

Virtual - Regular School Board Meeting - 5 p.m. (Tuesday, April 28, 2020)

Generated by Ann Simonetti on Wednesday, April 22, 2020

1. Opening of Meeting

Members present: Carol J. Cook-chairperson, Eileen M. Long-vice chairperson, Lisa N. Cane, Nicole M. Carr, Ph.D, William (Bill) Dudley, Rene Flowers, Joanne Lentino

Procedural: 1.1 Call to Order

The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Cook called the roll to confirm board members attendance on the virtual dais.

Mrs. Cook stated that we are in a unique time and our meeting has been adjusted to meet the circumstances. Although we are meeting virtually, we have attempted to keep our meeting procedures as consistent as possible-however, some changes are necessary. Before proceeding, she reviewed our new virtual meeting procedures for all listening.

First, although we are all in separate locations, all School Board Members, as well as Dr. Grego and other district staff who need to speak, will be able to comment as needed. As chairperson, she will lead the meeting, and we will work our way through our agenda as normal.

Second, regarding public comment, our procedure for submitting public comment is posted on our website, as well as publishing it in the newspaper. But, she shared those procedures now for those who have not seen it. Anyone wishing to submit a comment for any of the speaking opportunities under our policy may do so in one of two ways- first, you can send a comment in writing to the following email address: publiccomment@pcsb.org; second, you can call 727-588-6122 and orally provide the comment, which will be transcribed. All comments submitted prior to the start of the meeting have been sent to all School Board Members and the Superintendent prior to the meeting. For all comments submitted after the start of the meeting but prior to the consideration of the relevant portion of the agenda, district staff will strive to immediately send them to the School Board Members and Superintendent. All public comments timely received will be appended to the meeting minutes.

Lastly, she thanked everyone listening for their interest in Pinellas County Schools and asked that they continue to support public education, not only during this period, but also after we overcome the current challenges. We will continue to strive for 100% student success now and in the future.

Procedural: 1.2 Words of Inspiration

Ms. Patricia Wright, area superintendent, provided words of inspiration.

Procedural: 1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

As our students and teachers embrace this new way of learning and are continuing many of their classroom routines and traditions, we will recite the pledge of allegiance along with Juan Lopez, a second grade student from Cypress Woods Elementary School. Mrs. Cook thanked Principal Kim Hill, Cypress Woods Elementary, for sharing the video.

Procedural: 1.4 National Anthem

A video recording of our national anthem, sung by Pinellas County Schools choral faculty members, at the 2019 All County Choral Concert, was shown.

Procedural: 1.5 Video - Learning Continues in Pinellas County Schools

The video highlighted what has taken place over the last six weeks-device distribution, deep cleaning of schools, meal distribution, and of course the transition to digital learning for our students and our teachers. To those listening, the brief snippet of orchestra music was recorded during our first week of digital learning. Sixty-Six Largo High School student musicians recorded themselves individually at home, and it was mixed together by their band and orchestra director, Chris Benoit. This is just one example of the innovation and creativity that is being displayed by our students and teachers. Pinellas County Schools staff, students and parents have risen to the challenge.

Procedural: 1.6 Presentation by Student Rights and Responsibilities - Palm Harbor University High School

Traditionally, we invite students from a high school's student rights and responsibilities committee to share information about their school. At this meeting, a recorded presentation was delivered by student rights and responsibilities committee members from Palm Harbor University High School, Kosmas Margaris and Jacqueline Tsiouklas.

Mrs. Cook thanked them for participating; and, Principal Gonzalez and Area Superintendent Ward Kennedy for making this recorded presentation possible.

2. Amendments to the Agenda

Action: 2.1 Possible Changes to the Agenda

At this time, Dr. Grego shared the following amendment to the agenda:

Amended: Consent Agenda Item # 7.15: Request Approval of School Opening and Closing Times for 2020-2021 and Authorize the Superintendent to Make Additional Changes as Required by Statute or Factors Affecting the Length of the Instructional Day

Dr. Grego shared that the start time for Pinellas Gulf Coast Academy was amended on the schedule from 7:30 a.m. to 7:10 a.m. The end time will remain the same to provide students the appropriate number of instructional minutes for the school year.

Mrs. Cook stated that she found good cause to amend the agenda.

She asked board members if they had any changes to the agenda.

Consent Agenda Item #7.15: Request Approval of School Opening and Closing Times for 2020-2021 and Authorize the Superintendent to Make Additional Changes as Required by Statute or Factors Affecting the Length of the Instructional Day

Dr. Carr pulled this item from the consent agenda to be discussed.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Action: 3.1 Adoption of Amended Agenda

Approved

Motion: Eileen Long

Second: Bill Dudley

Vote: 7-0

Yeas: Lisa N. Cane, Nicole M. Carr, Carol J. Cook, Bill Dudley, Rene Flowers, Joanne Lentino, and Eileen Long.

4. Special Order Agenda

Presentation: 4.1 Presentation of Proclamation Acknowledging the Contribution of Our Teachers During Teacher Appreciation Week Presented by Paula Texel, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources Services (Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute book # 182.)

Eileen Long read the proclamation aloud.

Approved

Motion: Rene Flowers

Second: Eileen Long

Vote: 7-0

Yeas: Lisa N. Cane, Nicole M. Carr, Carol J. Cook, Bill Dudley, Rene Flowers, Joanne Lentino, and Eileen Long.

5. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Information: 5.1 Meeting Procedures

The following individuals shared their comments, via the publiccomment@pcsb.org email address; which are captured below as written (there were no call-in public comments):

Nonconsent Agenda Item #8.1: Recommend Adoption of Resolution Containing Ballot Question Necessary to Continue the One-Half Mill Ad Valorem tax for Necessary Operation Purposes and Authorize the Superintendent to Forward the Resolution to the Supervisor of Elections for Inclusion on the November 3, 2020, General Election Ballot

Mike Gandolfo (PCTA)

Mr. Gandolfo wrote a letter in support of the referendum (letter attached).

Nonconsent agenda item #8.3: Request Denial of the Charter Application for King Charter School

1. Olivia Harbison: As a low income, single, minority mom who survived domestic violence in Florida, I see education as a top priority for my sons future. The future is environmentally sustainable and culturally diverse. King Charter school is one of very few schools nationwide, private or public, to develop such a forward thinking model. Multilingual education provides unparalleled neurological Stimulation and growth. Environmental exposure provides a sense of direct relationship to natural resources, to support informed decision making about everything from food to fuel to consumer goods and much more !!! Give my child and many other children who don't have Socioeconomic advantages, the greatest possible chance for success, through maximum opportunities for positive interaction with the world around them!

2. Charles Morales & Greta Urra: As a local community member, I am pledging 100 percent support behind the opening of King Charter!

3. Mary Shabbott: I support KING Charter schools and urge Pinellas County School Board elected officials to approve their application immediately!

