautious when reviewing these requests. Dr. Grego added that supplements are approved annually, which allows access to other staff. The list of supplements, Ms. Texel advised, were part of the PCTA contract. She will send that page of the agreement to the board. She also shared that our police officer unit contract was approved and will come to the board for approval on February 26, 2019.
- **Job Description:** Ms. Paula Texel, assistant superintendent, human resources services, reviewed the following agenda item: *Request Approval to Create Job Description*. The job title, Lead Equipment Operator, is newly created. Ms. Texel shared that this new job will serve as an onsite supervisor for relocatable units. Mr. Herbic shared that this position requires experience as a heavy equipment operator; works late shift; and will supervise the team lead on some projects. This will come to the board for approval on February 26, 2019.
- **Bidding Process for Construction Projects:** Ms. Linda Balcombe, director, purchasing, reviewed the following documents: *School Board Workshop, February 19,*

2019, *Purchasing Basics; Construction Procurement and Process for School Board Approval* power point; *Section II-Response to Request for Qualification Statement Format and Section III-Interview/Presentation Format*; and, *Capital Renewal Major Project Professional Selection Schedule*. Ms. Linda Balcombe said the purchasing department is guided by several school board policies: 6320, 6320.01, 6424, 6462, 6464, and 6A-1.012. She said the information about the bidding process is clearly explained on our website. A company may register as a vendor after they have expressed interest in bidding on a job. Bids are reviewed under several categories: the lowest responsive bid relates to lowest price; the highest point score relates to time and materials; professional services are consultants; and emergency ratification is for urgent repairs. She is always willing to assist vendors in understanding the processes. The purchasing department also delivers training for TERMS, Secretary/Bookkeeper, and Pcard. Dr. Carr expressed concerns about the sole source designation. Ms. Balcombe shared that if planning to use a sole source designation, we must post it on our website for seven days per state rules. A product's standards are also reviewed. Dr. Grego said sole source recommendations are scrutinized, there are safeguards in place. Ms. Balcombe went on to explain construction procurement and processes which are governed by Florida Statutes and is a very in-depth review. A key component is meeting our bonding requirements, which sometimes makes it prohibitive for smaller companies. Heather Wallace, assistant school board attorney, shared that contractors' proposals have a rubric by which they are reviewed. First the most qualified is determined, if their cost is too high, the next company is considered. Ms. Flowers shared that at one time, it was difficult for smaller businesses to be awarded contracts with us. She recommended we provide sessions on *How to do Business with Pinellas County Schools*. This is now being done and large construction management companies that are hired by us are expected to hire qualified subcontractors to afford them the opportunity of participating in the local economy. If a bid is not awarded to a contractor, Ms. Balcombe will debrief with them to help them better understand the process and requirements. Mr. Koperski shared that board members may only observe during the selection process. Ms. Wallace cautioned the board members; they may not receive solicitation from any construction vendor during an active Request-for-Proposal (RFP). Mr. Herbic briefly reviewed the major project schedule to demonstrate that work is being distributed to numerous companies. He also reviewed the changes in the process for board approvals during the construction process which has proven to be much more efficient.

- **Master Board Training:** Mrs. Carol Cook explained the Master Board training and how it is different from other trainings offered by FSBA. Master Board is for the superintendent and school board members; it consists of one training with another district; and three more specific to our district. March 1st is the deadline to express interest in Master Board. When the board changes by more than two members; the recommendation is to repeat the program as group dynamics change. The purpose of the training is to remain a highly effective district through the work of the board and superintendent. If there is a consensus to move forward; the first step is to submit a letter of intent. Dr. Grego shared that he will reach out to the superintendents in Pasco

and Hillsborough counties to determine interest. There was a head nod of approval to move forward with this training.

