

**SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**WORKSHOP – May 28, 2019**

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Largo, Florida.

Present: Ms. Rene Flowers, Chairperson, Mrs. Carol J. Cook, Vice-Chairperson, Mrs. Lisa Cane, Dr. Nicole Carr, Mr. Bill Dudley, Ms. Joanne Lentino, and Mrs. Eileen Long, Members; Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent, Dr. William Corbett, Deputy Superintendent, and Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

Ms. Flowers welcomed Sheriff Gualtieri.

Dr. Grego also welcomed the Sheriff and thanked him for his sacrifice in the difficult task of serving as Chair of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission.

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

**The following topics were discussed:**

- **Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission:** Sheriff Bob Gualtieri shared findings of the MSDHS Public Safety Commission. He began the presentation by stating that facts matter and it is the facts that he will be sharing in his presentation. He stated that unfortunately, his message is not being conveyed accurately, it is not all about guns. This is the same presentation he shared with the School Board of Broward County. He shared that we have to do things differently if we want a different outcome; we should be driven by what happened at Parkland so it doesn't happen again in the same way. We strive for prevention, mitigation, to stop it as soon as it starts. He shared that the Commission is comprised of 16 voting members and 4 non-voting. It is an interdisciplinary group. They released their report on January 2, 2019. The Commission will run until 2023, meeting every other month. He went on to share facts about the life of Nikolas Cruz, who has had a very troubled history. His mother was a drug addict who gave him up at birth. She did the same thing when his brother, Zachary, was born. They were adopted by Roger and Lynda Cruz. Roger died when Nikolas was five. Cruz received extensive mental health services through the years and did well when enrolled in an ESE center school, but when he was successful in the ESE center, he was returned back to a traditional school setting. He didn't do well in that setting. When he turned 18 he signed himself out of school and then he was in and out of adult education centers. On November 1, 2017, Lynda died. That is when things really began to unravel for him. Nikolas was taken in by a friend's family. In November 2017, a family friend called the Broward County Sheriff's Office, but Cruz was living in Lantana at the time, not in Broward County. The Broward County Sheriff's Office chose not to share the alert with Palm Beach County. In January 2018, a family friend reported him to the FBI; they had also received a tip back in September 2017, but did not pursue either. Two students had reported Cruz to the high school administration, but they also did nothing. On February 14, 2018, Cruz entered school grounds through an unlocked gate. He entered the school building through an unlocked door. He killed 17 people and injured 17 more. The fire alarm triggered and he escaped with the flow of

students. There is a data report from 1998-2018 for K-12 targeted attacks which indicates that there is no profile for the shooter. Of 46 active assailants; 43 were "insiders". Most used hand guns and most attacks completed in under four minutes. Most are not stopped by law enforcement; but, by school personnel. He shared that his point is that law enforcement cannot get there in time to mitigate the harm. He said that he has never once advocated for arming teachers; but, there are staff with a military or law enforcement background. What you need on the school campus is the people with the right mindset who are armed and trained. He stated that his whole point is that three armed persons are better than two; two better than one. If a person wants to be a guardian, they go through a rigorous background check, rigorous training, more firearms training than the police academy provides, along with defensive tactics training. Even if schools wanted to have more armed police officers, there are not enough applicants currently to fill the law enforcement job openings. Currently, there are 1500 openings for law enforcement officers in the state of Florida. There are options to increase safety on school campuses: two-way radios; locked doors and gates; a public announcement system that can be heard in classrooms, hallways, and outdoors; training to know how to identify, communicate, and react to a threat; and, have safe locations in all rooms. He communicated concerns about time delays in reporting 911 calls that existed in Broward County and exist here in Pinellas; cities that have their own police departments are on a different communication system, which delays the 911 report to the appropriate agency. He is currently working toward finding a solution for this communication issue. This concluded the Sheriff's presentation and Ms. Flowers asked for questions by the board. Mrs. Long asked about holsters that are used for concealed guns. The Sheriff shared that it is a retention holster and they are very safe. Mrs. Cook thanked him for being at the workshop, sharing the Commission's full report with the board, and for serving on the Commission. She said that we have done a lot in our district to address safety. Mrs. Cane asked his opinion on what is the correct reaction to a threat. The Sheriff stated that the only way to stop a shooter is to shoot him. In the event of an attack, it is best to make yourself as invisible as possible. Also, to know when there is an opportunity to get out of harm's way and move quickly. He believes there may be the option for a delayed response to a fire alarm, to build in override time, which would allow time to access the situation and avoid mass exodus. It may be written in the Florida Fire Prevention Code. The fire alarm was triggered at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High and students were leaving the building, instead of hiding, which resulted in more deaths. Ms. Flowers shared that she is thinking about the district's protocols and policies and she appreciates that we are following the law. We are having some success with See Something, Say Something. She said that she wants the relationship between the Sheriff and Schools Police Chief Williams to continue. She also thanked him for his support and partnership and his willingness to train our officers. The Sheriff shared that we should keep in mind there are different paths to the finish line. This district has big campuses. He said that what he knows is that it happens fast by people who have access. The high schools have two school resource officers, middle schools have one, and elementary schools have one safety officer. Maybe consideration should be given to supplementing the uniformed armed presence that is dedicated to school safety. Chief Williams took the

