

**SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**WORKSHOP – June 27, 2017**

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, June 27, 2017, at 12:33 p. m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4<sup>th</sup> 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 did not attend due to her husband's passing.

**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 following document: *School Board Budget Workshop, June 27, 2017*. Dr. Grego noted that every district is reviewing their budget at this time, especially with the impact of the new legislation. Mr. Smith introduced Ms. Karen Coffey, executive director, budget and resource allocations, and Ms. Lou Ann Jourdan, manager, budget FTE and cost report. He said the budget process is ongoing as shown in the budget cycle. The last three years, the district has been funding positively. He spoke about the FEFP formula and shared that the formula was devised in 1972. FEFP funding is part of the district's operating funds. The base student allocation increased by 1% (equals \$43.24). The state budget has increased funds per student \$100.00 for 2017-18. On page 6, there is a chart with the FEFP State Funding Formulas. Funding can fluctuate from the first calculation to the final calculation; changes in enrollment affect the funding. The Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI) funding is about \$36,000 less than last year; under this funding is the requirement for additional time in the school day for L300 schools. Our Transformation Zone Schools have an extra 1 ½ hours daily. The allocation of Discretionary Lottery Funds has dropped dramatically since originally dispersed. The highest level received was \$26.6 million; the projected amount for 2017-18 is \$1.7 million (pages 56-57). Teachers will see an increase of \$177.00 in their salary from the Referendum money. The projected total amount per instructional unit is \$4,627.18. Safe Schools Allocation for this coming year is \$2.1 million less than the district budgets, but the district will budget the necessary funds due to the importance of school safety (page 60). The 1.5 mills levi will generate approximately \$116.9 million; but, due to new legislation, an estimated \$6.6 million will go to charter schools (page 65). Dr. Grego shared that the procedural rules for HB7069 have not yet been developed. Ms. Flowers asked about the Safe Schools Allocation and if principals can request additional resources. Mr. Smith said they can, but not from this funding source. Dr. Grego said that the issue is charter schools are not held to the same standards as county public schools. Ms. Coffey noted that charter schools currently receive a portion of the district's capital outlay funds, but this new legislation allocates more. This will negatively impact the

district's five year capital outlay plan. Capital Outlay funds are used for building maintenance and infrastructure. Mr. Smith said he is being cautious with allocating Title I and Title II funding because we don't have direction yet from the federal government. Ms. Flowers shared her concern that these funding shortfalls are going to negatively impact existing programs. Dr. Corbett said the district will continue services to the most struggling schools regardless. And the Transformation Zone schools have a staffing model that will remain as is; however, we may have to fund it from a different source. Dr. Grego believes the federal allocations will be less by 10-17%; so we will need to be cautious. It will reduce our resources. Ms. Flowers spoke of our food services department and asked if the funds would be reduced. She was told they will most likely see a reduction in funding. Dr. Grego said our district is fiscally sound and as we receive updates, the board will be updated.

- **District Strategic Plan 2017-2018:** Dr. Michael Grego and Dr. Mary Beth Corace, director, strategic planning and policy, reviewed the following document: *Pinellas County Schools Strategic Plan 2017-18, Strategic Goals and Action Goals*. Dr. Corace shared that principals and assistant principals reviewed the District Strategic Plan at the June leadership meeting where they had an opportunity to share their input. As Dr. Corace reviewed the plan, several questions were asked. Ms. Lentino asked about Strategic Goal 1/ Action Goal #19; regarding attendance rates. Ms. Lori Matway, associate superintendent, student and community services, said there is a plan in place to raise attendance rates. She will send it to the board. Dr. Corace spoke about the Bridging the Gap Plan and how it is imbedded in the DSP. She cited Strategic Goal #3-Action Goal #23 and Strategic Goal #4-Action Goal #1. Ms. Lentino asked about goals for VPK programs, since early childhood education has been shown to have a major impact on outcomes. Dr. Grego advised that we can track some of the programs, but some are private providers. He will look into this suggestion. Dr. Corace spoke about the plan and how it is tracked. She referenced the documentation that is submitted by the goal owners to substantiate the work being done to accomplish the goals. The budget is developed to support the goals of the plan. The District Strategic Plan and proposed budget require the approval of the school board.
- **HB7069/vetoes:** Dr. Michael Grego reviewed the following documents: *2017 Substantive Legislation-Omnibus Education Bill-HB7069-Education and 2017 Governor's Veto List*. Dr. Grego had division heads in attendance to review HB7069 and the impact it will have on their departments; this bill has a broad scope of what it covers. Mr. Clint Herbic, associate superintendent, operational services, shared the huge impact this will have on our five-year capital outlay plan. There is about a \$30 million reduction in funding and projects will have to be modified and/or eliminated. Ms. Flowers asked if there is an opportunity for the district to run a charter school. Dr. Grego shared that there is a district-managed charter school opportunity, but there are different options on how that could be done. Section 34 and 35 include some positive changes. Statewide, standardized ELA and mathematics assessments in grades 3-6 must be delivered only in paper-based format beginning in 2017-18. There are also some changes to the testing window, reducing the time frame. Section 36 changes the use of the VAM score making it optional. There are concerns that the district could be negatively impacted because we

