

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – October 16, 2018

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, October 16, 2018, at 9:02 a.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4th Street SW, Largo, Florida.

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

Ms. Lentino arrived at 9:04 a.m.

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

The following topics were discussed:

- **Virtual Mentoring:** Ms. Lori Matway, associate superintendent, student and community services; Dr. Valerie Brimm, director, office of strategic partnerships; and, Ms. Michelle Roberge, coordinator, family and community relations, office of strategic partnerships, reviewed the document: *Virtual Mentoring, office of strategic partnerships, family & community relations*. Dr. Grego shared that virtual mentoring will expand opportunities for persons who want to mentor but have time considerations; it eliminates the travel time to and from a school. Ms. Matway noted that there were virtual mentoring programs for purchase; but, Dr. Brimm handled it in-house. Dr. Brimm said the Blackboard Collaborate program will be used, it offers the ability to archive and record mentoring sessions. The virtual mentoring program has the same guidelines as any other mentor/volunteer. Many business partners, who travel internationally, will now be able to mentor. Curriculum resources will be provided in five areas: personal development, academic skills, educational planning, career planning, and preparing for postsecondary school. The Take Stock in Children Toolkit is used for preparing a student for postsecondary education. There would be a requirement of four face-to-face sessions during the school year. Mrs. Lerner shared a concern about taping the sessions; and how students often share personal things during a mentoring session. Mr. Koperski said other volunteer/mentor sessions are not recorded. Dr. Brimm explained the set up; the school will provide a secure computer with camera and head phones and students will be in the company of a PCS employee or Level 2 volunteer. For example, in the media center or computer lab. Mrs. O’Shea asked if the person present will have to be listening in on the conversation. She was advised that they do not need to listen, just be nearby in case there is an issue. Four high schools are participating in the pilot program: Clearwater, Gibbs, Northeast, and Osceola.
- **2019-2010 Instructional Calendar Recommendation:** Ms. Paula Texel, assistant superintendent, human resources services, and, Mr. Dave Richmond, managing officer, payroll operations, reviewed the following draft documents: *2019-20 Instructional Calendar, Student Calendar 2019-20, 10-Month Teacher Calendar 2019-20, 11.5-Month Teacher/Staff Calendar 2019-20, 11.5-Month Teacher/Staff Calendar 2019-20* and

School Board Approved List of Special Observance Days. Ms. Texel said the calendar committee was a large group; including staff, parents, students, community members, PCTA, PESPA, and board representation by Mrs. Terry Krassner. The guidelines included having seven days of pre-training for teachers prior to the first day of school; having a non-student day between semester; completing first semester prior to winter break; and, legally students cannot start the new school year prior to August 12, 2019. Hurricane make-up days also have to be built into the calendar. All schools will open on Wednesday, August 14 and the last day for students will be Friday, May 29, 2020. The approval of the calendar will come before the board at the October 23, 2018 school board meeting. Once approved, the calendars will be posted to our website.

