

SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP – June 26, 2018

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, June 26, 2018, immediately following the school board meeting, at 11:11 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.

Absent: Ms. Joanne Lentino, school board member.

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

The following topics were discussed:

- **Budget Update:** Mr. Kevin Smith, associate superintendent, finance and business services, reviewed the draft budget for the 2018-2019 school year. The budget cycle is ongoing. Enrollment projections for the next school year begin in January of that year; the state DOE projection model is used. The district currently has a 5% contingency. The 2017-2018 funding data is a projection; the fiscal year ends June 30, 2018. The state allocation of funds is derived by a specified formula which determines the amount of FEFP (Florida Education Finance Program) state and local revenue. The state then determines the portion of the FEFP to be funded by state revenues and the portion to be funded by local real estate revenues-the Required Local Effort. This year’s projection of FEFP dollars from state and local is \$560,712,608; the Required Local Effort \$ 328,585,063 is subtracted, and the net state FEFP dollars are \$232,127,545. That equals \$345,052,141 that Pinellas receives from the state. The Base Student Allocation increased by \$0.47 from last year. The .748 millage compression shifts money from counties that have more robust revenue to other counties that receive less than the state average millage revenue. Dr. Grego stated that some districts benefit from the compression; but, Pinellas County is not one of them. The safe schools allocation and mental health assistance allocations were both increased significantly; but this money is earmarked for specific use, not for instruction. Pinellas has 17 charter schools with 6% of our student population attending; this percentage is low for our state. The district anticipates a second issuance of Certificate of Participation bonds this fiscal year to fund capital outlay projects in the amount of \$25 million. An agenda item to request reimbursement resolution will be coming forward at the July 31, 2018, board meeting. Mr. Koperski stated that he will have to call a meeting of the Pinellas County Leasing Corporation on July 24 or 31. Ms. Flowers asked about the cost of upgrading shelters now that hurricane season is here. Dr. Corbett stated that Pinellas County government decides which shelter sites will be used; they review them, and if upgrades are needed they pay for it. Mr. Smith shared that we will be refunded \$2.7 million for shelter use from last year. The first public hearing of the proposed 2018-2019 budget is scheduled for

Tuesday, July 31, at 6:30 pm. The final public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, at 6:30 pm. Mr. Smith stated that currently our funding is flat to negative.

- **District Strategic Plan:** Dr. Grego and Ms. Jennifer Dull, director, strategic planning and policy, reviewed the District Strategic Plan draft for 2018-2019. The plan is developed alongside the budget to ensure that resources are aligned to the district's goals. The action plans outlined are assigned to a district administrator; implementation plans are developed and progress is monitored. Each school improvement plan is aligned to the district strategic plan to support student growth. The five strategic directions guide the work.
- **Mental Health Plan:** Ms. Donna Sicilian, executive director, student services, reviewed the following document: *Mental Health and Wellness in Pinellas County Schools Plan 2018-2019*. Ms. Sicilian shared the multifaceted approach for students' mental health and wellness. There are several components to the plan: expand awareness and prevention efforts, increase access to student services staff, strengthen community partnerships (day treatment); and refine threat assessment procedures. A mental health and wellness training video has been developed that will be shown to all district school staff prior to the first day of school, August 13. Staff will then receive a link to a survey regarding their most recent (3 years) training on this content. School leadership will review that information to determine gaps in training and plan professional development around those areas. Pinellas County Schools is partnering with Sandy Hook Promise to provide violence prevention training to students, families, community partners, and staff; along with an anonymous reporting app. Student services staff will be assigned to schools based on formulas devised to anticipate risk levels of a school's student population. Staff will be Florida Department of Education certified in their discipline. Ms. Sicilian and her team are working collaboratively with community mental health, substance abuse, and social service agencies, to develop a day treatment model for students with more severe issues. The recommendation to attend day treatment come from the district-level threat assessment team. This team is designed to help schools reduce violence and create safe climates. The threat assessment process is an appraisal of student behavior in a given situation; not solely on threats or traits. The assessment focuses on actions, communications, and specifics that might suggest a student poses a threat of targeted violence; this report would not be placed in a student's school record but with the PCS prevention department. A clerical position will be added through the state mental health funding to oversee data collection. Also, school counselors will receive additional duty pay so they can remain on staff during the Summer Bridge program. Added to the student services staff to support these efforts will be 10 school psychologists; 6 social workers; and, one threat assessment coordinator. The district is continuing its work in hiring LPNs. The intent is to have an RN or LPN for every school; the 2018-19 school year will have 27 of the 40 positions filled. Social workers will take on the work of the attendance specialist position to provide broader services; often lack of attendance is part of a larger issue.
- **Reorganization / Job Descriptions:** Ms. Paula Texel, assistant superintendent, human resources services, Ms. Donna Sicilian, executive director, student services, and Mr. Kevin Hendrick, associate superintendent, teaching and learning services, reviewed the

documents: *Student Services Reorganization; Teaching and Learning Services Exceptional Student Education current and proposed organization chart*; and three job descriptions: *Managing Officer, Prevention; Coordinator, Other, FACE IT Program*; and, *bus assistant*. The Managing Officer, Prevention, is a new job description designed to head this growing department. There is currently a Manager, FACE IT Program which will change to an instructional position; reporting to the Managing Officer. These job changes are due to the realignment of student services. Bus assistant positions are being added that will report to transportation; instead of being assigned through the school. The assistant will remain with the bus/bus driver to cover those routes.

