Regular School Board Meeting

Tuesday, March, 6, 2012 10:00 AM
School Administration Building
301 Fourth Street SW
Largo, FL 33770

~ Minutes ~

https://www.pcsb.org

Presentations From the Public

1) Charlene Robinson - Addressed the Board to say that she has a son attending Life Force Academy and indicated her support for that charter school program.

2) Lenore Faulkner - Addressed the Board to share information on her employment history with Pinellas County Schools, as well as information regarding her battle with cancer during that employment.

3) Rev. Robert Ward - Stated that their group, FAST, is very concerned that there are so many students who are unable to read at grade level; thanked Mrs. Wikle, Mrs. Lerner and Mr. Gilzean for agreeing to attend their Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 19th at First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks; that he understands that Mrs. Cook has a previous appointment; and, that he is disappointed that Ms. Clark, Mrs. O'Shea and Mrs. Krassner are not attending.

4) Rev. Robert Palin - Stated that he supported Rev. Ward's comments and that he will be praying that Mrs. O'Shea, Mrs. Krassner and Ms. Clark will change their minds and attend the Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 19th.

5) Montez Shelby - Encouraged Mrs. O'Shea, Mrs. Krassner and Ms. Clark to attend the Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 19th.

6) Fran Mitchell - Encouraged Mrs. O'Shea, Mrs. Krassner and Ms. Clark to attend the Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 19th.

7) Joe Magri - Encouraged Mrs. O'Shea, Mrs. Krassner and Ms. Clark to attend the Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 19th.

8) Ronald Shelly - Encouraged Mrs. O'Shea, Mrs. Krassner and Ms. Clark to attend the Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 19th.

9) Bonnie Harvin - Stated that she has a daughter attending the Life Force Academy and that she does not want her to return to Sandy Lane Elementary.

10) Jim Jackson - Stated that he does not understand why the Board is not moving ahead in their efforts to find a permanent superintendent. Mr. Jackson also expressed his concern that the district does not have a contract in place for teachers and support staff; that so few parents and students received their first choice in programs; and, that so few students were engaged in learning in a classroom that he visited. Mrs. Lerner shared the process to be followed by the Board's subcommittee for the superintendent search.

11) Rev. Glad McCurtain - Encouraged Mrs. O'Shea, Mrs. Krassner and Ms. Clark to attend the Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 19th.

12) Donna Davis - Stated that she will be praying that Mrs. O'Shea, Mrs. Krassner and Ms. Clark attend the Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 19th.

13) Sheila Panymo - Stated that she will be praying that Mrs. O'Shea, Mrs. Krassner and Ms. Clark attend the Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 19th.

14) Stewart Goldie - Stated that he supported Rev. Ward's comments and that he will be praying that Mrs. O'Shea, Mrs. Krassner and Ms. Clark will change their minds and attend the Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 19th.

15) Mark Klutho - Referenced a Tampa Bay Times article regarding the trust that the Board has in our Superintendent and stated his disagreement. Mr. Klutho stated that the new Board Member is undermining public schools; that money was wasted on the recent audit; and, that the crepe myrtles located in front of the building are being mutilated.

16) Emma Mitchell - Stated that she supported Rev. Ward's comments and that she will be praying that Mrs. O'Shea, Mrs. Krassner and Ms. Clark will change their minds and attend the Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 19th.

17) Chris Tauchnitz - Stated that the Board needs to move forward with their efforts to find the new superintendent. Mr. Tauchnitz thanked Dr. Stewart for requesting the recent audit and for getting that accomplished so quickly. Mr. Tauchnitz stated that he did not understand why it is taking the Board so long to hire a performance auditor. Mrs. Lerner explained the difference between the audit that took place and the effort by the Board to hire a performance auditor.

Dr. Stewart addressed those speakers who have concern regarding the low reading levels of some of our students and stated that this is the #1 concern in our county. Dr. Stewart stated that it is the #1 goal among the leadership team to get each child reading at grade level or above. Dr. Stewart stated that the FAST group will be asking the Board to adopt Direct Instruction as the core curriculum in the district; that they asked him to do that unilaterally for the district; that individual schools choosing that curriculum will be allowed to do so; and, that the core curriculum for Pinellas County will be that which is chosen by the Teaching & Learning team. Dr. Stewart stated that he has agreed to meet with this group again; but, that he will remain with this direction.

There were no additional presentations from the audience; and, this session ended at 10:33 a.m.