- **Palm Harbor and Sandy Lane Elementary Schools Update:** Mr. Ward Kennedy, area superintendent, Dr. Barbara Hires, area superintendent, Mr. Kevin Hendrick, associate superintendent, teaching and learning services, and Ms. Ellen Truskowski, reviewed the following document: *Center for Gifted Studies North County*. Dr. Hires spoke about Sandy Lane Elementary Conservatory for the Arts. Their Discovery Night is scheduled for December 3rd and will be advertised on Twitter and Facebook, along with the district's other notifications. Improvements to the facility will continue to accommodate the new programs. The curriculum will integrate the arts; classroom teachers will be paired with art teachers; the physical education teacher is also a dance instructor. Sandy Lane is currently participating in Kennedy Center's Partners in Education Institute. Mrs. O'Shea noted the current zoned enrollment is 350. She asked about the school capacity. Mr. Hendrick said the school can accommodate 900. All students attending Sandy Lane will initially be exposed to both music and visual arts classes. Ms. Lentino said it is good to have them exposed to both; it is important to explore various interests. Mr. Hendrick and Ms. Coral Marsh, gifted education specialist, spoke about the Center for Gifted Studies North County. It will be housed in the old Palm Harbor Elementary School; the school has not yet been named. The Discovery Night will be held on December 18, 2018, 6:00-7:00 p.m., at Palm Harbor University High School, since the building is not ready yet. The program will mimic Ridgecrest and Midtown Academy. There will also be a new Center for Reading for ESE students, grades 1-5, with dyslexia and other reading difficulties; this will be done outside the district application program. The program is modeled from Duval County public schools. Once the program is developed, it will be replicated across the district. Mr. Hendrick said this will be funded through IDEA and students will not require an IEP. Referrals will come from teachers and parents. Ms. Matway shared that the district is looking at various curriculum programs. They also want to create a university partnership. Instruction will be developed for students to become proficient readers. Mr. Kennedy advised that the elementary school has been closed for ten years. There are currently 23 classrooms; they will add a science lab and media center. In December 2018 a principal will be hired. Mrs. Lerner asked about the gifted curriculum. Ms. Marsh shared that the students' day will begin with the same curriculum as used in part-time pull out programs; then enrichment will be added to other curriculum areas throughout the day. Mrs. Lerner was pleased to find out about the reading program; it is so important to have students reading by the fourth grade; it is a huge indicator of long term success. We need more individual and group work for

students struggling with reading. Dr. Grego said these lab schools allow us to learn. Mrs. O'Shea asked if the new reading program is successful, can it be placed at other schools. Mr. Hendrick said most schools have space limitations. Mrs. Long said the community is very excited that Palm Harbor Elementary site is re-opening as a school.

- **Safety Update:** Mr. Clint Herbic, associate superintendent, operational services, and Mr. Dennis Russo, administrator, school safety, reviewed the following documents: *Florida Department of Education, Florida Safe Schools Assessment Report (confidential)*, and *Tiered Safety and Security Strategies*. Mr. Herbic spoke about the progress the district has made as it relates to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. Senate Bill 7026- Public Safety requires the Department of Education to establish an Office of Safe Schools. Districts must complete and submit the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) to the Office of Safe Schools which they use to assess school security. The district has completed its report; and pending board approval on October 23, 2018, it will be submitted to the state. These documents are confidential. The Commission is to submit an initial report on its findings and recommendations by January 1, 2019 to the governor. The Commission is starting to take a different view and understand that school hardening may not be the main issue; now, they understand that behavioral issues are a huge part of safety and security. The state allocated \$99 million for school hardening, and, Pinellas is eligible to receive approximately \$3.5 million. Those funds will be used to complete facility upgrades, which are due to be completed by the 2019-2020 school year. The district is working on a 3 tiered approach: 1) District Wide Strategies, 2) Targeted Strategies, and 3) Intensive Strategies. The district must submit its recommendations by December 1. Mr. Herbic advised that all schools will have a storefront for their front office by the end of the year. He said that law enforcement and the Fire Marshall are working together to address concerns. Mr. Russo shared that the drills at schools have evolved and are more age appropriate. He consulted with All Children's John Hopkins. October drills will look different; November teachers will understand that they have a choice as it relates to run, hide, fight. In elementary, fight has been removed as an option. This will allow teachers to try different strategies; the administration at the school will work with staff to practice different scenarios. There are talking points and other resources on the district's website. An executive session was called; 10:45-10:57 a.m. due to need for confidentiality.
- **Spot Survey Update:** Ms. Jennifer Dull, director, strategic planning and policy, reviewed the following document; *Pinellas County Schools, School Staff Survey Results-Fall 2018, District Results, Assessment, Accountability and Research, September 2018*. Ms. Dull shared that the survey was administered September 19-20, 2018. School based results have been tabulated and shared with the board. There were a lot of positive results. Seventy-four percent of the instructional staff responded to the survey. Area superintendents and principals received schools data and they are working together to keep the momentum moving toward improvement. There will be another spot survey in February 2019. The larger survey, part of our AdvancED accreditation is the 360 degree survey of all stakeholders administered November 12-December 14, 2018. Mrs. Lerner shared that she believes it was an excellent survey; very good for a first time.

