Pinellas County Schools and Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association (PCTA) Bargaining Session Summary

Date: July 23, 2028
Time: Session convened prior to 5:13 p.m. and adjourned at 5:59 p.m.
Location: Administration Building
Present: Brennen Pickett, Bernadett Langioti, Janet Cunningham, Tracey McConnell, Paula Stephens, Michael Vigue, Dena Collins, Dave Richmond, Carly Spicer, Gary Jeppesen, Dan Perazzo.

Budget Presentation and Discussion

Mr. Michael Vigue welcomed participants and introduced Mr. Gary Jeppesen to provide an overview of the District's budget and financial outlook. Mr. Jeppesen reviewed the District's draft budget, scheduled for School Board approval the following week. The District's budget totals approximately $1.7 billion, with approximately 80% allocated to employee compensation and benefits. Discussion included state and local funding sources, property tax revenue, cash-flow borrowing requirements, fund balance requirements, bond ratings, and the financial impact of enrollment-related funding adjustments. Dena Collins also provided historical information regarding the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TSIA) and teacher salary rankings within the state. Mr. Vigue shared a handout from the DOE indicating Pinellas County ranked 8th in the state for the highest average teacher salary.

The district presented its compensation proposal. The proposal included a $1,124 salary increase for classroom teachers and non-classroom instructional employees with 10 or more years of Florida teaching experience (TSIA funding and district funding) and a $710 recurring salary increase for teachers with 0 to 9 years of experience. Eligible instructional employees would continue to receive the increase in referendum supplement of $1,824. District representatives stated the combined increase for employees with 10 or more years of experience would total $2,948 and slightly less for those with 0-9 years of teaching experience.

Caucus: 5:13 p.m.
Returned from Caucus: 5:31 p.m.

Contract Language Discussions

The parties discussed certification fees, bereavement leave, Article 48 (Differentiated Support), Legacy Schools language, additional planning time at John Hopkins Middle School and Azalea Middle School, the $75 FSA payment, and advanced degree supplements. The district agreed to continue certification fee payments, renewals of $75, and the one day of bereavement leave for the eligible family member for one additional year. The parties also agreed to review advanced degree supplement proposals and related costs for next year.

Caucus: 5:47 p.m.
Returned from Caucus: 5:53 p.m.

Following additional discussion, the district agreed to provide two days of bereavement leave for the fiscal year. The Association agreed to accept Option One of the District's salary proposals and agreed to sign the associated Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)- Teaching Certificate Renewal fee to be covered by the district $75 and up to two days of bereavement provided by the district for covered eligible relatives. Both MOUs will end June 30, 2027.

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.