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I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM on March 6, 2012 at the School Administration Building, 301 Fourth Street SW, Largo, FL.

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Deborah Beaty	Pinellas County Schools	Adm. Assistant and Clerk to the Board	Present	
John Stewart	Pinellas County Schools	Superintendent	Present	
James Madden	Pinellas County Schools	Deputy Superintendent	Present	
Fred Matz	Pinellas County Schools	Chief Financial Officer	Present	
James Robinson	Pinellas County Schools	General Counsel	Present	
Robin Wikle	Pinellas County Schools	Chairperson	Present	
Carol Cook	Pinellas County Schools	Vice Chairperson	Present	
Janet Clark	Pinellas County Schools	Board Member	Present	
Glenton Gilzean	Pinellas County Schools	Board Member	Present	
Terry Krassner	Pinellas County Schools	Board Member	Present	
Linda Lerner	Pinellas County Schools	Board Member	Present	
Peggy O' Shea	Pinellas County Schools	Board Member	Present	

II. Invocation

1. Rabbi Torop, Temple Bethel, 400 Pasadena Avenue S., St. Petersburg, FL 33707

The Invocation was delivered by Rabbi Torop.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance followed the Invocation.

A. National Anthem

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a video was shown of Choral and Orchestra Teachers performing the National Anthem.

B. Centennial Moments:

A video was shown highlighting the history of Pinellas Park High School.

IV. Introduction of Professional and Community Organization Reps

A. David A. Cook, Manager, TV Operations

Mrs. Wikle took this opportunity to share that the agenda that had been posted on February 29, 2012 was updated with the change in Nonconsent Item #3 to include the issuance of a 90-day notice of proposed termination of the Life Force Arts and Technology Academy Charter School.

Mr. Cook introduced the following individuals: Nelly Henjes, PESPA; Sonya Roundtree and Rick Brant, SEIU/Florida Public Services Union; Pat Prisco, Pinellas Arts for a Complete Education Coalition; Rebecca Catalanello, The Tampa Bay Times; and John O'Connor, WUSF Radio.

Mr. Cook introduced Madalyn Sowada, Carter Fish, and Alexandra Jones, Student Rights & Responsibilities Committee, Seminole High School.

V. Presentation by Student Rights and Responsibilities - Seminole High School

Madalyn Sowada, Carter Fish, and Alexandra Jones, Students Rights and Responsibilities representatives from Seminole High School, addressed the Board to share information regarding programs and achievements taking place at their school.

VI. Public Comments

Bonnie Harvin - Stated that her daughter attends the Life Force Academy; that she does not want her daughter to be exposed to the neighborhood kids; and, that she just needs to understand why the school is being closed.

Jim Jackson - Requested that the Board revisit their public speaker policy. Mr. Jackson also shared a conversation that he had with County Commissioner Bostock regarding the original approval of the Life Force Academy; and, questioned why it has taken so long for the district to become aware of the problems at that school. Mr. Jackson suggested that the Board take more time to vet new charter applications and then spend more time monitoring them, once approved.

Tim Roach - Stated that he is one of the three teachers who were fired from the Life Force Academy; that he saw "shadiness" in the school leadership; that there was no science, spelling or language arts curriculum. Mr. Roach also shared that he was troubled that there were no American flags displayed in the classrooms, nor did the students recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mark Klutho - Expressed his concern with the way the agenda reads regarding public hearing items and stated that charter schools are a fraud. Mr. Klutho requested that the Board Members resign. Mr. Robinson and Mrs. Cook clarified the agenda items for Mr. Klutho.

Jai Hinson, Founder & Executive Director, Life Force Academy - Stated that the Academy was formed to promote cultural and artistic programs and that she resigned from that board in March 2010 at which time she requested that they change the name of the school. Ms. Hinson shared that she is in favor of the school being closed.

Sarah Hyland Parker - Stated that she is a teacher at the Life Force Academy; that she is happy to be at that school; and, that she is requesting that the Board not close the school.

Fatina Talbird - Stated that she is a new member of the board for the Life Force Academy; that she does not agree with the use of the word, cult, regarding this matter; and, that it is taxpayers money being used and that all pay those taxes. Mr. Robinson clarified that the word, cult, does not appear in any of the district's documents.

