



E-AGENDA MANAGER

Duval County Public Schools

April 27, 2017, Special Board Meeting

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 Scott Shine. Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Officer of Legal Services, was also present.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m.

Topics To Be Discussed

[APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 27, 2017, AGENDA](#)

Minutes:

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board
approve the April 27, 2017 as - PASS

submitted on April 26, 2017.

Vote Results

Motion: Warren Jones

Second: Ashley Juarez

Rebecca Couch	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Lori Hershey	- Aye
Warren Jones	- Aye
Ashley Juarez	- Aye
Scott Shine	- Not Present
Paula Wright	- Aye

PUBLIC COMMENT

Minutes: No public comment was given.

BUDGET

Attachment: [Budget Workshop 3.pdf](#)

Attachment: [School Allocation Plan Formulas.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Agenda Budget Workshop 3.pdf](#)

Minutes:

The Board discussed the remaining Strategic Abandonment items from the April 18, 2017, Board Workshop and Committee Meeting. Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, reviewed each of the following Strategic Abandonment items. Discussion followed:

- Jacksonville Teacher Residency Program (JTR) - This is the last year of the grant through QEA to support the program. UNF has acquired a grant that will reduce the cost to the District from about \$1 million to \$500,000. The cohort size would be about 15. This program has been a strong initiative to help recruit teachers in the Andrew Jackson, Jean Ribault and William Raines High School areas. The Superintendent will send information concerning the amount that teachers in the program would have to payback if they leave the program early.

Board Member Couch requested information concerning feedback from students in Junior Achievement. The Superintendent will check to see if a

survey was proved to students.

- Parent Academy - This past year is the first year the Parent Academy was fully funded by the District. The cost covers a director and three specialists. We continue to see an increase in the number of parents who participate. The number of parents who participate depends on the session.
- Pre-Early College - More high school students are graduating with an associate's degree over the last two years. 80% of students are college-ready by the end of 8th grade. The District did not ask each school to have a certain passage rate. Ideally, all students test, but all students have not been tested this year. Some students have transferred, moved or were absent, so all students have not been tested.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez requested a demographic breakdown of the students who are involved in the Pre-Early College program by grade level, gender and race.

- Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)- Over 90% of students in our VPK program are considered Kindergarten-ready in reading and math. By the time students move into 1st and 2nd grade, you can not see a difference in the students who attended VPK and ones that did not. The Superintendent recommended the District continue to support VPK through Title I funds.

Board Member Couch requested a list of schools that are Title I and which programs are offered because of ESE. She would like to see how the utilization is affected with VPK. The Superintendent will send the information.

One challenge is Kindergarten teachers assume all students are at the same level. Another challenge is the disconnect with the VPK readiness assessment and what the standards are asking our students to do. Board Member Smith Juarez would like to know how the District can maintain learning gains.

Board Member Couch requested the Superintendent provide data on the percentage of students that stay in the District after attending our VPK.

Board Member Grymes suggested it might be interesting to do a survey of parents in the VPK program. The District has been looking into this idea.

- Quality Education for All (QEA)- Incentivized teachers were better performing in math and reading based on VAM scores within the 36 transformational schools. The recommendation of the Superintendent would be to reduce the incentive funds from \$20,000 to \$17,000 or \$10,000 and only provide the incentives for teachers who are already at the school, for retention purposes. The District would then offer incentives only to teachers outside the county for recruitment purposes. The incentives would have to be negotiated with the DTU. Some schools in the Ed White and

Westside High School feeder pattern will be added to the list of transformational schools receiving incentives for teachers. The list will be provided to the Board next week. The Superintendent would recommend teachers that have been incentivized be allowed to leave the transformational schools after a year. This is not something everyone agrees on.

Board Member Couch requested the Superintendent create a third column on the chart the Superintendent provided via email which would separate the two columns - school grade increase and remain constant.

Chairman Wright asked the Superintendent why, if QEA has a \$5 million dollar roll and the funds were raised for this effort then why would it not continue to be used for this effort. The QEA has expressed to the District that after three years the District would take this over.