4. Jana Wiggins: As a local community member, I urge you to approve KING Charter's application. We are watching you now and do not approve your denial in December stating that KING Board members did not attend the board workshop meeting on December 2nd. This is incorrect because that meeting was canceled in November and Mr. Wolfe told everyone that King representatives did not show up.
5. Paige Tara: As a local community member, I urge you to approve KING Charter's application. I believe a tri-lingual immersion program that promotes econ-friendly, sustainable and plant-based nutrition is critically needed for the children of our community. As a person with no kids yet but plan to do so in the future I would want a school like this for my kids to attend. I support KING Charter and urge PCSB to approve their application immediately.
6. Hannah Vu: Plant-based diet is not just a trend, it's going to be a new lifestyle of this century. It's humans' protection against major chronic diseases, world's pandemics, and THE solution to global warming. So please stop supporting harmful meat, milk, egg industries. Instead, support the health and well-being of our children, animals, environment, Earth planet through your power by assisting the development of plant-based schools. Your approving KING charter's application will make history. Thank you for your wisdom, kindness and nobility for a better world.
7. Matt Norris-Benton (PCSB teacher): I am a PCS teacher and I strongly support the approval of King Charter School. Thank you for your consideration.
8. Nicole Bojerski: I am supportive of the creation of KING Charter Schools and insist that the Pinellas County School Board approve their application immediately. This school is offering trilingual immersion programs which promotes diversity, as well as, healthier plant based food options for children. I believe these are two important aspects children need to be taught when growing up.
9. Sudhir Shah: As a local small business owner and tax payer, I urge you to vote 'yes' to KING Charter's application. This is your opportunity to reverse your denial of December and show your voters how fair and balanced minded the Board is. I applaud KING Charter Board members for their hard work and believe a tri-lingual immersion program that promotes econ-friendly, sustainable and plant-based nutrition is critically needed for the children of our community. I support KING Charter and urge PCSB to approve their application immediately.
10. Lisa Rogers: As a local resident, I beg you to approve KING Charter's application. I did not appreciate your denial in December. I appreciate KING Charter Board members for their hard work and believe in their plan! Plant-based nutrition is just one of their visions that is critically needed for the children of our community.
11. Heather Friedli: I urge Pinellas County School Board officials to approve the application for KING Charter Schools. Our world is at peril and our children are the future guardians of this planet. We are responsible for guiding them into a new, healthier, sustainable and compassionate way of living, if we want to protect their future. I believe KING Charter Schools is a stepping stone to a brighter future. Please approve the application at your soonest opportunity. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.
12. Bobbi Spielman: My daughter is a plant based elementary teacher and I support the decision to open KING Charter Schools. Please approve their application ASAP. Thank you.
13. Jeremy Kies: I support the choice to open an elementary school that promotes healthier meal options for students and teaches kids multiple languages. Please approve their application.
14. Angie Pomeroy: I support KING Charter schools and urge Pinellas County School Board to approve their application immediately.
15. Avril Desrosiers: I support King Charter School and urge Pinellas County School Board to approve their application immediately.
16. Jennifer Tourkin: I support KING Charter schools and urge Pinellas County School Board to approve their application immediately. This is cutting edge; do it!
17. Klara Miller: I am a local resident of Pinellas County and support KING Charter Schools. I believe it is important to teach children the impact they have on our environment and means of leaving smaller carbon footprint. I also applaud KING Charter board for developing a program that celebrates diversity by having a tr-lingual immersion program in Spanish, Mandarin and English. I urge our elected officials at Pinellas County Board to approve the KING Charter application immediately. Thank you!
18. Ines Kostic: I support KING Charter schools and ask Pinellas County School Board to approve their application. Their website: www.kingcharterschools.org Hope you will give this great initiative an honest chance.
19. Tiffany Orzel: I support King Charter Schools and encourage Pinellas County SD to approve their application.
20. Diane Koon: I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinellas County School Board officials to approve their application immediately. I believe it is important to teach children the impact they have on our environment and the need to leaving a smaller carbon footprint. Thanks for your time and consideration.
21. Debbie Gutierrez: I support KING Charter Schools. I believe it is important to teach children the impact they have on our environment and the need to leaving a smaller carbon footprint. I also applaud KING Charter board for developing a program that celebrates diversity by having a tri-lingual immersion program in Spanish, Mandarin and English. I urge our elected officials at Pinellas County Board to approve the KING Charter application immediately.
22. Jason A. Cardarelli: I am sending an email today to communicate that I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinellas County School Board officials to approve their application. Their vision of an educational program centered around sustainability will give children the context they need to solve the global issues that will face their entire generation. This sort of educational context should be universal; but until the time that it is, I ask the Pinellas County School Board to make the decision to approve it in KING's charter school application.
23. Valeria De Jesus: I support the wonderful initiative with King Charter Schools and urge Pinellas County School Board to approve their application immediately.
24. Matt Caulfied: I support KING Charter schools and urge Pinellas County School Board to approve their application immediately.
25. Samantha Davis: I support KING Charter Schools and urge Pinellas County School Board to approve their application immediately. Tri-lingual education around plant based meals and foods are in this time even more important with what is going on right now in ensuring that we provide the best educational opportunities to our community.
26. Derrick Jenkins: I support KING Charter schools and urge Pinellas County School Board to approve their application immediately.
27. Anushree Somani: This email is to express my support to King Charter Schools. They have developed a great program that is diverse, teaches environmental education and the way forward. I urge the Pinellas County School to approve their application immediately.
28. Ron Benton: I support KING Charter schools and urge Pinellas County School Board elected officials to approve their application immediately.

29. Bianca Allen: I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinellas County School Board officials to approve their application immediately. I have an almost five year old son and I believe it is important to teach children the impact they have on our environment and the need to leaving a smaller carbon footprint. I also applaud KING Charter board for developing a program that celebrates diversity by having a tri-lingual immersion program in Spanish, Mandarin and English. I urge our elected officials at Pinellas County Board to approve the KING Charter application immediately
30. Rachel Kelley: I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinellas County School Board officials to approve their application immediately. I support KING Charter Schools. I believe it is important to teach children the impact they have on our environment and the need to leaving a smaller carbon footprint. I also applaud KING Charter board for developing a program that celebrates diversity by having tri-lingual immersion program in Spanish, Mandarin and English. I urge our elected officials at Pinellas County Board to approve the KING Charter application immediately.
31. Jessica Guzlas: I am writing this to indicate my support for King Charter School. Please approve their application. I am so excited to hear that the school will not only teach compassion, and protecting our planet but will also be a live example of putting these practices into action. I also understand that they will teach other foreign languages. This will prepare students for a global economy. In conclusion, I heartily endorse the King Charter School. I enthusiastically await for this School to open.
32. Abbyja Concepcion-Henry (Vicky): Our family believes that King Charter would be an excellent addition to St. Pete schools. We feel they would go above beyond, and exceed all educational standards and health standards; we believe children would thrive in an environment that actually celebrates, encourages, and embraces diversity. As a Latina, I appreciate such a school like King Charter School and commend their efforts to make school such an adventurous learning environment. What a unique opportunity Pinellas County School Board has to approve a one of a kind school application. We implore you to approve their application with the utmost urgency.
33. Charles Morales: I support KING Charter Schools! I believe it is important to teach children the impact they have on our environment and the need to leaving a smaller carbon footprint. I also applaud KING charter board for developing a program that celebrates diversity by having a tri-lingual immersion program in Spanish, Mandarin, and English. I urge elected officials at Pinellas County Board to approve the KING Charter application immediately! Thank you and have a great day.
34. Frances L. Calanni, M.Ed: I support King Charter Schools, because it would be a wonderful benefit to children to be students here, where they could learn 3 languages and have healthy plant-based meals. The best time to learn another language is when you are a child, as children absorb information like sponges. Knowing another language is extremely beneficial, not only for degrees such as any field in Science or medicine, but it also helps promote cultural appreciation. Furthermore, the benefits of healthy eating elementary students will not only help foster their learning, but also in turn will promote them to grow into life-long healthy eating habits as adults. King Charter School would be an asset to have in any community. Sincerely educator and mother,
35. Joy Su: I support KING Charter schools and urge Pinellas County School Board to approve their application immediately.
36. Belinda Blease: Please consider approving King Charter's application. You have nothing to lose. I can assure you the results of these children will be astounding. This will be the first of its kind in the nation and you will be proud. I have never been diagnosed with any mental illness but since I went plant based I have noticed a huge significance in my mood and patience, especially at my job. I work as a RN and I have become a much better nurse since living the plant based lifestyle. I never imagine that eating this way would have such a huge impact on my life. Here are some studies.
<https://nutritionfacts.org/topics/mental-health/> Thank you for your time.
37. Jean McAllister: As a local community member, I urge you to approve KING Charter's application. We applaud KING Charter Board members for their hard work and believe a tri-lingual immersion program that promotes eco-friendly, sustainable, and plant-based nutrition is critically needed for the children of our community. I support KING Charter and urge PCSB to approve their application immediately. Thank you for your time.
38. Marlene Lee: I support KING Charter Schools and urge the elected officials of the Pinellas County School Board to approve the KING Charter application immediately.
39. Jean Campbell: I support KING Charter Schools. I believe it is important to teach children the impact they have on our environment and the need to leaving a smaller carbon footprint. To stop climate change, and pandemics such as Covid- 19, and to improve health and reduce environmental damage, we should all be vegan.
40. Anonymous: I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinellas County School Board officials to approve their application immediately.
41. Chao Liao: I would like to air support for a plant-based school. 1. A plant-based diet is health promoting, and puts much less pressure on the medical systems of nations and consequently the world economy. The largest dietetic academies of the US, UK, and Canada say that a well-balanced vegan diet is healthful for all stages of life, including pregnant women. The China Study, which is a collaboration between Cornell University, Oxford University, The Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine, and the Chinese Cancer Institute, tracks 6,500 rural Chinese over a twenty-year period, finds that there are no nutrients in animal-based foods that are not better provided by plants, possibly with the exception of vitamin B12-which can easily be supplemented. 2. Children are our future. They are God's children too, innately good. They should, therefore, be taught the principle of compassion-doing to others as we wish unto ourselves, which should encompass any being that feels pain and fear that are also God's creatures. One can even say it is a sin to make children go against their true nature by harming animals, directly or indirectly. 3. Processed meat is carcinogenic according to World Health Organization. Feeding it to children should be considered child abuse. 4. An astonishing 77% of the world's agricultural land is either grazing land or cropland for livestock production. Despite taking up such a high percentage of our best land, meat and dairy only make up 17 percent of global caloric supply and 33% of global protein supply. Recent IPCC Special Report "Climate Change and Land" says that transitioning to a plant-strong diet can free up hundreds of millions of acres of land, which will help slow deforestation and climate change. Livestock industry contributes to at least 51% of greenhouse gases according to the prestigious WorldWatch Institute, and 90% of deforestation. Ocean destruction is largely a result of agricultural runoff and overfishing, and the ocean is our largest carbon sink. Feeding meat and dairy to children is tantamount to forcing them to destroy their own future. I'm available for even more reasons for the world to return to the diet of the Garden of Eden, not just the children. Thank you and God bless,
42. Edit Szorath: I support KING Charter Schools in this wonderful initiation. You make a very good example for others to follow. It is an essential step, which has to be made all over the world to save lives, our Earth, and educate healthy children to be compassionate and tolerant citizens in the future.
43. Zihua Dong: I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinellas County School Board officials to approve their application immediately.
44. Vui Tran: I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinellas County School Board officials to approve their application immediately.

