

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – July 24, 2018

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, July 24, 2018, at 9:00 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, Ms. Joanne Lentino, Mrs. Linda Lerner, Members; Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent, Dr. William Corbett, Deputy Superintendent, and Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

Absent: Mrs. Eileen Long, school board member

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

The following topics were discussed:

- **What’s New in 2018-2019-by Division:** The following document was reviewed by staff: *What’s New in 2018-2019*. Mr. Kevin Hendrick, associate superintendent, teaching and learning services, began with his division. Mr. Hendrick shared that there will not be many changes in teaching and learning because new legislation affecting them was minimal. August 7 is district wide training; the schedule of trainings will be shared with the board. Teachers will receive information about the improved Focused Marzano Instructional Model and a Frequently Asked Questions document is being provided. Many resources are offered to support their instruction; these resources are supplemental. The new evaluation system will be reviewed at school staff meetings. Mrs. Lerner asked about the Civics curriculum; she spoke about the complexity of reading historical documents. Mr. Hendrick said there is a new textbook with more engaging resources. He also shared that the elementary science labs are being expanded to include first grade. Fifty trainings in Culturally Relevant Training are being offered this week; the goal is to have all teachers trained in five years. The board will receive the information on these trainings. Mrs. Lerner asked if teachers will receive training on embedding reading in elective classes; teachers will receive that instruction per Mr. Hendrick. Pinellas and Ruth Eckerd Hall were selected for the Kennedy Center Partners in Education Program. Four schools were selected for enriching arts education and professional development for teachers through the partnership with Ruth Eckerd Hall. The schools are Sandy Lane, Eisenhower, Dunedin and Leila Davis elementary schools. District staff will work with each school to see how the partnership can help us infuse arts education in the general education classroom. All assessments will now be given in May. The use of behavior specialists is being expanded in schools to provide coaching to students on how to remain in class; this will allow more instructional time. Ms. Flowers requested a list of the private preK providers to share with the community to encourage enrollment and to work with these sites for adequate instruction. It will also help in planning community events. Mr. Hendrick reminded the board that a specialist position was added to work just with the preK programs. Mr. Lechner, assistant superintendent, technology and information systems, reviewed what’s new in his department. They are adding access points and wireless upgrades at all sites will be completed by second semester. The new system that will replace TERMS, Business PLUS ERP is on target. Transitioning over will take two years. The capacity for assessments all occurring in May is complete. Ms. Lentino asked about paper and pencil testing for younger students. She

was advised that grades 3-6 will continue with paper and pencil testing. Lisa Wolf, public information officer, shared that 35,000 have opted in for text messaging; for 2018-2019 school year it will only be used to communicate emergencies to parents and staff. Area superintendent Pat Wright spoke about the Restorative Practices training; IIRP continues to work with our trainers. Trainers are required to have 12 hours of instruction to be certified; the first six will occur prior to the start of school, and the second six to be completed by October 15. This training will be accomplished either on a professional development day or after school hours with stipends offered. The intent is to change the mindset as this becomes part of the school culture. The way behavior is addressed becomes an integrated part of the work day. Area Superintendent Ward Kennedy shared that the Code of Student Conduct has been distributed; and translation to a wide variety of languages is available on our website. Mr. Clint Herbic, associate superintendent, operational services, provided an update on transportation. The routing department reviewed 50-55,000 individual student routes; a total of 515 routes, manually, and were able to condense it down to 460 routes. As a result, there will be no additional cost associated with the new 7:20 a.m. high school start time. The plan is to continue to analyze the possibility of moving high school start time to 8:30 a.m., without impacting elementary and middle school times. We have 490 bus drivers to cover 460 routes; so we are in good shape. Additionally, all building assessments have been completed by the team. There was conversation about door locks. Mr. Herbic shared that new construction will have an ND95 door lock. They are also instructing staff that all classroom doors will be locked when students are in the room. Mrs. Krassner spoke about the District Safety and Security Committee meeting; parents from all levels were invited to attend and they had great conversation and information sharing. Mr. Herbic advised that all staff will have Active Assailant Training before August 13, 2018; including substitute teachers. All the requirements of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act will be met by the first day of school. He also spoke about the legislation to post "In God We Trust." His department purchased 250 State Seal stickers and one will be posted at each school; most likely in the school office or entrance area. Ms. Matway, associate superintendent, student and community services, and Ms. Paula Texel, assistant superintendent, human resources services, reviewed what's new in their departments.