- **Partial Facility Naming Process:** Mr. Ward Kennedy, area superintendent, and Mr. David Koperski, school board attorney, reviewed the following document: *Draft: Naming of Building Additions or Major Areas within a Facility, i.e., Auditorium, Library, Cafeteria, Athletic Field, etc.* Mr. Koperski opened this topic by sharing that district Policy 7250 addresses the naming of an entire facility and the placement of a commemorative plaque or picture. There isn't a process for naming a portion of a facility, such as an auditorium or library at the school. Mr. Kennedy stated that typically the principal or a community has someone in mind who has demonstrated exceptional leadership. A significant vetting of the suggested name is done and an extensive background check on the person. Ms. Flowers said that during the community engagement piece of this process she is suggesting that discussion be held not only at a SAC meeting, but also the PTA. Once the request has been made and gone through the process, the board would have the final vote on the recommendation.
- **Educational Alternative Services (EAS) Partnership School:** Dr. Barbara Hires, area superintendent, explained to the board that educational alternative services was formerly called dropout prevention; but, they felt that had a negative connotation so they renamed the department. Students that use these services are at-risk students; some are overage, some lack credits for graduation, some were retained, some have a low grade point average. These schools are typically a smaller site and they use a blended model of instruction including online learning. Programs are currently run at Bayside High, Lealman Innovation, Pinellas Gulf Coast Academy, Disston Academy, and Clearwater Intermediate. EdisonLearning is planning to submit a charter application to Pinellas County Schools, but they have proposed a partnership school in lieu of their charter application. The partnership school would be for middle and high school at-risk students. Ms. Topping, director, EAS, shared that 5 out of 6 of the EdisonLearning charter schools in Florida received a commendable rating. The company is operated under the Bridgescape name. They offer individualized instruction, individualized graduation plans, student mentoring, a socio-economic component and college and career preparation. The partnership school would be in south St. Petersburg and could house up to 400 students. There are 105 middle school students south of Ulmerton Road that qualify and 150 students in grades 9-11. High school students would be offered a morning or afternoon session for five hours each; middle school students would have a 6.5 hour day. Dr. Hires said that EdisonLearning will choose the location, hire staff, and provide transportation. JWB would be used for wraparound services and the district would provide one social worker. Mr. Kevin Smith said EdisonLearning would receive all the FTE funds for these students. Ms. Flowers said she has concerns, she is not 100% sold on this idea. Mrs. Long said she feels that we are doing a similar program and it is not working for all students; we need to think outside the box. Dr. Hires said we are making progress; they have concerns as well, but at the same time some of our EAS programs are full to capacity. Board members raised several concerns: the FTE money, teacher quality, how this partnership would work, the cultural sensitivity piece, and discipline

issues. The board expressed the need for more information. Dr. Grego stated that they will look at the proposal in more detail and bring it back to another workshop.

- **Real Estate Update:** Mr. Clint Herbic, associate superintendent, operational services, reviewed several properties the district owns that are currently not being utilized.
 - The district has a small undeveloped property, 50' x 120', in south St. Petersburg. It has been offered for sale, but there is no interest. The recommendation is to partner with Habitat for Humanity for a single family dwelling; the district would donate the land; and, the house would be for a Pinellas County Schools' employee that meets the Habitat for Humanity criteria. Dr. Grego agreed that this is a great project. Mrs. Cook asked if all agreed to move ahead; consensus was achieved.
 - The Norwood property is in an area that is zoned single residential and has been on the market for sale but there has not been any interest. Currently there is discussion to rehab the property for multi-family dwellings under an adaptive reuse plan to be used for Veterans. The City of St. Petersburg considers this property a local historical structure. It does not meet the criteria to be on the national registry; but, if the city requires this property to have this designation, it could be problematic. The district could possibly enter into negotiations with the Veterans Association and imbed in the contract that they would need to pursue this designation through the City of St. Petersburg. Ms. Flowers shared that she is disappointed that the city would require this because it can be tricky. She knows the city revamped their building codes; but the board of adjustments has the authority to deem it a change of use, considering that it is going to be used for affordable housing. Dr. Grego concurred that the property not be designated a local historical building due to the plan that it be used for Veterans affordable housing.
 - Mr. Herbic introduced Clearwater Mayor Cretkos. The Mayor introduced City Councilmember, David Allbritton. The North Ward Elementary school site in Clearwater has been closed since 2009. There was consideration at one time to utilize it as a partnership school for city employees, but a survey determined there was no interest. The Mayor spoke about the interest in jump starting revitalization of the downtown core and making improvements at the Seminole boat ramp; and, the North Ward Elementary school site would be incorporated in that plan. He shared that the city also partnered with Habitat for Humanity and 10 homes were built on Garden Ave., not far from this site. He stated that they do not have a detailed plan but this corridor along US Alternate 19 needs to be improved. Mr. Herbic stated that they are in preliminary talks with the city of Clearwater and hope to reach an agreement.
 - The old Riviera Middle School site is still being planned as a partnership school with the YMCA. The layout for the buildings on the site has been completed and a site survey with the school plan will be submitted to the Department of Education for an informal review. The plan will then be included in the next Five Year Plant Survey that gets submitted to the DOE for approval. In March 2020 an architect for the build will be hired; construction to commence in August 2020. The district could