45. Yimy Leong: The school will offer our children the opportunity to learn new language such as spanish and mandarin and students will be learning in multilingual environment and more so they will be taught about the appreciation of nature, environment and our co-inhabitants which I think its very important. I am writing to show my support and hope that this school will be successfully opened.
46. Kai-chia Wang: I support KING Charter Schools. I believe it is important to teach children the impact they have on our environment and the need to leaving a smaller carbon footprint. I also applaud KING Charter board for developing a program that celebrates diversity by having a tri-lingual immersion program in Spanish, Mandarin and English. I urge our elected officials at Pinellas County Board to approve the KING Charter application immediately
47. Renee S: I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinellas County School Board officials to approve their application immediately. We need to teach our children how to live peacefully with all co-inhabitants on this Planet since they are young. A school with such a goal is highly at the demand and recommended.
48. Dr. Sailesh Rao: This is in support of the charter for King Charter School, which is aiming to create well rounded, creative global citizens in Pinellas County. The charter is very well thought out and this pioneering school would be a tremendous asset to this county, the state of Florida, the nation and indeed, the planet.
49. Carla Y. : It's really a brilliant idea to open a plant-based public elementary school in St. Petersburg, Florida that perhaps is the first in this country. It can be a good example as to how human beings can live in harmony with the environment and demonstrate how the atmosphere can be so peaceful once leaving cruelty out of the school. As you excel further in this type of school, people around the country and even around the world will want to learn from you. The compassionate environment is contagious that will bring harmony and peace that we desperately need in this country today. That is perhaps the best that an educational institution can do for society, by bringing up compassionate and peace-loving children who have a good sense about how human beings can live in harmony with all living beings in this beautiful environment that we're still striving very hard to try to save today, yet still haven't got the solutions yet. So I strongly urge the elected officials at Pinellas County Board to approve the KING Charter application immediately, to take the lead for a brighter future for this country and this world to explore a new era of our evolution. This school also will celebrate diversity by having a tri-lingual immersion program in English, Spanish, and Mandarin that will foster mutual understanding and teach children to respect and love one another, and learn from each other's culture that will benefit the society. The approval of the Board will surely open up a new chapter for mankind, and establish a new model of education for tomorrow. Thank you very much!
50. Mark Mniece: For your consideration, I support KING Charter schools and urge Pinellas County School Board to approve their application immediately!
51. Raisa Poretzki: A great idea, a timely innovation! I fully support KING Charter Schools and trust that Pinellas County School Board gives a GO to their application without further delay.
52. Alex Lyle, Esq. : I am writing once again to put my support behind KING Charter Schools. I believe a school with a focus on a plant based diet is a vital option to create a diverse and vibrant community. Now more than ever, children need to learn and understand the environmental impacts of human activity and lessons on how to lower the negative impacts so that our future generation can lead this country and the world in the right direction to reduce deforestation and carbon emissions, and to enhance biological diversity. I also applaud KING Charter board for their development of a program that celebrates diversity by having a tri-lingual immersion program for children in English, Spanish, and Mandarin. In summation, I implore the elected officials of Pinellas County to give consideration to KING Charter Schools' application and approve of same in order to lead the community, and in the larger sense the world, in the right direction.
53. Zoe Fan: I support KING Charter Schools. I believe it is important to teach children the impact they have on our environment and the need to leaving a smaller carbon footprint. I also applaud KING Charter board for developing a program that celebrates having a tri-lingual immersion program in Spanish, Mandarin and English. I urge our elected officials at Pinellas County Board to approve the KING Charter application immediately Thank you! With God's Love
54. Nicole Morales: I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinellas County School Board officials to approve their application immediately!
55. Kristen E. Karovic: I support KING Charter schools and urge Pinellas County School Board to approve their application immediately.
56. Caroline Bied: I support KING Charter Schools. I believe it is important to teach children the impact they have on our environment and the need to leave a lesser carbon footprint. I also applaud KING Charter Board for developing a program that celebrates diversity by having a tri-lingual immersion program in Spanish, Mandarin and English. I urge our elected officials at Pinellas County Board to approve the KING Charter application immediately.
57. Erica Small: I support KING Charter schools and urge Pinellas County School Board to approve their application immediately.
58. Seth Tibbott: I am writing to you today in support of KING Charter schools. Having been a teacher myself for 8 years after graduating in Elementary Education from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, I can testify to the excitement for learning creative teaching approaches inspire in children. And having a school that daily brings out the connection that our diet choices have in our environment, is of the most important relationships that we can teach the children who will need to grow up to be good stewards of our fragile ecosystems. I also applaud KING Charter School for developing a program that celebrates diversity by having a tri-lingual immersion program in Spanish, Mandarin and English. I can't think of three more important languages for students to learn. I urge the Pinellas County Board to approve the KING Charter application immediately.
59. Alex Curtis-Slep: I support KING Charter Schools and I'd love the Pinellas County School board to give their application the green light! We need to go further with fostering great habits into our youth. Giving them plant-based food will maximize their learning capacity and the trilingual education is imperative in today's fast evolving economy.
60. David Martinez: I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinellas County School Board officials to approve their application immediately!
61. Oliver LaPoint: I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinellas County School Board officials to approve their application immediately.
62. Huiping Verderrosa: I support KING Charter Schools. I believe it is important to teach children the impact they have on our environment and the need to leaving a smaller carbon footprint. I also applaud KING Charter board for developing a program that celebrates diversity by having a tri-lingual immersion program in Spanish, Mandarin and English. I urge our elected officials at Pinellas County Board to approve the KING Charter application immediately
63. Tony Mix: I am a supporter of king charter schools and would like pinellas county to approve their application. Thank you for your time.
64. Lily Baic: I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinellas County School Board officials to approve their application immediately. Thank You!

