

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – August 15, 2017

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, August 15, 2017, at 9:00 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. Eileen Long, Members; Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent, Dr. William Corbett, Deputy Superintendent, and Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

Mrs. Linda Lerner arrived at 9:25 a.m.

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

The following topics were discussed:

- **Update Health Services:** Ms. Lori Matway, associate superintendent, student and community services; Mrs. Sara O'Toole, managing officer, school health services; and, Ms. Donna Sicilian, executive director, student services, reviewed the following document: *School Health Services 5-Year Projected Budget*. Ms. Matway began by crediting Mrs. O'Toole and Ms. Sicilian for bringing this topic to the forefront; community health is a community issue. She cited an article, "Nursing the Whole Child" by Mary E. Newell, August 2017, "School Administrator" magazine. Mrs. O'Toole shared some district statistics regarding student health issues; 6500 students are asthmatic; 3300 students have severe allergies; and, 250 are diabetic. She stated that 35% of the student population have one or more chronic conditions at school daily; a 1% increase over the previous year. She publicly thanked the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners and Dr. Choe, director of the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County, for making this public health concern a priority. The money earmarked from the county millage will go to the department of health; and, they will allocate the funds for the additional school nursing staff. The tax on an average single-family home will be increased by \$2.79 a year. Nursing staff will be hired in small cohorts in order to train effectively. Nurses will be assigned to schools based on need; one registered nurse (RN) will oversee 10 licensed practical nurses (LPN). Mr. Mark Hunt, executive director, career, technical, adult education, will promote programs for certified nurse assistants (CNA) to become an LPN. With nurses on staff daily, more health education lessons will be taught; such as, hand washing, hygiene, maturation, and smoking/drinking health hazards. Also, better case management and tracking of immunization records. Ms. Lentino attended the Board of County Commissioners meeting and shared that Commissioner Karen Seel cited one of the five strategic goals of the PCBCC is "Ensure Public Health, Safety and Welfare" and based on that goal should support school nurses. Dr. Grego said this was one of the topics discussed at the joint workshop on January 31, 2017, with the School Board, Juvenile Welfare Board, and the PC Board of County Commissioners.

- **FSBA Legislative Topics:** Mr. Steve Swartzel, legislative liaison, reviewed the following documents: *Florida School Boards Association, Discussion of the Major Issues Contained in HB 7069* and *Pinellas County School Board 2017 Legislative Priorities*. Mr. Swartzel stated that the legislative session will begin January 9, 2018. Due to this we need to move forward with our legislative priorities for 2018 and plan the legislative breakfast accordingly. Mrs. O'Shea said one of the overarching issues is "home rule"; school boards want more local control. Mrs. Krassner cited Dr. Grego's involvement through his attendance at committee meetings in Tallahassee. Ms. Flowers agreed that early conversations during the development of legislation is so important. Mrs. O'Shea asked if districts can exempt from legislation; Mr. Koperski stated that once a bill passes it becomes law. Ms. Lentino asked about the function of the Greater Florida Consortium of Schools Boards. Mrs. Cook said they represent unique issues faced by coastal communities in our state; whereas, the Florida School Boards Association supports only issues that affect all counties. Mrs. Cook and Mrs. O'Shea agree that the district needs to focus on correcting what is problematic in HB 7069; if it goes unchallenged for a few years then it is hard to change it. Mr. Swartzel spoke about Pinellas County being punished for carrying very little debt and having to share a greater portion of the local millage with charter schools based on the formula. He referenced the letter Dr. Grego wrote to the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation on July 18. Within that letter Dr. Grego points out that due to the district being fiscally responsible, we will be required to relinquish an unjust portion of our capital outlay funds to charter schools which will result in a minimum of \$5 million in charter school capital outlay payments each year. Mrs. Cook cited that charter schools do not need to have recess; if they are public schools, then this should be a requirement for all schools. Twenty minutes of recess a day equates to 60 hours of instruction and yet our academic performance will be compared. Dr. Grego believes that equal application of the laws is a key issue. He did note that there are some positive outcomes in HB 7069 in the area of assessments; for example, districts may administer paper/pencil tests which will reduce testing days from weeks to days. Mrs. Cook wants to incorporate items that Dr. Grego outlined in his letter into our legislative platform. Mr. Swartzel will work on a list to include capital outlay funding; charter school equity; home rule-constitutional authority; and, base student allocation; just to name a few. Ms. Flowers shared that the Pinellas County legislative delegation is scheduled to meet on September 25th at St. Petersburg College, Clearwater campus. The delegation chair is Representative Chris Latvala.
- **Turnaround Option Plan Schools; Tier II, III, IV Supports:** Dr. William Corbett reviewed the following document: *Tier II, III, and IV Supports and PCS Turnaround Recommendations 2017-18*. Dr. Corbett noted that each year when the Department of Education posts the school grades, the district reviews it and determines the requirements and levels of support for each school. Mr. Kevin Hendrick, associate superintendent, teaching and learning services, spoke about the supports. A Tier II school has bi-monthly Instructional Support Model (ISM) visits whereas a Tier III has month ISM visits. Lessons are learned from Transformation Zone schools that have demonstrated strategies that work for students. Some of the recommended supports are being bargained with PCTA. Ms. Lentino noted that some schools may need more than

