



# Duval County Public Schools

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April 11, 2017, Board Workshop

Ms. Paula D. Wright, Chairman  
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Vice-Chairman  
Ms. Becki Couch  
Ms. Cheryl Grymes  
Ms. Lori Hershey  
Mr. Warren A. Jones  
Mr. Scott Shine  
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present with the exception of Board Member Becki Couch. Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, and Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Officer of Legal Services, were also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

Chairman Wright provided an overview of a New Board Member website. Discussion included the following:

- Hire someone full-time to manage the Board Member website

and attend two events per month with each Board Member to take photos.

- Create a monthly newsletter for each Board Member district.
- Start out by highlighting three schools each month.
- Have a DCPS data dashboard with all the relevant information about the entire district.
- Board Member profiles.
- A photo gallery.

Creating this website can be done very quickly. Each Board Member would have the opportunity to create different links to topics on their website. We hope it will be up and complete by April 2017.

The Board will need to come up with a budget now so we can advertise on radio or television to help inform the public about the millage. Our constituents need to understand how their property taxes will be used and how it will impact the District.

She would like each district to commit to taking a bus load of constituents to Tallahassee. We need for our legislators to hear from different voices. It is obvious they are not listening.

Board Members were very pleased with the website.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez suggested the website have information that would be common to the entire Board.

Chairman Wright suggested having a new photo of all the Board Members taken for the website. She will also be sending a list of information that will be needed to customize each Board Member's website.

## [BUDGET OVERVIEW](#)

Attachment: [Budget Workshop 1 Agenda.pdf](#)

Attachment: [April 11, 2017 - Budget Workshop 1.pdf](#)

Minutes:

This is Budget Workshop 1. Budget Workshop 2 is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2017. The Superintendent stated there are over 20 initiatives that have been reviewed by staff. Board Members will receive the completed rubric and a narrative of the explanation of the scores linked to the initiatives. If additional documentation is needed for a particular item please let him know. Hopefully, the information will be sent to the Board on April 12, 2017.

Budget Workshop 3 should have a balanced budget depending on when the workshop takes place. If we are not moving toward a balanced budget by the beginning of May, it will be hard to make decisions by June or July.

The PowerPoint is attached to the minutes and is based on the third quarter FTE. Discussion followed:

- The difference in the Florida House and the Senate budget is the willingness to keep the tax rate the same. The Senate wants to keep the tax rate the same and the Florida House is saying there is no need to keep the rate the same because there is a surplus.
- The District budget will be developed based on the Governors budget but knowing it may be between the Florida House and Senate budget.
- The District currently has an \$8,000,000 rollover. This is viewed as a non-recurring opportunity. This could change by the end-of-the-year.
- The District currently has a 5% reserve. A 3% reserve is required by the State.
- Consider budgeting remediation classes only for low level one readers, not level two readers. This would provide more funds at the school level.
- Opportunity to reduce district staff.
- Need to focus on literacy but with different inputs to create different outputs.
- Retaining teachers.

Board Member Shine inquired about how the different entities get information from the District. Do they know about the Capital Improvements or is this done without knowledge? The Superintendent stated it is done without knowledge. Board Member Shine indicated that in the future it would be helpful to work with the DOE or someone to make sure all the financial information is rolled up in summary.

Board Member Jones asked how the reserve would affect the bond rating from 5% versus 7%. The Superintendent stated the higher the reserve the higher the bond rating.

Board Member Shine suggested looking at double sessions. This would reduce the number of teachers the District would need to hire. The Board was not receptive to this suggestion.

#### Speakers

Ms. Paula Wright, Board Chairman  
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Vice-Chairman  
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member  
Mr. Warren Jones, Board Member  
Ms. Lori Hershey, Board Member  
Mr. Scott Shine, Board Member  
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

[LEGAL PLAN UPDATE](#)

Minutes:

Chairman Wright indicated that the Legislation regarding the Legal Plan will be voted on at the City Council Meeting tonight. She will be attending tonight's meeting.

#### Budget

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez requested the Superintendent be include the following information for the Budget discussion next week:

- Data rationale, background and cost for each item.
- Be prepared for alternatives if the proposal is to shift positions.
- Available pool of Assistant Principals.
- Opportunities for professional development, recruitment and retention, not just minimizing the number of positions.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez stated we are always hearing that there are few candidates but some districts are above the national average as far as teacher vacancies. Other districts may be contracting for professional development services or utilizing district administrative staff to provide other services that are school based. We need to look at what other districts are doing.

#### Duval Language Program

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez wanted to let the Board know about the issue with the Dual Language program. There is currently no Dual Language program for elementary and middle school students to attend for high school. The Superintendent is considering continuity is program to Englewood High School for this program. The Superintendent will set up a meeting to speak to Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez further.

#### Year-round Schools

Board Member Shine discussed funding Capital improvement. We need to look at other funding sources protected from Charters. He thanked the Chairman for rearranging the schedule today so he could be present for governance.

#### Chat with the Superintendent

Board Member Hershey thanked Dr. Vitti for attending this event. It went very well and attendance was good. Discussion included the gifted program and the possibility of a new school. All students should feel like they are valued when we are making decisions.

#### Young Men's and Young Women's Leadership Academy at Eugene Butler Middle School

Board Member Jones toured the school last week. He stated the two principals are fully engaged. The environment and the research that has been done concerning how to teach girls versus boys is impressive.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

CSM

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Superintendent

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Chairman