65. Sylke Reinery: I am a local resident of Pinellas County and I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinellas County School Board officials to approve their application.
66. Lilliam Rodriguez: I believe it is important to teach children the impact they have on our environment and the need to leaving a smaller carbon footprint. I also applaud KING Charter board for developing a program that celebrates diversity by having a tri-lingual immersion program in Spanish, Mandarin and English. I urge our elected officials at Pinellas County Board to approve the KING Charter application immediately. I appreciate and thank you for your consideration.
67. rhonda muscat: As a local community member, I urge you to approve KING Charter's application. We are watching you now and do not approve of your denial in December. We applaud KING Charter Board members for their hard work and believe a tri-lingual immersion program that promotes eco-friendly, sustainable and plant-based nutrition is critically needed for the children of our community. I support KING Charter and urge PCSB to approve their application immediately. Thank you,
68. Mark Kennedy: (letter attached)
69. Michael Sanabria: I support KING Charter Schools. I believe it is important to teach children the impact they have on our environment, and the need to leave a smaller carbon footprint. I also applaud KING Charter board for developing a program that celebrates diversity by having a tri-lingual immersion in Spanish, Mandarin, and English. I urge our elected officials at Pinellas County Board to approve the KING Charter Application immediately!
70. Samantha Lawless: I support KING Charter Schools. I believe it is important to teach children the impact they have on our environment and the need to leaving a smaller carbon footprint. I also applaud KING Charter board for developing a program that celebrates diversity by having a tri-lingual immersion program in Spanish, Mandarin and English. I urge our elected officials at Pinellas County Board to approve the KING Charter application!
71. Jennifer Lin: I support KING charter school and urge the pinellas county school board officials to approve their application immediately. thanks...
72. Jonathan Guerrero: I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinellas County School Board officials to approve their application immediately. I believe in KING Charter Schools because they have a mission, and that mission is to create a positive impact on young lives and future generations. KING Charter is paving the way in innovative and natural ways of educating our children. I believe the world urges for a new system that can help our children and the environment and KING Charter school is ready to make that leap.
73. Aylam Orian: As the founder and director of a non-profit that promotes animal rights, planet conservation and plant-based, healthy, living, I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinellas County School Board officials to approve their application immediately. I believe it is important to teach children the impact they have on our environment and the need to leave a smaller carbon footprint. Public education should provide children with a compassionate environment, promote sustainability and good health, and provide children with the option to live a plant-based lifestyle, which has been proven to be the most beneficial for human health, the environment, and of course, the animals we share this planet with. I hope you will do the right thing and approve KING Charter Schools' application.
74. Clarice Oscher: I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinellas County School Board officials to approve their application immediately.
75. Michael Lin: I support KING charter Schools and urge the pin Ella's county school Board officials to approve their application immediately. Thanks!
76. Kim Mniece: I strongly urge the Pinellas County School Board to approve the application for KING Charter Schools. A school of its kind will greatly benefit all children in the community, especially those who are not fortunate enough to attend private schools or are stuck on a waiting list. I do have a few questions regarding the application: 1.) As we have made edits to each application based on the evaluations, why is each application doing worse than the previous? There are issues that were not addressed previously, but are being counted against in application three that have been present since one. Why weren't these addressed before? 2.) If our application had so many issues, why weren't these issues/questions brought up during our call on April 8th? We were not asked any questions to further elaborate which may have cleared up any confusion and misunderstanding. 3.) Why hasn't the school board called us to discuss any of their concerns? I strongly believe that this school has excellent potential to help the community and future generations thrive and I aim to work with you to make this possible, but we do need more clarification here as expectations are never addressed until the denial and our edits only seem to be making the application less effective. Thank you for your time,
77. KING Charter School: (letter attached)
78. Siu wan Thomas: I support King Charter Schools for their endeavor to teach children the compassionate, healthy and sustainable environmental friendly program. I urge the Pinellas County School Board to approve their application immediately.
79. Sally Sanders: (letter attached)
80. Paige Burkett: I support KING Charter Schools and urge the Pinella County School Board officials you approve their application immediately.
81. Varun S: (letter attached)
82. Melissa Zepeda: King Charter School Board Member: This letter is being sent in response to the Pinellas County School Board's (PCSB) denial of King's charter school application. The lack of any concrete reasoning behind the denial to approve King's charter application is my main contention. PCSB's responses to King charter school application failed to point to any statutory delinquencies or failure to follow an established industry standard that necessitated denial of King's application but instead relied on the subjective feelings of the PCSB. As one example, the PCSB complained that the King's staffing projections "appear unrealistic." What was the statutory or industry standard used PCSB's to arrive to the empirical conclusion that King's staffing projections "appear unrealistic?" As another example, the PCSB noted that King's conflict of interest policy "read more like an employee handbook." Surely these subjective responses to King's application are impermissible justifications to reject an application. Even to the press, the PCSB could not point to any statutory or concrete deficiency in King's application; the Tampa Bay Times on May 14, 2019 quoted Mr. Wolfe regarding King's application, saying, "There were significant areas of weakness." The fact that PCSB rejected King's application for its perception of "weakness" and yet also granted a two-year renewal to another charter school that earned a D grade from the State, demonstrates that PCSB decision-making process is at best inconsistent and unreasonable.
83. Bryce Clark: I am would just like to extend my support for the healthy food and environmental sustainability initiative. The bright future for these children relies on conscious and considerate food choices. It is imperative that we move in this direction. Please vote YES.
84. Lisa Gizzi: I was so excited to hear of this possibility of a school being responsible and promoting healthy choices along with environmental sustainability. As the world is showing us-it's a much needed movement! Thank You!
85. Anais Tcha: I support KING Charter Schools. I believe it is important to teach children the impact they have on our environment and the need to leaving a smaller carbon footprint. I also applaud KING Charter board for developing a program

that celebrates diversity by having a tri-lingual immersion program in Spanish, Mandarin and English. I urge our elected officials at Pinellas County Board to approve the KING Charter application immediately Best regards

86. Nicholas Babut: (letter attached)

87. Marie Breslin: I support King Charter Schools and urge PCSB to approve their application.

6. Unfinished Business

7. Consent

Action (Consent): 7.1 Approval of Consent Agenda Items

Approved (# 7.15-pulled)

Motion: Eileen Long

Second: Bill Dudley

Vote: 7-0

Yeas: Lisa N. Cane, Nicole M. Carr, Carol J. Cook, Bill Dudley, Rene Flowers, Joanne Lentino, and Eileen Long.

Action (Consent), Minutes: 7.2 Request Approval of the Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of April 14, 2020

Action (Consent): 7.3 Request Approval of the Personnel Recommendations – Administrative

Action (Consent): 7.4 Request Approval of the Personnel Recommendations – Instructional

Action (Consent): 7.5 Request Approval of the Personnel Recommendations – Supporting Services

Action (Consent): 7.6 Request Approval to Apply for the COPS Office School Violence Prevention Program, October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2022 - \$660,000

Action (Consent): 7.7 Request Approval of the IDEA, Part B Pre-K Grant Roll Forward Amendment, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 - \$23,971.90 (New Total- \$883,913.90)

Action (Consent): 7.8 Request Approval to Apply for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers - Expanded Learning Program Grant, August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2023 - \$1,800,000

Action (Consent): 7.9 Request Approval to Apply for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Statewide Grant, August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2025 - \$3,500,000

Action (Consent): 7.10 Request Approval of the External Operator Contract With Learning Sciences FLE052, LLC at Lakewood Elementary School for the 2020-2021 School Year
(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute book # 182.)

Action (Consent): 7.11 Request Approval of the 2020-2021 Instructional Materials Adoption

Action (Consent): 7.12 Request Approval of Budget Amendment No. 5 (January 2020) to the District's 2019-2020 School Year Budget

Action (Consent): 7.13 Request Approval of the Financial Statements for the Month Ending January 31, 2020

Action (Consent): 7.14 Request Approval of Purchasing Items in Accordance with Bid Policies and Statutes

Action (Consent): 7.15 Request Approval of School Opening and Closing Times for 2020-2021 and Authorize the Superintendent to Make Additional Changes as Required by Statute or Factors Affecting the Length of the Instructional Day

This item was amended under 2. Amendments to the Agenda

Pinellas Gulf Coast Academy start time was changed from 7:30 a.m. to 7:10 a.m., with the same end time, to provide students the appropriate number of instructional minutes for the school year.

Dr. Carr pulled this item for discussion.

Action (Consent): 7.16 Request Approval of the Facility Use Agreement With Rogers Blue Jays Baseball Partnership
(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute book # 182.)

Action (Consent): 7.17 Request Approval of Agreement With A.D. Morgan Corporation for Construction Management (CM) Services in Connection With New Construction and Renovations at Tyrone Middle School in the Amount of \$1,670,121.96, Project No. 9357
(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute book # 182.)

Action (Consent): 7.18 Request Approval of Amendment No. 2 to Agreement With Skanska USA Building, Inc. for a Final Construction Allocation in Connection With the Window and Building Envelope Replacement at Meadowlawn Middle School in the amount of \$1,472,596.54, Resulting in a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$2,730,684, Project No. 9278
(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute book # 182.)

Action (Consent): 7.19 Request Approval of Change Order No. 3 With Cutler Associates for New Construction, Remodel, and Renovations at Lakewood High School, Project No. 9091. This change order will decrease the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) by \$1,716,444.54, with no time extension.
(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute book # 182.)

Action (Consent): 7.20 Request Approval of Change Order No. 2 to the Agreement With Charles Perry Partners, Inc. This change order will increase the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) by \$1,420,847.98 resulting in a revised GMP of \$14,192,425.85 with a two hundred and thirty (230) day time extension at Orange Grove Elementary School, Project No. 9149.
(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute book # 182.)