VII. Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Stewart requested the following changes to the agenda:
1) Remove from the Agenda Consent Item #11, Bids to Vendors - Bid #12-968-128, page 200 - Veterinary Animal Holding Facility
2) Remove from the Agenda Consent Item #3 - Request Approval of the National Education Alliance Agreement to allow for a workshop discussion on the proposed agreement.
3) Consent Item #4 - The employee, Ms. Bridgette Samuels, has requested an administrative hearing. The recommendation was be changed to Alternative #2 - Suspend Ms. Samuels without pay effective March 7, 2012, pending the conclusion of the hearing process and direct the Office of the General Counsel to submit the request to the Division of Administrative Hearings for processing.
4) Consent Item #5 - The employee, Ms. Ethel Lee Gore, has requested an administrative hearing. Therefore, the recommendation was changed to Alternative #2 - Direct the Office of the General Counsel to submit the request to the Division of Administrative Hearings for processing.

RESULT:	**ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Peggy O' Shea, Board Member
SECONDER:	Terry Krassner, Board Member
AYES:	Wikle, Cook, Clark, Gilzean, Krassner, Lerner, O' Shea

VIII. Special Order Agenda

1. Presentation by Special Olympics Pinellas County Coordinator and Athletes, Presented by David Haines, Special Olympics Pinellas County Coordinator

Mr. David Haines, Special Olympics Pinellas County Coordinator, along with Special Olympics Athletes Jacob Sare, Alison Irwin and Devonte Tennell, addressed the Board to thank them for their support of Special Olympics. The Board, Superintendent and staff were presented with a Special Olympics Pinellas County "40 Years of Heroes" t-shirt, Special Olympics shoelaces and a bag.

Mr. Haines and the students were greeted and thanked by the Board Members.

IX. Unfinished Business

X. Consent

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Terry Krassner, Board Member
SECONDER:	Janet Clark, Board Member
AYES:	Wikle, Cook, Clark, Gilzean, Krassner, Lerner, O' Shea

1. Approval of Minutes: to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 21, 2012; And, the Workshop of February 14, 2012

Approved, as submitted.

2. Request Approval of Personnel Recommendations

Approved, as submitted.

3. Request Approval of the National Education Alliance Agreement

This item was removed from the agenda during the adoption of the agenda. This agreement will be scheduled for an upcoming workshop discussion.

4. Request Approval of the Recommendation to Dismiss Ms. Bridgette Samuels, Teacher, Lealman Avenue Elementary School

An Administrative Hearing was requested by Ms. Samuels. Therefore, the Board, in their adoption of the agenda and their approval of the Consent agenda, approved Alternative #2 as follows: Suspend Ms. Samuels without pay effective March 7, 2012, pending the conclusion of the hearing process and direct the Office of the General Counsel to submit the request to the Division of Administrative Hearings for processing.

5. Request Approval of the Recommendation to Suspend Ms. Ethel Lee Gore, Teacher, Highland Lakes Elementary School, for Five (5) Days Without Pay

An Administrative Hearing was requested by Ms. Gore. Therefore, the Board, in their adoption of the agenda and their approval of the Consent agenda, approved Alternative #2 as follows: Direct the Office of the General Counsel to submit the request to the Division of Administrative Hearings for processing.

6. Public Hearing Concerning Amended Use of Local Millage Property Taxes for Capital Outlay Projects in Fiscal Years 2010/11 and 2011/12

Approved, as submitted.

7. Request Approval of the Following Special Projects:

The following Special Projects were approved, as submitted:

A. Pinellas County Schools Immersion Program $30,000.00
B. Charter School Planning Grant for Pinellas School of Math and Science $350,000.00
(Copy/copies to be found in Supplemental Minute Book #144.)

8. Request Approval of Renewal of the Agreement with Dunedin Jr. Falcons, Inc., Permitting the Use of a Portion of the Dunedin High School Playfield

Approved, as submitted.

(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute Book #144.)

9. Request Approval of Agreements for Contract Administration Services and Construction Management Services for the Following Projects:

The following agreements were approved, as submitted:

A. Pinellas County Schools Administration Building - Engineering Matrix, Inc. (Project #9003)
B. Gibbs High School - Biltmore Construction Company, Inc. (Project No.Z912)
(Copies to be found in Supplemental Minute Book #144.)

10. Request Approval of Vehicle Use Agreements to Non-Profit Organizations for a Period of One Year

The Vehicle Use Agreements with the following were approved, as submitted:

1) City of Dunedin
2) YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg
3) YMCA of the Suncoast
(Copies to be found in Supplemental Minute Book #144.)