potentially open the school in August 2021. The YMCA is interested in opening their facility in January 2021.

- **Driver's Education and Athletics Update:** Mr. Kevin Hendrick, associate superintendent, teaching and learning, and Mr. Al Bennett, director, athletics, preK-12 physical education, health education, driver's education and school wellness, introduced the topic with their plan to offer driver's education in a better way. The district currently offers a free program. Now there is funding from the state to enhance and improve the program. Mr. Bennett said that the program is currently run with 400 free spots, each being a ten day session; 1,300 parents apply for 400 spots. The proposed plan is to charge a reasonable amount of money and expand the program. The parent cost will be \$156.00, with 1100 opportunities across nine school sites. Mr. Hendrick shared that the teacher pupil ratio for this program is 1 to 20. The plan is to run the program for two sessions; Monday through Friday for two weeks per session. The sessions will complete in June which will eliminate the cost of the vehicles for July. The cost to parents is nominal compared to a private driving school. Mr. Bennett gave a brief update on athletics. One of the highlights is the Palm Harbor University High girls' soccer team reached the state Class 5A finals. The Hurricanes (17-1-1) will play Cypress Bay High School for the state title on Friday at 4 p.m. at the Spec Martin Memorial Stadium in Deland, Florida. If the Hurricanes win, it will be their first state title since 2010. Mr. Dudley spoke of the accomplishments of two women athletes. Hannah Hall, Palm Harbor University High, is an outstanding wrestler; and, Danielle Collins, tennis player and former Northeast High School student, recently competed in the Australian Open. He said there are many accomplished athletes from Pinellas County. Ms. Flowers commented on the increased cost of participating in athletics program. It was shared that schools receive funds for uniforms and equipment and there are scholarships available to cover the insurance cost.
 - Mr. Hendrick updated the board in reference to the public hearing on recommended instructional materials that was on the February 12, 2019 board agenda. He said that Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 19-32 which will eliminate common core (Florida Standards). This impacts instructional materials adoption. Due to this action, the recommended instructional materials adoption is a moot point and will not proceed to the next step.
- **Leadership:**
 - **Dr. Grego:** 1) He advised the board that a new Chancellor of Education has been named. Jacob Oliva, he is a former superintendent. 2) He shared that our district achieved 100% compliance for class size. He thanked Dr. Corbett and staff and noted that this is a very tedious process.
 - **Eileen Long:** She spoke about the requests from FAST about data. She said that the data is on our website from our assessment, accountability and research department. FAST is also promoting the Safer Saner Schools platform. This program is a part of Restorative Practice. Pinellas County Schools is using that program. On the Restorative Practice website, a video showcases our district.
 - **Rene Flowers:** She concurred that the Safer Saner Schools program is a component of Restorative Practice; we are using that program-all of it.
 - **Nicole Carr:** 1) She asked that the Restorative Practice newsletter be shared. 2) She requested information about our sex education curriculum; the board has been contacted by a group advocating for comprehensive sex education.
 - Ms. Flowers said that families have varying values to consider.

- Dr. Grego noted that we teach the Florida State Standards.

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 2:45 p.m.

Chairperson
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Secretary