Action (Consent): 7.21 Request Approval of Substantial Completions for Campus Renovations Which are Portions of the Project at Pinellas Park Middle School, Project No. 9090
(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute book # 182.)

Action (Consent): 7.22 Request Approval of Substantial Completion for Building 21 as of March 2, 2020, at Tarpon Springs High School, Project No. 9092
(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute book # 182.)

Action (Consent): 7.23 Request Approval of Room Condition Change Building Replacement/Raze (RCC- BRR) Form and Conceptual Permission to Replace/Raze Permanent Building 35 at Clearwater High School
(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute book # 182.)

Action (Consent): 7.24 Request Approval to Recycle, Cannibalize or Scrap District Surplus and Obsolete Fixed Assets

Action (Consent): 7.25 Request Approval to Sell District Surplus and Obsolete Fixed Assets by Gray's Auction Services

7. Consent Agenda Item Pulled

(Action): 7.15 Request Approval of School Opening and Closing Times for 2020-2021 and Authorize the Superintendent to Make Additional Changes as Required by Statute or Factors Affecting the Length of the Instructional Day

This item was amended under 2. Amendments to the Agenda

This item was pulled for discussion by Dr. Carr.

Dr. Carr stated that she was disappointed more progress has not been made to move start times later.

Dr. Grego noted that they did move them from 7:05 a.m. to 7:25 a.m. last year. He asked Mr. Clint Herbic to speak to this item.

Mr. Herbic stated that different options have been discussed, the task force is still meeting, and they want to make some long term solutions for the 2021-2022 school year; this information was shared with school board members at a workshop. They must consider how this will impact the community as a whole. They have reached out to consultants that assisted the Boston public schools with this issue. His routing department has devoted more time recently, since we are not currently transporting students, and looking closely at floating bell times in some geographic areas of the county. This plan had also been shared at a workshop.

Board Chair Cook called for a vote.

Approved

Motion: Bill Dudley

Second: Eileen Long

Vote: 6-1

Yeas: Lisa N. Cane, Carol J. Cook, Bill Dudley, Rene Flowers, Joanne Lentino, and Eileen Long

Nay: Nicole M. Carr

8. Nonconsent

Action: 8.1 Recommend Adoption of Resolution Containing Ballot Question Necessary to Continue the One-Half Mill Ad Valorem tax for Necessary Operation Purposes and Authorize the Superintendent to Forward the Resolution to the Supervisor of Elections for Inclusion on the November 3, 2020, General Election Ballot
(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute book # 182.)

Mr. Kevin Hendrick, associate superintendent, teaching and learning services, reviewed the information with the board at the April 21 workshop.

The resolution was read by Rene Flowers.

Approved

Motion: Eileen Long

Second: Rene Flowers

Vote: 7-0

Yeas: Lisa N. Cane, Nicole M. Carr, Carol J. Cook, Bill Dudley, Rene Flowers, Joanne Lentino, and Eileen Long.

Action: 8.2 Request Approval for a Fifteen-Year, High-Performing Charter Modification for Discovery Academy of Science Charter School

(Copy to be found in Supplemental Minute book # 182.)

Ms. Lori Matway, associate superintendent, student and community services, and Mr. Rick Wolfe, director, charter schools and home education, spoke about the criteria for high performance status, and based on that designation, the charter has the option to extend their agreement for fifteen years. This information was reviewed with the board at the April 21 workshop.

Approved

Motion: Eileen Long

Second: Nicole Carr

Vote: 7-0

Yeas: Lisa N. Cane, Nicole M. Carr, Carol J. Cook, Bill Dudley, Rene Flowers, Joanne Lentino, and Eileen Long.

Action: 8.3 Request Denial of the Charter Application for King Charter School

Ms. Lori Matway, associate superintendent, student and community services, and Mr. Rick Wolfe, director, charter schools and home education, spoke about the Florida Department of Education charter application process that encompasses 22 standards by which an application is evaluated. King Charter application did not meet the standard on 11 of the standards outlined. Mr. Kevin Smith, associate superintendent, finance and business services, stated that the application was very weak financially. The district has had to close five charter schools in the last five years and four were due to financial issues; which is why applications are thoroughly reviewed.

Approved

Motion: Rene Flowers

Second: Bill Dudley

Vote: 6-0

Yeas: Lisa N. Cane, Nicole M. Carr, Carol J. Cook, Bill Dudley, Rene Flowers, and Eileen Long.

(Joanne Lentino left the meeting prior to the vote.)

9. New Business

Discussion, Information: 9.1 Items Introduced by Superintendent

Dr. Grego's report included the following:

- 1) He stated that this meeting was to be held at Tarpons Springs High School, prior to school closures. They wanted to showcase the transformation of the school following the remodeling project. Mr. Clint Herbic shared some slides of the campus improvements; including, the creation of a mall area and courtyard; remodeling the gymnasium; a dedicated choral room; expansion of the band room; dedicated space for the color guard; and, a renovated auditorium. He said this transformed the campus.
- 2) He also advised the board about meal distribution, digital device distribution, human resources services is still continuing to hire, and, we are looking at new ways of delivering professional development during the summer. Teaching and Learning is working toward conducting parent-student-teacher conferences for the last week of May, virtually.
- 3) He spoke about the results of the graduation survey, that was distributed following the board workshop. He received numerous thank yous from students and families for asking for their input.
- 4) He stated that he is working on Governor DeSantis Re-Open Florida task force. The return will be slow. Knowledge needs to be gained from medical professionals, and we must build trust and confidence in the community.
- 5) He said traditionally, this time of year is full of student recognition events, and he truly misses these opportunities to congratulate our students for the culmination of their hard work. He cited many of the recognitions students are receiving nationally.
- 6) He spoke about the NFL draft; several former Pinellas County Schools' students have been drafted to the NFL.
- 7) He spoke about Decision Day, May 1. We will showcase our students on social media.
- 8) Pinellas County Schools students bring pride and accomplishment to our district. He is so proud of our students and their families.
- 9) He spoke about Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8, and said he wanted to thank every teacher for their hard work and commitment to our students. He cannot say enough in appreciation of what they do.

Discussion, Information: 9.2 Items Introduced by the School Board Attorney

Mr. David Koperski stated that he had no report.

Discussion, Information: 9.3 Items Introduced by the Board

Eileen Long: 1) She spoke about an organization in Dunedin, A Mother's Arms, who plan to provide 50 Eli's BBQ meals to moms that are over the age of 65, for mother's day. 2) She met with Esme Rodriguez, Equality Florida. The meeting went well and is hoping the organization might come to a workshop. 3) She thanked teachers and said thanks is just not enough for all they do.

Nicole Carr: 1) She thanked the board for listening to her concerns. 2) She is pleased to move forward with completing FSBA Master Board. 3) She acknowledged Ms. Flowers for serving on Mayor Kriseman's task force for reopening St. Petersburg. 4) She thanked Dr. Grego for including medical professionals in the discussion and planning of reopening the state/county. 5) She thanked teachers and families for navigating this new situation.

Lisa Cane: 1) She thanked the community and staff for all their hard work. 2) She shared that Adopt-A-Senior 2020 is on FACEBOOK. Please adopt one.

Rene Flowers: 1) She thanked Mrs. Cane for mentioning Adopt-A-Senior, she has adopted two. 2) She acknowledged the work of Mayor Kriseman. 3) She spoke about the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners reopening the beaches and pools at condominiums. 4) She thanked Dr. Grego for his leadership. 5) She participated in food distribution last Saturday at PTC-St. Petersburg; it will happen again this Saturday at 11:00 a.m. They are calling for volunteers. 6) She thanked all our staff. She has received very few phone calls with any concerns because all departments are working quickly to address any issues. 7) She noted that Mr. Jack Fletcher, PCSB volunteer, is a state finalist.

Carol Cook: 1) She said that this is such a busy time of year; and, at the same time we are working on so many options. 2) She thanked teachers and said that words are just not enough to express how deeply we appreciate all that they do.

Discussion, Information: 9.4 Review of Board Requests

Mrs. Cook requested that Mrs. Long speak with Dr. Grego about her workshop request, in keeping with the process.

Dr. William Corbett, deputy superintendent, stated that there were no board requests.