- **Uniform Assessment Calendar:** Mr. Kevin Hendrick, associate superintendent, teaching and learning services, reviewed the following documents: *2018-2019 Uniform Statewide Assessment Calendar*, *PCS Elementary Assessment Calendar 2018-2019*, *Middle School District Assessment Calendar 2018-2019*, and, *PCS High School Assessment Calendar 2018-2019*. Mr. Hendrick spoke to the uniform statewide assessment calendar. He shared that a template is provided by the state to list all the state assessments, pages 1-8. District assessments are listed pages 9-12; which a summary of the testing time on page 12. The MAP test in reading and math for elementary has two cycles required; but most schools administer the third also because they find the data valuable. Dr. Grego noted that the MAP test results are a good indicator for Summer Bridge.
- **School Grades-Levels of Support:** Mr. Kevin Hendrick, associate superintendent, teaching and learning services, and Ms. Nikita Reed, director, school transformation, reviewed the following document: *Pinellas County Schools Tiered Levels of Support 2018-19*. Dr. Corbett began by sharing that all schools receive supports for students. Tier 2 schools have a grade of C or better. The additional 45 minutes per week are for

Tier 2, 3 and 4, and continues throughout the year for planning time. Instructional coaches may be at the school at this time; they are also utilized during the instructional day to work with small group instruction. Coaches work with teachers and/or students. When a school rises a tier, the level of support they received continues into the next year, so the gains continue. Teachers hired for Tier 3 and 4 schools receive additional pay as outlined in the MOU. The five Scale Up Schools (Campbell Park, Fairmount Park, Lakewood Elementary, Maximo and Melrose) will never lose their additional supports. Mrs. Lerner spoke about magnet schools like John Hopkins Middle. Her concern is that if the data were disaggregated by magnet students and zoned students; what school grade would be assigned. This is a concern at many schools and she wants to be sure that struggling students are receiving the supports they need. Ms. Reed meets weekly with the principals of each of these schools. She is aware that the conditions for learning and MTSS support for students to succeed. Our L25, ELL and ESE students receive support. She met with VE teachers who will co-teach; they are using the inclusion model. Classroom teachers will teach on grade level because this strategy has shown more improvement. Students' bi-weekly assessment are reviewed to determine what each student needs. Small group instruction with the VE teacher takes place in the classroom. Mrs. Lerner questioned the full inclusion model and expressed that often struggling students do not have an IEP. Mr. Hendrick shared that with this model the direct instruction comes from the classroom teacher. Ms. Reed said there are occasions when a student will be pulled out for instruction. Ms. Lentino shared that parent engagement at these schools is very important. Ms. Reed said she met with Dr. Brimm, director, strategic partnerships, and the schools' family navigators and community groups will involve parents; monthly parent university opportunities will be offered. Ms. Flowers complimented Ms. Reed on her presentation to the State Board of Education meeting, July 18th, and said that it was very well received.

- **Pinellas Technical High School at Seminole and Proposed Partnership:** Mr. Robert Poth, area superintendent, Mr. Mark Hunt, executive director, career, technical and adult education and Dr. Stacy Carlson, president, Pinellas Education Foundation, provided an update on the school and the proposed partnership with the Foundation. Mr. Poth said there are 12 instructors on staff and they are in place. There is a waiting list to get into the high school; and, applications continue to be submitted daily. The school will open with grades 9 and 10; there are 191 students total. There are also 179 students returning to the school to complete the certification programs that they already started. On the 9th of August, 5:30-6:30 p.m., there is a Student Open House scheduled. Dr. Stacy Carlson, president, Pinellas Education Foundation, spoke about the work of the foundation and how they want it to align with the district for positive student outcomes. The Richard O. Jacobson Foundation wants to have a long term legacy in Pinellas County. Money was donated to Tarpon Springs HS for the Jacobson Culinary Academy. The Jacobson Foundation is interested in continuing to support Pinellas County Schools in the field of career and technical education, through a very generous donation but it would involve the naming of the school or school building in his honor. Mr. Koperski was asked to cite Policy 7250-Naming and Commemoration of District Facilities. He said there is no conflict with the policy. Mrs. Lerner shared that we all know of Mr. Jacobson in the

community and she would support; Mrs. O'Shea echoed the same sentiment. Mr. Hunt spoke of the need for a new building to house the veterinary program. It was so damaged after last year's hurricane that it had to be torn down. The new building would need to house 4 classrooms (two for veterinary and two for biology); an animal housing area; and, a lab to work with animals. He said a new facility would cost about \$3.5 million. Dr. Grego said that school districts rarely get the opportunity to receive such a sizeable monetary donation. He asked the board members for a head nod if they support continuing this discussion with the Jacobson Foundation. The board agreed. The meeting is scheduled for August 21 and Dr. Grego plans to attend with Dr. Carlson. He asked if the board would consider rescheduling our board meeting due to the scheduling conflict. This will be considered.

