

6-12-2017

ORDER OF PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIRCUIT CIVIL

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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIRCUIT CIVIL**

CONCERNED ORGANIZATION FOR
QUALITY EDUCATION OF BLACK
STUDENTS, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Case No. 00-5661-CI-07

THE PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOL
BOARD, et al.,

Defendants.

_____ /

ORDER OF PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

THIS CAUSE came to be heard upon the parties' Stipulation for Modification of Final Judgment and Order of Final Approval of Settlement and Joint Motion for Court Approval (the "Joint Motion").

The Court, having considered the Joint Motion, the proposed Bridging the Gap Plan ("The Plan") filed with this Court, the requirements of Fla.R.Civ.P. 1.220(e), and otherwise being fully advised in the premises, hereby FINDS and ORDERS as follows:

1. This Court preliminarily concludes that the provisions of the Stipulation and The Plan are fair, adequate, and reasonable. The parties seek to modify this Court's Final Judgment and Order of Final Approval of Settlement dated October 27, 2010 and the Class Action Settlement Approval by that Order. In its Final Judgment and Order of October 27, 2010, this Court retained continuing jurisdiction over this case.

2. Preliminary approval of this Joint Motion and The Plan is GRANTED.

3. The Court will consider the final approval of the Joint Motion and The Plan at a final fairness public hearing. The hearing for final approval of settlement is hereby scheduled on July 12, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

4. Notice shall be published in the manner provided in the Joint Motion and in the form attached to this Order. The Defendant shall file with the Court a verification of compliance with this notice requirement prior to the final approval hearing.

5. This Action and this Settlement are of significant public interest. Accordingly, class members and others can address the Court at the final fairness hearing. Persons who wish to address the Court will be allowed three (3) minutes to make comments provided a prior written request summarizing the proposed comments is submitted to the Court and all Counsel at least ten (10) days prior to the Final Hearing. The Court reserves the right to reject or restrict the comments of any person if such comments are cumulative or the Court deems the comments as inapt.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers in Clearwater, Pinellas County, Florida this _____ day of _____, 2017.



HONORABLE PATRICIA ANN MUSCARELLA
Circuit Judge - Pinellas County, Florida

Copies furnished to all Counsel of Record

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