- STEAM Passport - Board Member Couch said she would rather see funds go to Title I schools to meet the needs of their students than to fund programs like this one. The program does have value but not higher than the dollars that would be spent at a school. The Superintendent stated he does not feel schools will lose Title I funding. The Superintendent stated the following programs are on his priority list: Interventionist, Community in Schools, VPK, I'm A Star, Teacher Certifications, and PD Stipends. This will be seen at next week's Special Board Meeting.
- Teach For America (TFA) - This program is funded out of Title II funds. The challenge next year would be to reduce the number of corp teachers by 50. A new group of leaders is emerging through this program because of the TFA initiative at the District level. The retention rate has improved over the last three years. Board Member Hershey asked about recruiting teachers through Kelly Services. The Superintendent stated the Ready Set Teach initiative program focuses on elementary future teachers. We will be working with them to offer undergraduate classes that they may be missing. We are one of the few Districts that were awarded the opportunity to issue alternative certifications. Classes will be offered through District Specialists and the District Team. Teach For America is not something the Superintendent would think about as a long-term program.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez left the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

- The New Teacher Project (TNTP) - This project is fully funded out of grant dollars. The District will evaluate how Matthew Gilbert, Ribault Middle and Northwestern Middle do this year to evaluate the contract for next year. The Superintendent stated he would not write grants with TNTP going into next year. Chairman Wright suggested having the leader of The New Teacher Project come to a meeting so the Board can fully understand the work.
- I'm A Star - This program does have a positive impact on students and empowers students as leaders. It is one of the few partnerships that focuses on student leaders. The greatest challenge the District

has with I'm A Star is it's hard to pinpoint the student achievement impact. One reason is there are quite a few initiatives that focus on overage students. There is not a third-party study. Also, the program doesn't focus on student achievement, it focuses on leadership development among students. The rubric focuses on student achievement. By the end of the year, the numbers could improve. The Superintendent would not recommend I'm A Star moving forward because it does not have a direct impact on student achievement.

Board Member Jones requested information on how students performed from year-to-year in the I'm A Star program. The Superintendent will send the information to the Board.

Board Member Couch requested the total cost of the contract for I'm A Star. The Superintendent will provide this information at the Budget Meeting on May 2, 2017.

The Superintendent presented a PowerPoint which is attached to the minutes concerning the budget. Discussion followed.

- The Superintendent is recommending minor changes to the Allocation Plan. He has reviewed the add-on list and looked at positions that have been funded year after year and indicated that, if you look at those positions whether class size, school improvement programs, it would be about \$10 million. The proposed changes to the Allocation Plan are listed in the PowerPoint.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez returned to the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

- Chairman Wright asked the Board to provide some direction before the next Tuesday, May 3, 2017, meeting. At this meeting, the Superintendent will provide us with different scenarios.
- Board Member Hershey questioned removing deans. How will this encourage student behavior? Parents expressed great concern at the Chat With The Supe. The Superintendent stated the recommendation would be to give secondary schools the option of a testing coordinator, assistant principal or a dean. They now have a testing coordinator and a dean. Schools with a high number of incidents would receive two of the three positions. The extra would be funded out of categoricals.
- The Superintendent recommended keeping ISSP teachers at every secondary school. Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez suggested since ISSP teachers do not always have students, could the position be shared with an assistant principal?
- The District cannot fund a Reading Coach at every school without removing something else. The Board needs to see the bigger picture before a decision is made.
- What is the reason for the increased substitute allocation? Instead of funding professional development out of the categoricals it would be funded out of the Allocation Plan. We do not have to track it and it is not as hard to track. The rate of substitutes has also increased.

Speakers

Ms. Paula D. Wright - Chairman
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez - Vice-Chairman
Ms. Becki Couch - Board Member
Ms. Cheryl Grymes - Board Member
Ms. Lori Hershey - Board Member
Mr. Warren Jones - Board Member
Mr. Scott Shine - Board Member

GOVERNANCE

Minutes:

OCR Update

The FDOE has asked to meet with Dr. Vitti, Iranetta Wright, Chief of Schools, and Pearl Roziers, Regional Superintendent, Pupil Assignment/School Choice, concerning the boundary change letters.

Chat with the Superintendent

Board Member Hershey indicated some teachers at the meeting would like to have a roundtable discussion with the Board. The Chairman suggested continuing a process from the previous year.

Legislation

Board Member Couch recommended taking the list of Senate and House Committee Members and pull any information we have trying to encourage people to contact their legislators.

Community Meeting

Chairman Wright will host a Community Meeting Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at FCSJ 6:00 p.m. concerning upcoming legislation. We will also have an opportunity to do radio.

Deportation of a family member

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez suggested the Board bring a resolution concerning deportation. We need our schools to be safe places. She would not want any student to attend school in fear. This will give us an opportunity to communicate with the public. Board Member Jones agreed and asked to invite City Council Members to Tuesday's meeting.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

CSM

Superintendent

Chairman