one social worker or behavior specialist. Mr. Hendrick said that is addressed under the “just in time” supports. Campbell Park Elementary will have additional resources because they are now a community school. Mrs. Long asked about the schools that come under educational alternative services programs. Dr. Corbett said they have a different model under the direction of Dr. Barbara Hires. Mrs. Krassner shared her appreciation for the district continuing supports even when school grades improve. Ms. Lori Matway, associate superintendent, student and community services, spoke about the Schools of Hope legislation. A proposal for this funding will be submitted for three district schools: Largo Middle, Mildred Helms Elementary, and Midtown Academy. Only 25 schools statewide will be awarded funds which makes it very competitive.

- **Property Update:** Mr. Clint Herbic, associate superintendent, operational services, and Ms. Charlene Beyer, real estate analyst, shared information on district properties. The Norwood Secondary School site, which is less than two acres, is under contract for \$930,000. The Palm Harbor Elementary School site, approximately 7.5 acres, is under contract for \$3.1 million. The request for approval of both contracts will be on the August 22nd board agenda.
- **District Application Program:** Mr. Bill Lawrence, director, student demographics, assignment, and capacity, reviewed the following 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)*. Mr. Lawrence stated that updates are made annually to this policy which addresses district application programs. He reviewed the changes outlined in the agenda item which will come before the board on August 22. He shared that Lealman Innovation Academy will be removed from the application list; this school is now an educational alternative program. Academic entrance criteria has been removed from some programs because it has been shown that some students, given the opportunity, have proven successful in programs. The criteria for a student to remain in these programs will remain the same. The proximity preference at Tarpon Springs Fundamental was increased from 20% to 50% in the interest of increasing diversity in the student population. Middle school sibling priority will now be extended across programs at the same school site. It has always been an aspirational goal of the board to keep siblings together; and this has been done in the interest of that goal. Mr. Lawrence then spoke about improvements made in the student assignment office which resulted in positive outcomes. The first day of school only 125 families showed up at the district office to register their students. A sophisticated call center phone system allowed a call to rollover to voice mail after 15 minutes hold time. Most of those calls were returned within 30 minutes to one hour. On August 7-9, there were 430 first time kindergarten students registered; these were the 3 days before school opened. There is opportunity for improvement to try to reach out to the community for earlier kindergarten enrollment. Mr. Lawrence said the changes to the district application programs will be for the 2018-19 school year; however, promotion of these programs begins in January 2018.
- **Memorandum of Understanding With Lutheran Services:** Dr. William Corbett and Mr. Kevin Hendrick, associate superintendent, teaching and learning services, reviewed the following upcoming board agenda items: *Request Approval of Memoranda of*

Understanding With Lutheran Services, Florida, Head Start and the School Board of Pinellas County, and Request Approval of the Lease Agreement With Lutheran Services, Florida, Head Start and the School Board of Pinellas County. Mr. Kevin Hendrick shared the importance of improved early childhood education and the need to work collaboratively with Lutheran Services; they are the grant recipient of the Head Start services in Pinellas County. To increase the kindergarten readiness rate, improved PreK services are necessary; which has been shown to have a long term impact on increasing graduation rates. There are three MOUs and each has a specific intent. The first addresses program referral processes and personnel; the second describes the partnership; and, the third describes data sharing. The lease agreement will allow Midtown Academy to lease unused space for a Head Start program. A few modifications will need to be made; which includes the addition of appropriate height sinks and a separate playground. The storefront will be separate from the Academy. Personnel that will be working at the program will be required to have Level II screening. Ms. Flowers asked if any centers would close as a result of this one opening; she was advised that none will be closed.