11. Request Approval of Bids to Vendors at Prices in Bid Documents in Accordance with Bid Policies and Statutes

Bid #12-968-128, page 200 - Veterinary Animal Holding Facility was removed from the Bids to Vendors during the adoption of the agenda. The remaining Bids were approved, as submitted.

(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute Book #144.)

XI. Nonconsent

1. Setting a Public Hearing and Authorizing the Advertisement of the Public Hearing to Consider the Amendment to Policies 1217/3217/4217/7217-FIREARMS AND WEAPONS (This is the First Reading.)

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Terry Krassner, Board Member
SECONDER:	Janet Clark, Board Member
AYES:	Wikle, Cook, Clark, Gilzean, Krassner, Lerner, O' Shea

2. Request Approval of a Five-Year Charter for Plato Academy Tarpon Springs K-8 Charter School

Ms. Dot Clark, Coordinator for Partnership Schools, presented a brief overview of the request and shared that members of the Plato Academy board and staff were present should the Board Members have any questions.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Janet Clark, Board Member
SECONDER:	Terry Krassner, Board Member
AYES:	Wikle, Cook, Clark, Gilzean, Krassner, Lerner, O' Shea

3. Request Denial of Amendment To, and Issuance of Notice of Proposed Termination Of, Charter School Contract for Life Force Arts and Technology Academy Charter School

Dr. Stewart presented his recommendation to the Board, as follows: Deny the Amendment and issue a 90-day notice of the proposed termination of the charter for Life Force Arts and Technology Academy Charter School.

Discussion followed by Board Members and Dr. Stewart.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Janet Clark, Board Member
SECONDER:	Peggy O' Shea, Board Member
AYES:	Wikle, Cook, Clark, Gilzean, Krassner, Lerner, O' Shea

XII. New Business

A. Items Introduced by Superintendent

Dr. Stewart's report included the following:

1) Stated that in an effort to save money, a committee was formed under the leadership of Jim Madden to review the refresh process for technology. Dr. Stewart shared that the committee has come up with a number of recommendations that could save the district more than $5 million from Capital Outlay funds. More information will be presented to board members at an upcoming workshop.
2) Stated that the six committees formed by the Pinellas Education Foundation to assist the district in identifying budget savings are continuing to meet and draft recommendations. The areas that were reviewed are: management structures; personnel systems and benefits; facilities maintenance and operations; facilities construction and renovation; transportation and fleet maintenance; and cost control systems. Dr. Stewart stated that the recommendations will be presented and discussed when the Board and he meet with the Foundation early next month.
3) Shared an update on the student assignment process for countywide programs that ended February 16th. Dr. Stewart stated that beginning this week, schools that still have openings will begin calling names off their wait lists and continue doing so until all seats are filled or the wait list is exhausted.
4) Shared that following last week's joint workshop between the School Board and Cabinet Members, Mr. Madden and he began meeting with the heads of Teaching and Learning, Finance and Business Services, and School Operations to begin preparing for the March 20th workshop where the Board will be presented with next steps regarding the FADSS review of the district's organization. Dr. Stewart shared that the same affinity study that was performed with the Board by Mary Beth Corace was completed with district staff by Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Matz, and Mr. Bessette in an effort to determine the level of agreement and disagreement in regard to the FADSS recommendations in each department. Dr. Stewart stated that Mr. Madden and he also met with Dr. Ciranna and discussed creation of a timeline that will help Board Members understand the necessary steps Human Resources would have to take prior to June 30 in order to accomplish recommendations that call for changes in job title, major function, or salary. Dr. Stewart will also share this information with the Board at their March 20th workshop, as well as the results of an affinity study that Mary Beth Corace completed

with principals at last week's PCS Leadership Team meeting. Dr. Stewart stated that the final decision regarding which recommendations will be approved rests with the Board; but, that he fully intends to follow the plan outlined by the FADSS team.

5) Shared that before this meeting, he had a conversation with Board Chairperson Wikle to say that he will be leaving the district in December 2012 because of a personal direction in his life. Dr. Stewart promised that he will work as faithfully and diligently as he has for the first six months of his tenure; that he will continue the goal to make every student proficient in reading and math; that efforts will continue to drive every dollar to the classroom that can; that he will continue to support good teaching and learning in this district; and, that he will make sure that taxpayers are well represented. Dr. Stewart complimented the Board for their passion for learning and children; and, thanked them for the opportunity to work with them.

B. Items Introduced by General Counsel

Mr. Robinson stated he had no report.

C. Items Introduced by the Board

Ms. Clark - 1) Stated that the Evening of Excellence event was an excellent night.