Discussion: 9.5 School Board Meeting Evaluation

The evaluation of the meeting was completed prior to the adjournment of the meeting, and the results are as follows:

Pluses:

- overall it was good
- virtual meetings are going smoothly

Opportunities:

- Mr. Dudley's computer failed during the meeting so he had to reboot and missed a few minutes

10. Adjournment

Action: 10.1 Adjourn Meeting

Ms. Flowers shared the following positive thought:

Whenever you find yourself doubting how far you can go, just remember how far you have come. Remember everything you have faced, all the battles you have won, and all the fears you have overcome. (anonymous)

There being no further business to be brought before the School Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

 05/12/2020

Chairperson

 05/12/2020

Superintendent and Ex-Officio Secretary

Procedural: 10.2 Public Participation

The following individuals shared their comments, via the publiccomment@pcsb.org email address; which are captured below as written (there were no call-in public comments):

1. Margaret Chiou: (PCSB Teacher) There are a couple comments that I would like for the school board to consider in their upcoming virtual meeting. 1. About the unused personal days this year, in case this discussion has not been brought up yet. Due to the current health crisis most people don't get to use those days because we are told to stay home. It would be nice if we are allowed to carry over personal day entitlement into next year. 2. The teachers who earn a Highly Effective or Effective score, serving in Alternative schools should receive the same bonus money as all other teachers in the traditional schools. While it is true that our schools don't receive a grade but the teachers work just as hard if not more, as those other teachers while dealing with mostly at risk students on a daily basis. We are held to the same high standard of evaluation. Why aren't we receive the same recognition and being left out of this process? Please forward my comments if it is appropriate and helpful for the discussion. Thank you. (A district administrator responded to her questions.)

2. Rodney Russ: (PCSB Teacher) My name is Rodney Russ, and I am an English teacher at Disston Academy. I have taught nine years in Pinellas County. I addressed the school board during the February 25th meeting at Lakewood High School. I commented on the toxic and hostile work environment exhibited at Disston Academy during the 2019-2020 school term. Through our diligent efforts as a team, Disston Academy staff members were able to file a complaint against our school principal. We are awaiting the results of the findings. We are hopeful that the district will hear our pleas and do the right thing for our dedicated staff and students. After all, we are fighting to make genuine, positive changes for our students. No doubt, it's the reason we all became educators. Since speaking out, I have experienced bullying, harassment, and discrimination at the hands of Disston Academy administration team. Last month, slanderous and unfounded accusations were mailed out to me by principal in the form of a certified letter of caution. On Friday, April 24th, my contract was nonrenewed for unspecified reasons. Please ensure that all teachers are treated with respect and care. It is our duty as educators to stand up for the interests of the parents, fellow educators, and our students.

3. Lorena Grizzle: (PCSB Teacher) I came to you last year and asked for the Board to reconsider cutting a unit from Dunedin high school of a VE Teacher position. I tried to inform the Board of the unique needs of our school due to poverty. Nonetheless, you saw fit to cut our position. For speaking out, my former AP was unprofessional enough to complain to my colleagues that I had come to the Board to complain about my workload, which was not the case. Now I have been informed that yet another unit/VE position will be cut from Dunedin High School for the same reason as last year. This is 'to get the numbers correct', yet our incoming students match our outgoing students. The math does not add up. My colleagues and I have worked diligently all

year to lift our struggling students above the D's and F's that many have now and will have to take remedial and recovery credit classes to graduate. Some will not make it. We fend off potential lawsuits when students are not receiving their FAPE. I am sure the ESE department can provide you with the current list of failing ESE Dunedin students as proof that this would be a disastrous decision. I know our team is working 12 hour days to try and correct this and salvage this year with these students. Please take another look for our kids sake.

non-consent #8.1

Good Evening Madame Chair, Board members, Dr. Grego and Staff,

On behalf of the educators of Pinellas County, I respectfully ask that this Board adopt the resolution containing the ballot question necessary to continue the referendum that has benefitted the teachers and students of our District for the past 16 years.

The Referendum enhances reading, music and art programs; provides up-to-date technology; and keeps our wages competitive with other districts. Pinellas County voters have overwhelmingly supported the half-mill property tax four times since 2004. Each time the referendum comes up for renewal, its support by Pinellas voters has been stronger than the last.

The referendum gave Pinellas County Schools the ability to adequately respond to the current COVID-19 crisis. As pointed out in Sunday's Tampa Bay Times Editorial, Pinellas County Schools was able to provide over 15,000 electronic devices to students who may not have otherwise had access at home. This was made possible by referendum dollars.

The support for Education is a bipartisan issue that dominates the hearts and minds of Pinellas citizens. Pinellas voters have made it loud and clear that education is a priority.

Educators in Pinellas are fortunate to work in a District where parents and community support the work we do for our Schools. Pinellas citizens trust us to provide their children with the education and tools they need to become successful and happy in an ever changing world.

The loss of this important funding source would be devastating to all stake holders in Pinellas. It could mean a pay-cut, or even lay-offs, for teachers during a time when teachers are sorely needed. It would mean less classroom resources, and a hard hit to music and art programs which lend enjoyment and meaningful life lessons, to a child's education.

We should not take this referendum for granted and simply assume that everyone understands it. Our greatest allies are informed citizens. To that end, PCTA pledges our resources in efforts to inform and educate Pinellas on the importance of the referendum to our students' education. We also pledge not to forget that it is the citizens of Pinellas that have had our backs these past 16 years and whom we owe appreciation. I believe the outstanding job educators have done transitioning to a new way of teaching during the current crisis, demonstrates our commitment to the citizens and children of Pinellas.

We ask that you authorize the Superintendent, to forward the resolution to the Supervisor of elections so that it may be included on the November 3, 2020 General Election ballot.

I ask this of you respectfully, and with an absolute certainty that this issue is crucial to the future of our District.

Thank you,

Mike Gandolfo

From: Mark Kennedy
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Charter Application for KING Charter Schools
Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 9:52:04 PM

Dear Pinellas County School Board:

The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine is a non-profit corporation that advocates for preventive medicine, supports higher ethical standards in research, and conducts clinical research, some of which is federally funded. The Physicians Committee's membership includes approximately 170,000 health care professionals and concerned individuals. The Physicians Committee submits this comment on behalf of its Pinellas County membership.

Since 2001, the Physicians Committee has issued a periodic "School Lunch Report Card," analyzing the nutritional quality of menus offered by the largest school districts participating in the National School Lunch Program. In 2007 and 2012, the most healthful school menus in the country were found in Pinellas County. The Physicians Committee also operates a related "Golden Carrot Awards" program, created in 2004 to recognize food service professionals who make an exceptional effort to improve the healthfulness of school lunches. In 2006, the program honored a food service director from Pinellas County.

A charter application submitted by KING Charter Schools is now before the School Board. As noted at <http://www.kingcharterschools.org/>, KING Charter seeks "to foster the positive and impactful engagement of our future generations ... based on a sophisticatedly developed scholastic curriculum ... which also includes environmentally conscious and sustainable living, as well as healthy and whole foods eating[.]" As noted at <http://www.kingcharterschools.org/about-us/> students' "compassion and empathy will stem from our Plant-Based Curriculum and Cafeteria[.]"

Eating habits begin in early childhood. Providing healthful plant-based meals in schools sets an example for students to learn to enjoy a variety of nutritious foods from an early age. Plant-based meals provide excellent nutrition—they are rich in fiber, vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants that boost students' health. Children who are raised on healthful plant-based diets have a reduced risk for heart disease, cancer, obesity, diabetes, and other conditions. Adolescents raised on a plant-based diet often find they have an easier time maintaining a healthy weight. They also have fewer problems with acne, allergies, and gastrointestinal problems than their peers who eat animal products.

Plant-based school meals help address rising rates of chronic disease. Projections from the CDC show that 1 in 3 children will develop type 2 diabetes during their lifetime. More and more children are gaining excess weight, paving the way for health problems later in life. Twenty-five percent of children ages 5 to 10 years have high cholesterol levels, high blood pressure, or other early warning signs of heart disease. American children often have fatty streaks in their arteries before they finish high school. Plant-based meals promote health because they are free of cholesterol, low in saturated fat, and full of fiber.

Instead of lamenting the lack of a "loophole" by which it can ignore KING Charter's application (as

documented at <https://youtu.be/EpPfedwLjG8?t=1630> during a workshop on April 21, 2020), the School Board should work closely with KING Charter to ensure that the application can be approved. This will help Pinellas County once again be a leader in child nutrition.