do not carry a lot of debt; currently, there is no formula for the debt calculation. Section 43 provides for Schools of Hope. Mr. Koperski said he has been involved in an initial discussion with other attorneys that groups of districts could potentially come together and challenge the state on some legislation. For example, the Schools of Hope and the capital outlay funding. Section 49 mandates a minimum of 20 minutes a day for recess for students I kindergarten through fifth. However, this requirement does not apply to charter schools. Dr. Grego advised that each department will continue to review the impact of this new legislation; procedural rules for HB7069 have not yet been developed.

- **School Improvement Grant:** Ms. Lori Matway, associate superintendent, student and community support services, reviewed the following documents: *School Improvement Grant (SIG) 1003g-Cohort 4 and Assistant Director, Continuous Improvement* job description. Ms. Matway thanked Dr. Mary Conage and Dr. Felita Grant for their yearlong work on this grant application. It was a highly competitive grant process. The Community School at Campbell Park is fortunate to have very active community partners; United Way, Duke Energy, Tampa Bay Rays; Cross and Anvil; and the City of St. Petersburg. Ms. Matway spoke of the sustainability of the business partnerships. Dr. Grant said that they visited Mort Elementary, a community school in Hillsborough County, and how they are pulling in other resources to the school community. There was a review of the *Assistant Director, Continuous Improvement* job description. Board Members requested time to review it. Dr. Grego said that it could wait until the last board meeting in July for approval and post the position pending board approval.
- **Gifted Plan “B”:** Mrs. Coral Marsh, gifted specialist, reviewed the following document: *Gifted Plan “B”*. Ms. Marsh said the district currently screens all second grade students through a universal screening process managed by the classroom teacher. Students can also be recommended by their teacher or parents. Students who pass the screening process are then recommended for an IQ test with a school psychologist. The paperwork involved in the gifted testing process is being streamlined. There is an allowance for under-represented groups that are defined as limited English proficiency or low socio-economic status family. Due to these new processes, last year more than 300 students were identified for the gifted program. Plan B will come before the board in September 2017. This goal is addressed in the DSP, Strategic Goal #4-Action Goal #5.
- **Leadership:**
  - Dr. Grego: He spoke about the plan to participate in the FSBA Master Board training on July 18, 2017 with Pasco County. There was discussion and the majority felt that they would prefer to postpone the Master Board training in light of Mrs. Lerner’s recent loss; they want full participation by the board. After some discussion, the decision was to conduct a regular school board workshop on July 18 and look for a date in the future for the FSBA Master Board training.
  - Mrs. Cook: She advised board members that they would need to sign the Letter of Intent to participate in the Master Board Training, and the date would be pending.
  - Ms. Lentino: She expressed her interest in the district doing a climate survey for schools since there have been many changes in leadership. She would like to

see this done before the winter break 2017-2018 school year. She also asked about the survey results and how they are used.

- Dr. Grego: He advised Ms. Lentino that a 360 degree survey is currently utilized as part of our AdvancED district accreditation process. This survey is valuable and we have a great return rate. It is a nationally and internationally recognized, research based survey that is used by all major school districts in the state. He added, that we can have further discussion on this issue.
- Mrs. O’Shea: She noted that the survey is independent and many of the concerns shared in the survey are about state mandates, which we have no control over.
- Mrs. Long: She spoke about the comments made by Ray Tampa during general public comments at today’s meeting. She has concerns that bullying reports are being made, but determined unfounded. It would seem that many reports are filed, but few are identified as bullying.
- Dr. Corbett: He said that all bullying reports are reviewed, and there is a process in place. Many of the reports that are filed, are not identified as bullying based on the description of the term; many are identified as human conflicts.
- Dr. Grego: He said that they will of course look into it.

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 4:22 p.m.

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Chairperson  
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Secretary