- **Naming of New Technical High School:** Mr. Robert Poth, area superintendent, and Mr. Mark Hunt, executive director, career, technical and adult education, reviewed the following document: *Decision Making Chronology Leading to the Recommendation to the School Board of Pinellas County for the new Technical High School to be located on the site currently occupied by the Career Academy of Seminole.* They shared the process used to get stakeholder input regarding the name change. Principal Giancola met with staff regarding the rebranding of the school. The recommended name is the Pinellas Technical High School at Seminole. Mrs. O'Shea shared that the Mayor of Seminole reached out to her and was very excited about the new name. Mrs. O'Shea asked about the outcome of the traffic study that was discussed at a previous workshop (08/11/2015) since the increased student enrollment at the technical high school will have an impact in this area.
- **Leadership Discussion:**
 - **Dr. Grego:**
 - He advised the board that there will be some job changes in the ESE department that will come before the board in September.
 - He said the career, technical, adult education department will submit a grant proposal to receive approximately \$460,000 to add a composite manufacturing program at Pinellas Technical College-Clearwater. The grant proposal will come before the board at the August 22nd board meeting. CTAE is working with AAR Composite Fabrication, Clearwater, to develop a training program. They fabricate airplane parts. This growing state industry will need approximately 300 highly trained employees in the next five years. The department is hopeful they will secure the grant; but, PTC will offer the program regardless. There is a possibility that Space Florida will move to the area (the purpose of Space Florida is to foster growth of the space industry in Florida).
 - He thanked Kevin Hendrick for his tremendous district wide training offerings.

- He spoke about the Tarpon Springs High School Marching Band, and referenced it as a gem in our community. He said that Mr. Ward Kennedy, area superintendent, and Ms. Jeanne Reynolds, PK-12 performing arts specialist, are following up on the noise complaints. Ms. Reynolds shared that they are working with the school and trying to find agreeable sound levels. Some of the neighbors are just 500' from the practice field; which makes it difficult. Mr. Kevin Ford, band director, has reduced the number of drums from 21 to 14 and using a smaller drum size. A professional sound engineer will be involved and a wireless metronome will be tried. Sweetwater, a music technology company, is involved. Ms. Reynolds said there will be some challenges; but, they will try the following: utilize the same brand of equipment for the entire band, take meter readings on the sound and chart it, plant 20' mature cedar/cypress trees to act as a sound buffer, and schedule practice so it ends 15-20 minutes earlier. Mrs. Cook asked why the band has to practice with amplification. Ms. Reynolds shared that digital music is a part of music expression in this era. All of our bands in today's world incorporate digital music. Ms. Reynolds also advised the board that on November 4, 2017, the district's marching bands will be performing at Dunedin High School.
- Dr. Grego mentioned the pricing for the Certificate of Participation bonds. Mr. Kevin Smith, associate superintendent, finance and business services, said the pricing of the bonds, which occurred at Raymond James on Carillon Parkway on Wednesday, August 9th. Eighty students from Northeast High School's Academy of Finance attended this event. The bonds have varying years of maturation and by 11:00 that morning; they were all sold. This was a great real world experience for the students in the Academy.
- Dr. Grego spoke about the first day of school. He began his day at the Coachman Bus Compound to support school bus drivers and the transportation department; he then visited 11 school sites including Gibbs High-they celebrated their 90th anniversary.
- Dr. Grego spoke about HB 7069. He wants to speak with elected officials to get a sense of whether or not they are open to some remedies of the language in the bill. Mr. Koperski is also continuing with his conference calls with other school board attorneys across the state. Mrs. Lerner commented that she supports Dr. Grego, but she stated that the Speaker of the House decides and she does not believe that he will budge. Mr. Koperski stated that if the suit were filed soon; it would not preclude us from joining, he does not believe that it will be filed before September. At this time, he shared that there are eight school districts who have approved financial support for the litigation. They are: Bay, Broward, Hamilton, Lee, Miami-Dade, St. Lucie, Palm Beach, and Volusia. He believes it would be a minimum of \$400,000 collectively to fight the case.
- Mrs. O'Shea: She advised the board that the Pinellas Education Foundation Board and our board will have a joint reception on Monday, September 18, from

5-7 pm. A save the date will be placed on board members calendars.

- Mrs. Cook: She mentioned that plans for the legislative breakfast will need to start soon since the legislative session begins in January 2018. FSBA is gathering input for their legislative platform and the board will need to do the same. The breakfast can be held at Pinellas Technical College-Clearwater. The culinary arts program and administration at the school have done an outstanding job with this event. Dianna Frazier, school board secretary, handles the majority of the planning. Mrs. Cook said a date will need to be decided upon soon.

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 2:41 p.m.

Chairperson
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Secretary