- **Policy Updates:** Ms. Jennifer Dull, director, strategic planning and policy, reviewed the following proposed agenda items: *Setting a Public Hearing and Authorizing the Advertisement of the Public Hearing to Consider the Amendment of Policy 1590 PERSONNEL FILES, 3590 PERSONNEL FILES and 4590- PERSONNEL FILES (This is the first reading.); Setting a Public Hearing and Authorizing the Advertisement of the Public Hearing to Consider the Amendment of Policy 2130- DISTRICT MONITORING AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DMAC) (This is the first reading.); and, Setting a Public Hearing and Authorizing the Advertisement of the Public Hearing to Consider the Amendment of Policy 8141- MANDATORY REPORTING (This is the first reading.)* Ms. Dull stated that the updated language in policies regarding personnel files is a practice that is already in place. Mr. Koperski noted that the district reports serious allegations to the state even if someone resigns while under investigation; this has been our practice. The change to the DMAC policy is due to the reinstatement of NAACP South as a member organization following the reconstitution of the branch by their national headquarters. This was at the request of NAACP South. The update to Policy 8141 is also an existing practice in Pinellas County Schools, but we are adding it to the policy. Ms. Dull stated that the policies will be coming to the board on November 13, 2018 for approval.
- **Legislative Platform:** Mrs. Carol Cook, school board member, reviewed the following documents: *Memorandum, October 8, 2018, The Greater Florida Consortium of School Boards, PROPOSED 2019 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM; PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD 2019 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM-DRAFT; and, Pinellas County School Board 2019 Legislative Platform draft Communication Plan.* Ms. Flowers advised that she attended the meeting with the GFCSB. At the meeting it was shared that each member board would need to approve the GFCSB legislative platform before they could move ahead with it. This will be on the October 23, 2018 school board agenda for approval. Mrs. Cook spoke about the PCSB legislative platform. The plan is to meet with our legislative delegation sometime between Monday, December 3 and Friday, December 14. This meeting will be similar to the joint session with the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners. The intent is to educate legislators regarding the impact of the legislative they enact. We can also work collaboratively with them to determine how to support issues moving forward. Mrs. Cook feels it will be more effective to do more with legislators while they are here in the county. Once they go to Tallahassee for the legislative session, it is more difficult to communicate with them.
- **Leadership Discussion:**
 - **Dr. Grego:** He spoke about the Starting Right Now, fundraising luncheon on October 11th in Tampa. Over \$400,000 was raised for this organization. Ajax Building Corporation donated \$1 million in services. He thanked the board members for their support in providing the Pinellas facility.
 - **Mrs. Long:** She spoke about serving on the Homeless Leadership Board and thanked Ms. Susan Myers, HLB, for her attendance at the workshop. Mrs. Long asked about the possibility of HEAT team members accessing the data base that tracks shelter space, in the interest of assisting students and families. There was discussion as to the cost and legalities. Christina Fields (HEAT) was in

attendance. She shared the following concerns: Each team member has 35 schools, some schools have a navigator and some don't; and, then there is the cost associated with using the system, servicing the system and training for use of the system. It was suggested that one HEAT team member be permitted to have view only access. Mrs. Cook asked if this decision rests with the Board or is it a staff decision. There was discussion about the confidentiality of the data and who would have access. Christina Fields said the district carries out the law-The McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act. HEAT is a small group; 2 social workers, 2 resource teachers; 1 grant manager; one Title IX staff; one Title I staff; and herself. No decision was made at the workshop. Mrs. O'Shea asked if it provides any advantages for our students and the cost associated with it. Ms. Flowers said if it is a board decision, it would need further discussion at a workshop.

- **Ms. Flowers:** 1) She asked for an update on Midtown Academy at the next workshop. 2) She would also like to discuss the possibility of having occasional board meetings at a location other than the district office.
- **Mr. Koperski:** 1) He spoke about the upcoming organization meeting (November 20) and advised that board meeting dates for November 2018-November 2019 will be approved at that time. 2) He shared with board members that there is an agenda item being brought forward on the October 23, 2018 meeting. It is regarding a student that would best be served in an ESE Center and the parents will not sign the paperwork. Therefore, the district must pursue legal action.

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 12:06 p.m.

Chairperson
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Secretary