—

Mark Kennedy, Vice President of Legal Affairs

Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine

5100 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20016

O: 202-527-7315 | [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

From: KING Charter School
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Board response
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 3:18:52 PM

Dear Respected board members and all others present,

I am one of the founding board members for KING Charter Schools and have been with the project since the beginning. As a mother of a kindergartner, I started working on this project because of lack of options in the Pinellas County area that would meet our expectations and satisfy my child's needs. Over the past 2.5 years our team has researched every aspect of this application process and collectively, we bring dozens of years of experience in areas ranging from education, finance, marketing, legal, and much more. I have written and called your offices on multiple occasions requesting a time to speak or meet but no return calls or emails on your end were ever received from any of the PCSB members. What angers me is when I watch the December 10, 2019 board meeting and hear that Mr. Rick Wolfe met with each school board member individually to explain why we should be denied. Why was this offer not made to KING Charter board members? I hear Mr. Dudley say "these people.....are wasting 15 to 20 minutes" of his time. These people? Parents and community members in his district? 15-20min? He can listen to the district's referrals and accept it as truth but not the parents and community members who have been working long hours for YEARS to do something better for our children and community?

Additionally, reviewing the evaluations from December 2019, we find absurd statements in the evaluation. Nonsense such as complaining that we used the word, "green" in section 16 facilities and stating that green is not mention in our mission when in fact, "eco-friendly and sustainable..." are mentioned in our mission statement. Or nonsense comments that green products cost more and how could we afford them? Reducing, reusing, and recycling are all part of being green and a used book shelf typically costs less than a new book shelf, this used book shelf is green. When I stated this to Mr. Wolfe, he said that I needed to explain the term green. I replied that I could not define every word in the application, to which he said all new terms must be defined. The fact that a person in Mr. Wolfe's position thinks the word "green" is a new word is exactly why KING Charter needs to open. We not only need t have a huge focus on teaching children sustainability, but we need real educators and persons who want to make the community better, not someone like Mr. Wolfe who is picking out very petty issues in a wonderful application. I really dislike speaking poorly on Mr. Wolfe, I am sure he has a good heart and I would love an opportunity to work with him and not against him but the evidence continues to pile up that PCSB and the people working for it our just anti-charter.

KING board members are just pro-children. DONE!

I would like to also share the below email with you that highlights a supporter who emailed PCSB to support KING Charter and the reply Mr. Wolfe gave them and then my follow up reply to Mr. Wolfe. Please read below the false statements he has made:

Supporter (named removed to protect privacy) writes:

Dear King Charter School representative(s):

Please see below the response from the Pinellas County School Board after I submitted an email in support of your proposed school. Before I continue that support, I would like to understand the highlighted portion from your perspective, at your earliest convenience, please.

C*****

From: Wolfe Richard <WOLFER@pcsb.org>

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 2:16 PM

To: C***** <C****@*****mail.com>

Subject: RE: King Charter School

Good Afternoon Ms. *****,

Thank you for your inquiry. All charter school applications go through the same process. The district's application review process follows state charter school guidelines and uses the evaluation instrument and criteria provided by the Florida Department of Education's Office of School Choice. Numerous district staff review each application based on the 22 sections of the state's evaluation instrument in order to determine the applicant's ability to "demonstrate the team's capacity to open and maintain a high-quality charter school." Additionally, opportunity is provided to all applicants to meet with district staff to review the application. **Several opportunities to meet were offered to the King Charter School applicant team which were declined by the applicant. Please note, no one from the applicant team or governing board attended the two school board workshops or the two school board meetings when the application was discussed and presented.**

We appreciate your email and your support of King Charter School's design concept. Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,

Rick

Rick Wolfe

Director

Charter Schools and Home Education

Pinellas County Schools

wolfer@pcsb.org

727 588-6209 – office

727 588-5038 - fax

Wolfe Richard

Mon, Jan 27, 4:32 PM (18 hours ago)

Imagine my surprise when I read this email since Rick Wolfe told me via email that the board workshop was canceled! Please see below exchange when I bring this up to him and his reply at the very end.

From: KING Charter School <kingcharterschools@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 3:25 PM

To: Wolfe Richard <WOLFER@pcsb.org>

Cc: tmail.com

Subject: Re: Board workshop cancelled

Hi Mr. Wolfe,

Someone named C***** just sent us a

fwdded message from that stated we did not attend the two workshops? I am very confused as the email below from you states the workshop was canceled and we were ONLY informed of one?

Here is what you wrote to C and

scroll past that to see your Nov. Email when you said it was canceled.

From: Wolfe

Richard <WOLFER@pcsb.org>

Sent: Monday,

January 27, 2020 2:16 PM

To: Cmail.com>

Subject: RE:

King Charter School

Good Afternoon

Ms. *****,

Thank you for your inquiry. All charter school applications go through the same process. The district's application review process follows state charter school guidelines and uses the evaluation instrument and criteria provided by the Florida Department of Education's Office of School Choice. Numerous district staff review each application based on the 22 sections of the state's evaluation instrument in order to determine the applicant's ability to "demonstrate the team's capacity to open and maintain a high-quality charter school." Additionally, opportunity is provided to all applicants to meet with district staff to review the application. **Several opportunities to meet were offered to the King Charter School applicant team which were declined by the applicant. Please note, no one from the applicant team or governing board attended the two school board workshops**

Also, we attended the capacity meeting which we were disappointed that none of the concerns on our evaluation

were brought up directly in that meeting which we could of answered that moment.

We have also sent repeated requests to Pinellas County School Board to discuss our application...other than "your request has been received" no further response was given.

Please clarify if I am not understanding.

Thank you for your support.

Regards,

Maria Solanki.

Below your email that it is canceled:

On Tue, Nov 26, 2019, 4:23 PM Wolfe

Richard <WOLFER@pcsb.org> wrote:

Hi Maria,

The school board workshop for December 3rd has been cancelled. This will not have any impact on your application, it will still be presented at the school board meeting on December 10th; however, it does delay things a bit. You will receive the final evaluation on Tuesday, December 2nd.

Please note that school district offices will be closed the rest of this week for Thanksgiving break.

Hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends!

Rick

Rick Wolfe

Director

Charter Schools and Home Education

Pinellas County Schools

wolfer@pcsb.org

727 588-6209 - office

727 588-5038

- fax

His reply to my question is:

Mon, Jan 27, 4:32 PM (18 hours ago)

to Camail.com, me

Yes, you are correct, the December workshop was cancelled.

Rick

Unfortunately, this did not end Mr. Wolfe's emails to supporters who continued to write in with letters urging PCSB to approve KING Charter's application. Mr. Wolfe continued sending these emails out even when he acknowledged there was no board workshop for us to attend.

When I met Mr. Wolfe in person on February 3, 2020 to drop off our new application, he brought up these letters and I asked him why he was telling all these supporters that we were invited to the board workshop to which he replied, "You were invited... (pause)...it was just canceled." He did not laugh after this; he was very serious.

The point of bringing up these issues of slander and false accusations is to show PCSB that we are seeing the evidence pile up but also to prove to you and all the citizens of Pinellas County that if we had a bad application and real reasons to deny our application, Mr. Wolfe should of replied to supporters with those reason, he should not of made up lies and once caught in the lies he should of stopped issuing them and should of apologized to KING Charter for this.

I want to know now what Pinellas County School Board members will do about this? All we wanted was our application to be viewed fairly. We wanted and want, to work with Pinellas County peacefully. All KING Board members want to do is put the children first. That is it. We have no ill intentions. We have no secrete motives. We are so passionate about getting this school opened and are prepared to fight for this justice as we feel that not having this application approved is detrimental to the well-being of children in our community who are suffering from lack of proper education. It is our civic duty to ensure this schools are approved and it is our civic duty to bring light to the scenarios that have been facing us thus far. So, imagine our absolute shock when we hear Mr. Dugley publicly state "It's that darn law stuff. Gee whiz!" and others chuckle followed by him "hoping to find a loophole," so parents and community members cannot fight against the injustice that is happening. It is heartbreaking to hear an elected official to not only want to look for ways to be corrupt but for it to be so in the norm that he doesn't not care if it is said publicly and while recorded. It is so heartbreaking that your minds are made up without even reviewing our application, you read the vague comments from Rick Wolfe. You give him the fuel he needs and Dr Grego to automatically deny our application because the PCSB is not taking the time to evaluate it thoroughly as they are supposed to do. Why even vote on it PSCB members? Just tell the district to make their own decision without you because you are obviously not thinking on your own or you would of questioned KING Board members at least once and you would of questioned Rick Wolfe at the workshop vs. think of loopholes to avoid another resubmission from the citizens of Pinellas County.