- **Climate Survey-AdvancED:** Ms. Jennifer Dull, director, strategic planning and policy, reviewed the results of the climate survey. Ms. Dull spoke about the participation in the survey. About 70% of the staff responded with an 80% overall satisfaction score. Ninety percent of the staff that responded believe that the district's purpose is clearly focused on student success. There are also some growth opportunities; including teacher's timely feedback to students; and, leaders need to improve engagement with all stakeholders in communicating the purpose and direction of the district. She also noted that there was an increase of 2,000 parent responses. This survey is part of our district accreditation. Ms. Dull created templates that administrators can use to input the data from the survey from their site and communicate it to their staff. Mr. Kennedy, area superintendent, stated that survey responses are reviewed with principals. He added that they review patterns and trends in the survey and address it with principals. Dr. Hires, area superintendent, stated that principals are encouraged to share the survey results with their PTA. The written responses that are gathered on the survey are anonymous; there is no way to tell the number of persons submitting written responses. Ms. Dull also shared that she had School Improvement sessions this summer and data is reviewed at that time and incorporated into the school's SIP.
- **Healthcare Update:** Ms. Paula Texel, assistant superintendent, human resources services, and Ms. April Paul, director, risk management and insurance, shared an update on healthcare. Ms. Paul shared that in January 2015, the district became self-insured. Due to that, they did not want to change insurance providers because they would not be able to compare data to see how the self-insurance was working if the district went with another company. Now they are working with AON to receive bids from healthcare insurance providers; Aetna, Cigna, United, and Humana. They review the proposals based on administrative costs (claims processing/clinical reviews etc.), the medical provider discounts that are offered, the pharmacy formulas, the provider network, and the wellness platform. The district will continue with its three options for plans; HMO, NPOS and Consumer Directed. Formulary changes typically occur whether or not we change carriers. August 31 is the date to complete silver status with Goal 365 and if earned, those cost reductions will still be given to employees even if we change carriers. She said that AON is still proceeding with negotiations. Mrs. Cook asked about the timeline necessary if a change in carrier is recommended. Ms. Paul said that it is a 90-120 day lead time necessary; so if the district decides to change insurance providers,

the decision would need to occur in August. Mr. Koperski noted that this is not a Request-For-Proposal (RFP); we are able to directly negotiate through AON. Mrs. Lerner asked how AON is paid; whether or not it is from the insurance provider. Ms. Paul said that Aon's fees are paid from commissions received from some of the voluntary benefit plans and a portion of the fees are paid through the operating budget. They do not receive any commission from the health insurance carrier. Mrs. O'Shea asked, how strong the contracts with these providers are; what are the records of these companies. Ms. Paul said that all insurance companies are Evergreen contracts. An Evergreen is a contract provision that automatically renews an agreement until one of the parties gives notice to terminate the contract. She said that our current contract with Humana is in place until December 31, 2018.

➤ **Leadership Discussion:**

- **Dr. Grego:** He said that the City of Clearwater Mayor Cretokos has spoken with him about the downtown redevelopment project and they are interested in resuming the discussion regarding purchasing the property at North Ward Elementary. Two appraisals would be sought regarding the value of the property.
Mr. Koperski shared that the law regarding the sale of a public school property/building states that it would need to be in the best interest of the public. That can relate to either its use or the dollar amount.
Mrs. Lerner asked about the use for the property. Will it be redevelopment or does the city plan to add affordable housing in the area.
More information will be shared when or if this project moves ahead.
- **Mrs. Cook:** She asked board members about the plans for the legislative platform for 2019 and the interest of the board in continuing with the legislative breakfast or another format. She said that this will need to be decided soon.
- **Mrs. O'Shea:** She asked about the capital outlay formula as it relates to charter schools that is part of legislation.
- **Dr. Grego** advised that the district let the lawsuit run its course. He spoke about the legislative platform addressing teacher pay raises; state funding; and the livable wage issue.
- **Mrs. Cook** spoke about FADSS (Florida Association of District School Superintendents) legislative platform and the potential benefit of submitting the same recommendations to strengthen the process.
- **Dr. Grego** said that with the compression formulas, Pinellas County received none of the \$56-57 million dollars from the state; and the new legislation has cost us \$2 million.

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 1:34 p.m.

Chairperson
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Secretary