Mrs. O'Shea - 1) Requested that the Board receive an update on the Middle School Reform initiative. Mr. Bill Lawrence stated that the committee would like to bring three or four key recommendations that could come to the Board at their April workshop, with additional recommendations coming to the Board at a later time. At Mrs. Krassner's request, Mr. Lawrence will work with Ms. Winchester to provide to the Board through Friday Update the matrix that was presented to that committee.

Mrs. Krassner - 1) Shared that she, too, attended the Evening of Excellence. 2) Shared that she spent time with the All County Elementary Chorus this past Saturday and that it was an outstanding performance by these students. 3) Stated that she met with the members of FAST yesterday. Mrs. Krassner shared that, as a principal, she embraced direct instruction method, but for a select group of students and only as a supplemental reading program.

Mrs. Lerner - 1) Stated that Dr. Stewart will remain with the district for another nine months and that the Board's subcommittee will put their efforts on a fast-track. Mrs. Lerner stated that the first decision to be made by the Board will be whether they will move forward with FSBA to perform the search or whether they will form an RFP to identify who will assist the Board in this effort. The subcommittee of the Board for the superintendent's search will meet in the Board Office on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 12:30 p.m. to discuss next steps. 2) Shared that she spoke with Dr. Ahmadi and that the Board will be receiving the results of the recent climate survey. Mrs. Lerner stated that Dr. Ahmadi assured her that departments, including all those at Walter Pownall Service Center, will have the opportunity to complete a climate survey. Mrs. Lerner requested that Dr. Ahmadi provide the Board Members an opportunity review a draft of that survey. 3) Complimented the Evening of Excellence event. 4) Stated that she was unable to attend the viewing of the American Teacher; but, that she will be attending the discussion related to that film to be held at PCTA tomorrow.

Mr. Gilzean - 1) Thanked Dr. Stewart for his leadership and for providing him with good insight. 2) Shared that he had the opportunity to visit JWB and receive information on their many great initiatives. Mr. Gilzean stated that we have great partnerships that are excited about supporting what we are doing in public education. 3) Complimented the Evening of Excellence event.

Mrs. Cook - 1) Thanked the Education Foundation and PCCPTA for their partnership in hosting the Evening of Excellence event that honored out teachers.

Mrs. Wikle - 1) Complimented the Education Foundation for hosting the Evening of Excellence event and for taking that opportunity to also honor Mr. Lew Williams during that evening.

D. Review of Board Requests

Mr. Madden offered the following summary of requests presented during this meeting:
1) The matrix being reviewed by the Middle School Reform committee will be sent to the Board, as a draft, through Friday Update.

E. School Board Meeting Evaluation

The evaluation of the meeting followed the adjournment of the meeting and the results are as follows:
Pluses

- Professional reception to public comment makers
- Clarifications made on public comment inaccuracies
- Special Olympics presenters

Opportunities

- Need to ensure forms for comments are fully completed

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the School Board, this meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

_____
Chairperson

_____
Superintendent and Ex Officio Secretary

Presentations From the Public

Following the adjournment of the meeting, the following individual presented his comments:

Rev. Jim Rapp - Stated that he wished to clear up the request being presented by FAST. Rev. Rapp stated that this group would like direct instruction introduced as a pilot program in the twenty lowest performing schools. Rev. Rapp encouraged the Board Members to attend the Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 19th at First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks to demonstrate to parents and grandparents that reading is a top priority of the Pinellas County School Board. Dr. Stewart shared insight into a meeting FAST held with him.

Marty Synott - Thanked Mrs. Krassner for meeting with FAST yesterday and requested that Mrs. O'Shea, Mrs. Krassner and Ms. Clark clear their calendars so that they may attend the Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 19th.

Carol Mitchell - Stated that she attended the meeting with Dr. Stewart and FAST; and, that this group would like direct instruction introduced as a pilot program in the twenty lowest performing schools.

Rev. Keturah Pittman - Requested that Mrs. O'Shea, Mrs. Krassner and Ms. Clark clear their calendars so that they may attend the Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 19th.

Jai Hinson - Complimented the district staff who helped the original Life Force Academy of Arts & Technology get started and become successful. Ms. Hinson stated that her community deserves to have a better example of a charter school, one that is compliant with all the requirements and available to serve the needs of children. Ms. Hinson stated that it has been a public relations nightmare to get this charter to change its name.

This session ended at 12:18 p.m.