- **Energy Update:** Mr. Clint Herbic, associate superintendent, operational services, and Mr. Colin Barrett, energy consultant, Cenergistic, reviewed the following document: *Energy Conservation Program Update*. The district's energy avoided costs since the program began in January 2015 total \$15,770,040. The success of the program is due to the cooperation of all staff. Through awareness, buy-in has increased and efforts coordinated. In 2017, 81 of our sites received the Energy Star Award. The Florida Department of Education reports on school district energy costs/conservation. Our ranking was 62, but as of the 2016-2017 report, Pinellas County Schools ranks number 48 in the state. We expect that improvement to continue. Mrs. Lerner asked how much of the cost savings Cenergistic receives as payment. They receive 50% of the avoided costs. Mr. Herbic shared that Cenergistic's staff work with district staff in reviewing energy efficiencies and equipment usage. Cenergistic staff speak with principals regarding building usage to garner the most savings. For example, during Summer Bridge, classrooms in the same air conditioning zone were utilized; this energy saving idea was also beneficial for safety and security.
- **Safety and Security Update:** Mr. Clint Herbic, associate superintendent, operational services, introduced Mr. Dennis Russo, administrator, school safety. Chief Luke Williams shared that the hiring of school resource officers and school security officers is in process. The equipment needs are being addressed. Mr. Herbic shared that the building assessments have all been scheduled; about one-half of the schools have had their walk throughs completed. About two-thirds of the schools have their training dates scheduled, and fire drills and active assailant drills are being scheduled. The ISM visit calendar was taken into consideration when scheduling the other drills to avoid conflicts. The videos for middle and high school students are being filmed. Teacher substitutes will receive training prior to August 1; and new hires will receive the safety training as part of the onboarding process. Also, every school bus driver will receive safety training. The May 30th training, which was held at Northeast High School, went very well. The feedback on the presenters was outstanding.
- **Leadership Discussion:**
 - **Dr. Grego:** He shared that texting from buses is being considered to advise parents and schools of travel delays; this is available through Bus Bulletin software. The FSA scores for mathematics increased across all levels and end of course (EOC) scores increased. Elementary reading still needs improvement. About 500 middle and high school students sat for the Algebra 1 EOC exam. The

school grades may be released soon. Our assessment, accountability, and research department will review all results and determine what is working.

- **Dr. Dwayne Hinds**, executive director, middle school education, said that almost all middle schools saw an increase in eighth grade science scores. And Largo Middle and Azalea Middle should come out of DA status.
- **Dr. Rita Vasquez**, executive director, high school education, said they are using targeted action steps to push supports to schools and to specific students. Tenth grade ELA scores have improved.
- **Dr. Corbett**: He shared the monetary impact of personnel changes that were discussed during today's workshop. TIS, Human Resources, Student and Community Services, and Teaching and Learning, will all experience some reductions; resulting in a savings of \$755,662.
- **Mrs. Cook**: She asked if there is an existing policy regarding pets at hurricane shelters and asked for the board to be advised. She shared that the board needs to begin the work of developing their legislative priorities for the next legislative session; and what the board wants to do to interact with our elected officials to communicate the information. She asked if it could be placed on the next workshop agenda.
 - Ms. Flowers asked for a head nod regarding Mrs. Cook's agenda request. The board agreed.
- **Mrs. O'Shea**: She shared that US Congressman Bilirakis invited her to Washington D.C, to present to the Education and Workforce Committee. She spoke about the idea of eliminating the US Department of Education. She said it was once called the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare, but changed during the Carter administration; he separated out the Department of Education. During the Clinton administration, Goals 2000, was signed into law. Changes are tied to different administrations. What is happening in Pinellas in job skills training and certifications needs to be recognized nationally.
- **Ms. Flowers**: She spoke about attendance policies in high schools and the importance of keeping students engaged in class. She asked how attendance is calculated and about teachers appropriating how the points are given for grades. She wants to be flexible, thoughtful, and supportive; but she also wants to have a better understanding. She also asked if online report cards had ever been considered. She spoke about the Florida Department of Education holding their meeting in our conference hall and asked if board members would consider holding our meeting in other locations.

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 3:49 p.m.

Chairperson
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Secretary