opportunity to publicly thank Sheriff Gualtieri. They attend coordinated meetings. We are doing the drills and following up to address potential concerns as they are identified and we are using the Sandy Hook app to report concerns. Dr. Grego thanked the School Board Members for wanting to be informed.

- **Charter School Application:** Ms. Lori Matway, associate superintendent, student and community services, and Mr. Rick Wolfe, director, charter schools and home education, reviewed the following agenda item: *Request Denial of the Charter Application for BridgePrep Academy of Pinellas*. Ms. Matway stated that this charter application only met 7 of the 22 standards and a rigorous review by our application team is recommending BridgePrep Academy's application be denied. Board members did not have any questions about the application or reason for denial. This will come before the board at the June 11, school board meeting.
- **Dual Enrollment Contracts:** Mr. Kevin Hendrick, associate superintendent, teaching and learning services, and Mrs. Judith Vigue, director, advanced studies and academic excellence, reviewed the following document: *Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement Between the University of Florida Board of Trustees and the School Board of Pinellas County*. Mr. Hendrick shared that they are pleased to have been able to come to an agreement with the University of Florida as it will provide students, juniors or seniors, another option for dual enrollment. Also, UF requirements are higher than St. Petersburg College, which makes it a good option for some students. Classes will be offered online only. SPC courses are taught mostly on our campuses. This in no way diminishes what St. Petersburg College offers. Mrs. Cook asked about the financial aspect of it, are the costs higher? Mr. Hendrick shared that a credit at SPC is \$72.00 and at UF it is \$150.00. But, the textbook materials at SPC are about \$110.00 per course; and UF is about \$40.00. This will offset some of the additional cost. Dr. Grego shared that we will need to examine the district's budget for this option; but, credits from UF is very good on a student's college application. He noted that the district is also talking with the University of South Florida about dual enrollment. Ms. Flowers said that in the future she would like to see similar agreements with predominately African American colleges. Ms. Lentino asked when the board would have the agreement with SPC; she was told that typically that agreement comes forward in the fall.
- **Purchasing Card and E-Payables Program:** Mr. Kevin Hendrick, associate superintendent, finance and business services, and Ms. Linda Balcombe, director, purchasing, reviewed the following document: *PURCHASING CARD AND E-PAYABLES PROGRAM CHANGE TO JP MORGAN CHASE* and *purchasing agenda item for June 11, 2019*. Ms. Balcombe spoke about the current p-card and e-payables agreement, which is through a consortium with Hillsborough County BOCC and will expire August 16, 2019. There has been no indication that the consortium will continue. Our finance department explored other options and the recommendation is for the district to piggyback on the Manatee County Schools contract with JP Morgan Chase Bank. Based on our current expenditures, the JPM Chase rebate percentage will be 1.68%; our current rebate percentage was 1.56%. Additionally, the new issue p-card will only require a signature; no pin number. This bid will come before the board for approval on June 11, 2019 under the purchasing agenda.