Again, the board members are ready and eager to have a meeting with Pinellas County School Board members to go over the application, but we need the Pinellas County School Board members to reply to us and schedule a time. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards,

Maria Solanki

312.292.6484

KING Charter Schools

Sign our [petition here](#)

like us on [facebook](#)

www.kingcharterschools.org

Want to help and volunteer? Many positions available some as short as 30 minutes a week time commitment from home! Email us and ask how!

April 23, 2020

Superintendent Grego and the Pinellas County School Board:

Thank you for your consideration of KING Charter School's application scheduled for the April 28th agenda. I am writing in my capacity as a founding board member of KING Charter School.

The KING team has conducted extensive research and called on the expertise of education professionals over the past two and a half years as we developed and revised our application. Our vision is to establish a trilingual (Spanish, Mandarin, and English) immersion school with a focus on environmental responsibility and sustainability to serve the Pinellas County community. We chose to focus on these two global issues – trilingual immersion and environmental responsibility – to meet the needs of students as global citizens.

I appreciate the time and effort of the review team in evaluating our application and would like to respond to some of their comments that do not accurately represent the contents of the application:

- During the 4/8/20 capacity interview, KING board members explained that edits had been made to address concerns about coherence, and some information had been reorganized and moved among sections. Our purpose was to address components identified as missing by the reviewers; these components were not missing – they were addressed in other sections of the application – so we moved that information in the current application to better reflect the reviewers' expectations and for ease of locating the specific components.

- During the 4/21/20 workshop, one reviewer stated there was *"no clear and coherent program design; no curriculum plan; no specific curriculum outline, resources, or materials; and no evidence of emphasis on reading instruction."* Each of these components was included in the previous applications; however, in an effort to more thoroughly and coherently address these concerns based on feedback from the previous submission, we edited the narrative text of the application to more clearly indicate how these aspects are addressed and to indicate where some of these components were addressed in the attachments:

- The program design, curriculum framework, and plans for assessment and accountability are thoroughly addressed in Sections 1 – 5.

- *Attachment C* is a complete K – 5 science curriculum scope and sequence, including a curriculum plan/pacing guide for each grade level, instructional materials, and digital resources, with alignment to the Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.

- *Attachment D* describes the K – 1 reading curriculum based on the *Language Arts Daily Components and Five Areas of Reading* designated by the Pinellas County School District, and identifies the *Journeys Series* as the instructional materials resource; this is the adopted reading text of Pinellas County School District.

Community members and educators have expressed support for KING Charter School's vision and unique focus on an eco-friendly trilingual immersion school preparing students for global citizenship. We respectfully submit our application and we believe it to be complete, coherent, and meeting the Florida Department of Education criteria. As a retired Florida public school teacher and state education administrator with experience and passion for improving teaching and learning for all students, I appreciate your review and consideration as we all work towards continuous improvement of education opportunities and fostering skills our students will need to be successful and responsible global citizens.

Sincerely, Sally Sanders KING Charter School Board Member

From: Varun S
To: [Public Comment](#)
Cc: [King Charter](#)
Subject: KING Charter School
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020 4:07:52 PM

Below are the words Mr. Dudley said during the board workshop meeting on April 21, 2020. My responses are in red as public comments

My only response to this is, this is like the second or third time, you know we've been dealing with these people.

Reply: These people? You act like you are some affluent king and "these people" are annoying filth! These people are parents, community members, Florida state education administrator, a local lawyer, a father of two little ones working on financials, a mother who is legally blind doing the best she can for your daughter and community and the hundreds of volunteers and supporters across the county who want this school approved. We are, "These people."

And to me, uh I wish it was a way we can screen them, if they don't have why do we even bother bringing them forward? Is there some way we can you know, look at them?

Reply: Yes, how about meeting with "these people" so they can present their application to you? How about reading their application? I have read and heard they have been emailing and calling the school board for a meeting but PCSB doesn't have time for "these people."

and if they don't have any of the stuff then why we taken 15 or 20 min of our time um you now to listen

Reply: "These people" have spent over 2 years of their lives researching and collaborating and the least you can do is not be so self-centered. If you weren't, perhaps you would actually listen to "these people."

and then they still have a lot of deficiencies

Reply: Pinellas has an anti-charter climate. The application is not deficient. The school district has no fear of being corrupt because board members like you, do not challenge what they have. The evaluation has stated that there was no curriculum and that curriculum did not meet state standards, Sally Sanders, board member is an expert in curriculum review as this was her job at the FLDOE.

to me um if they don't you know, I they had one or two and there was some extenuating circumstances you know something you know I could see bringing them forth but they're not even close

Reply: They are beyond amazing but you refer to them as "These people" you made up your mind before they even started.

and uh to me it's a waste of our time um you know in a meeting like this when we got other stuff that is more pressing um so im just, im just throwing that out there I I sit there and I listen and well their deficient in 11 or whatever you know and I' thinking you're not even close so why we even doing it?

Reply: I am thinking, why do you even bother running for PCSB? Just let Grego make his own decision as you are not doing anything to cross check

Mr. Kapercisky comes on.....

Explains state statute and proper due process

Dudley continues..

...Oh it's that darn law stuff, Gee whiz! Hahahaha

Ok I understand, and you're right I did understand but I was hopin there would be some kind of loophole we wouldn't have to

Reply: Wow, just horrible and shameful. IF this is what he says in public meetings, what happens behind closed doors?

you know they they corrected deficiencies but there was a lot of deficiencies last time

Reply:No, there were a lot of issues that the district made up. Did you bother checking their issues because I did! Did you bother asking "these people" at KING to defend any of their answers? Because I did! Read some of the evaluations from app#2 and let me know what you think about them. They are vague and ridiculous. They look for reasons to deny for foolish things that hold no weight in state statute. If they had valid reasons why are they looking at nonsense?

too so I don't know how much corrections they did and uhh but anyways,

Reply: App#2 had about 430 pages. App#3 had about 475 pages. I heard Mr. Wolfe saying in the recordings that information was simply rearranged. It takes 50 pages more to simply rearrange information? Did you compare evaluations from app 1, 2, and 3? Why is it that app 1 had the best results from all the apps? Oh you must think "These people" are so dumb they make the app worse and worse after revisions. It would be impossible to point out the anti-charter climate in the district. Good luck with your loopholes and that darn law stuff.

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thank you for the explanation and I said my peace.

To whom it may concern,

I, Nicholas Babut – King Charter Board Member, am writing to inform the board of education that I am in attendance. I have never been out of attendance. Matter of fact, I have been assisting in running Mutual of Omaha Mortgage, Inc. I have many passions within my life, e.g.; being a part of something bigger than myself, assisting with those who are less fortunate, and influencing those around me.

King Charter School has been denied more than once and we, as a board, are going to keep swinging. It is difficult to put into words the genuineness each board member has for this school, what it means to us individually, what it means to our children, and what it means for our community – as well as what it could mean for other communities throughout the United States. We are seeking guidance in what areas need to be addressed in order to get this school started and underway.

Some of the main concerns that Rick Wolfe and his advisory team have are a lack of understanding with the application. Sections of concern to Rick Wolfe and his advisory team include curriculum, budget, and the board members approach to starting a Florida charter school. While addressing every portion would take up some time, the main topic of this letter is the budget. The budget is sound and gives leniency in most parts. The budget is very detailed and gives a broad understanding and supports the application.

I believe the lack of communication with the budget is between Rick Wolfe and the individuals he puts in charge to review this application. To be fair, Rick Wolfe and his advisory team, to my knowledge, have yet to approve a new school within Pinellas County. This is concerning and gives a underlying biased standpoint that Rick Wolfe and his advisory team are

either inadequate of approving schools and leading them to open up new institutions that will benefit the communities within it or Rick Wolfe and his advisory team don't want to approve a new school within Pinellas County for one reason or another.

It is difficult to believe that someone higher up the food chain would try to prevent a school that could change the dimensions of Pinellas County within the state of Florida which could give huge benefits to surrounding areas to make it less educationally dearth. On the contrary, I would hope that there would be massive support from the state to encourage new schools that will challenge the norm that could catapult Florida to be recognized as the Nation's leading educational system for our future leaders.

In conclusion the board strongly recommends a higher re-evaluation of the application along with the decisions being made by Rick Wolfe and his advisory team. We look forward to being able to grow a brighter future with leaders in place ready to make the decisions that need to be made along with adapting with the times and shaping our states future.

Cordially,

Nicholas Babut