- **Job Descriptions:** Ms. Paula Texel, assistant superintendent, human resources services, reviewed the following agenda item: *Request Approval to Revise Job Descriptions*. The following are the job descriptions to be revised: Supervisor, PK-12 Visual Arts (C07 ADM) to Prek-12 Visual Arts Specialist (E07 PTS), Reading Recovery Teacher Leader (Instructional PCTA), Teacher Substitute (Instructional PCTA), and Classroom Assistant Substitute (D06 NR). Ms. Texel advised that the update to the supervisor visual arts is due to a retirement. The Reading Recovery teacher leader position is a new job description to support the Reading Recovery program. The teacher substitute job description is revised and updated to reflect the practice, it is used for all instructional substitutes and para-professionals. Rates of pay vary. The classroom assistant substitute job description is new, it addresses the need for an ESE associate in an ESE setting. The classroom teacher relies on the support of the assistant. Dr. Carr asked about transformation zone school paraprofessionals. (Ms. Texel followed up with a response explaining that typically these paraprofessionals conduct small group instruction, which makes it difficult to call in a daily substitute to continue the work.) These job descriptions will be on the June 11 school board agenda.
- **Property Update:** Mr. Clint Herbic, associate superintendent, operational services, updated the board on the district's properties.
  - Mr. Herbic shared information about the district's property located near Klosterman Road, west of alternate 19. The property was appraised at \$2.89 million and is zoned for single family homes. Dr. Carr asked if the property were zoned for multi-family dwellings would it be more valuable. Mr. Herbic said that the information may be on the appraisal and he would check; but the district typically doesn't go through the process of rezoning a property because of the effort involved. Dr. Carr said that we need to be informed on what the additional value would be so we can make an informed decision.
  - Mr. Herbic spoke about a lease agreement for building 6 at John Hopkins Middle School; the building has 12 classrooms. The lease would be for the first floor to allow Lutheran Services use of four classrooms and the Transformation Zone will use two. The second floor will be used by United Way, they provide wrap around services for Campbell Park, and the City of St. Petersburg will use one of the second floor rooms to coincide with the building of the new city hall, June 2019-2020. Ms. Flowers wants to be sure there is separation between older students and the preK students that will be using the building. She also shared that John Hopkins park cars on their property for the Rays games, which raises money for the school. Mr. Herbic said both the separation of students and parking will be accommodated at the property.
- **Head Start Update:** Dr. William Corbett, Mr. Kevin Hendrick, associate superintendent, teaching and learning services, and Mr. Michael Feeney, executive director, elementary education, updated the board on Head Start. Mr. Hendrick shared the plan to increase the number of Head Start classes for the 2019-2020 school year. Six classes will be added; two at High Point Elementary, two at Lealman Avenue Elementary; and, two at Woodlawn Elementary. The district runs these programs with a blended curriculum. Ms. Flowers stated that there are differences between Head Start programs and our district

programs. Head Start is compensated differently and use different curriculum. She spoke about the importance of reaching out to all early education program providers to offer professional development through the district because eventually these students become ours in the public school system. Dr. Carr asked about the staffing model for these programs. Mr. Hendrick shared that a VPK blended classroom, which includes ESE students, has a certified ESE teacher and a child development associate. The non-blended classroom has two child development associates, and no ESE teacher.

➤ **Leadership Discussion:**

- **Dr. Grego:** He informed the board that our students achieved significant increases in our reading scores. In addition to the increase, the number of students scoring a level one is lower than the state average.

**Mr. Hendrick** said he is excited about these gains, but there is a long way to go. He stated that there is great work being done by principals and teachers, it is all about improving literacy. Details will be shared with the board in the Friday Update.

Dr. Grego advised the board of the career, technical, adult education audit that is happening in our state through the work of a statewide committee. He distributed the FADSS Legislative Report. It has a lot of information. He also thanked the board for funding different initiatives.

- **Ms. Lentino:** She said that as a community service provider, she feels it appropriate, to move the board meeting start time to 6:00 or 6:30 p.m. when the community can attend. After some discussion, clarification, Mrs. Cane, Dr. Carr, Mrs. Long, and Ms. Lentino, agreed that there should be further discussion at a board workshop to discuss the rationale behind meeting start times, prior to the finalization of the proposed school board meeting dates that occurs at the November organization meeting.

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: 40p.m.

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Chairperson  
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Secretary