



E-AGENDA MANAGER

Duval County Public Schools

August 12, 2016, Emergency Board Meeting

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Chairman
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Becki Couch
Ms. Cheryl Grymes
Dr. Constance S. Hall
Mr. Scott Shine
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present. 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 1:11 p.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[PUBLIC COMMENT](#)

Minutes:

There was no public comment at this meeting.

[SCHOOL TURNAROUND AND SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS](#)

Attachment: [Parent Letter for SP Livingston Reassignment and D and F Schools DOE](#)

[Final.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Parent Letter for RL Brown Reassignment and D and F Schools DOE](#)

[Final.pdf](#)

Minutes:

This Emergency Board Meeting was called due to an email that was sent by the Superintendent on August 11, 2016. The email was sent to the Board informing the Board that R. L. Brown and S. P. Livingston Elementary students in grades 1-2 last year would be sent letters reassigning them to Reynolds Lane and Lone Star Elementary Schools, respectively, due to the schools turnaround status. There were 125 letters mailed to parents attached to R. L. Brown Elementary and 140 letters sent to parents attached to S. P. Livingston Elementary.

The purpose of this meeting today is to ensure the confidence of the Board that students will arrive safely to school on Monday, August 15, 2016, to clarify what was required by the State, to inform the public about the emergency reassignment of students and to ensure the Board has all the information they need to instill confidence of safety for children. The letters were mailed on August 11, 2016. Discussion included the following:

- There are 31 students that are attending R. L. Brown Elementary who received the letter and 51 students that received the letter who were attending a "D" or "F" school outside of the R. L. Brown Elementary attendance area.
- There are an additional 140 students who received a letter. Of the 140 students 81 students are attending S. P. Livingston Elementary. The additional 21 students who received the letter were attending a "D" or "F" school outside of the S. P. Livingston Elementary attendance area.
- The schools will be contacting the parents to let them know why they will be receiving a letter. Both schools are prepared to enroll these students.
- There has been an attempt to contact all students as of today.
- Timeliness of the letters is a concern.
- The State required the district to be clear that the students were reassigned and that the parent had to contact the School Choice Office in order to make another choice.
- Parents are also receiving letters for Oak Hill and Hyde Grove Elementary Schools this week because of feedback from the Department of Education (DOE) for the previously approved letter.
- Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, indicated since the Board provided guidance regarding Hyde Grove and Oak Hill Elementary Schools and conditions were mainly created by the DOE, some at the district level, he thought the Board would be comfortable with his decision.
- Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, stated under Board Policy 5.20 the authority can be delegated to the Superintendent to make such transfers mandated by state and federal law. Vice-Chairman Wright indicated that she disagrees since the

Superintendent executes once the Board approves, supports and collaborates.

- Attendance will be documented at the school the child attends on the first day.
- Board Member Couch stated the Board made decisions based on other changes not these. Since the Superintendent kept the Board in the dark on this type of issue, she is not willing to share in the responsibility. We are not informed.
- There will be additional staff at these schools on the first day to assist parents.
- This is a problem with planning, research and paying attention to details.
- The School Choice Office will have extended hours on Saturday.
- If R. L. Brown Elementary did not reach a "C" in 2016-2017 the State would allow the school to get a new school number and start fresh.
- S. P. Livingston Elementary's best option was the conversion since they would be a K-2 and would not generate a grade.
- The Turnaround Plans are not required to be approved by the Board.
- The letter contains no information concerning transportation or the school address.
- The Superintendent stated students who are not enrolled by the tenth day of school will be purged from the system.
- In most cases, the bus driver does not analyze who is getting on the bus in the mornings. For elementary students we do know who is getting on the bus in morning the but in the afternoon the bus driver does not know who should be riding a particular bus.
- The Superintendent was asked at the previous workshop to provide updates to the Board concerning the Turnaround Plan as they arise, this did not happen. He stated the Turnaround Plan list was received from the State around August 3, 2016.
- Vice-Chairman Wright requested a copy of the Turnaround Plan list that was forwarded to the Superintendent. She is very interested in seeing when the Superintendent and his staff received this letter. This information should have been shared with the Board at that time. The Superintendent stated on August 3, 2016, it was still unclear because of the status of the R. L. Brown Elementary school number. The alternative to not sending the letter out was to be out of compliance. He stated he was going on former guidance from the Board concerning similar schools and impact.
- Vice-Chairman Wright requested a list of all the parents address and phone numbers who received a letter before she left today. The Superintendent will provide the information.
- Chairman Smith Juarez requested the Superintendent keep the Board highly informed on any updates or consistent issues that come in between now and Monday in these schools. We need to do everything possible to make these children feel comfortable.
- The School Choice staff can be paid overtime if they are hourly employees.

Speakers

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Chairman
Ms. Paula Wright, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member
Dr. Constance Hall, Board Member
Mr. Scott Shine, Board Member
Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board
move to waive the 10 minute
rule regarding the amount of time for - PASS
each Board Member to speak at a
meeting.

Vote Results

Motion: Rebecca Couch

Second: Connie Hall

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Scott Shine - Nay

Paula Wright - Aye

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

CSM

Superintendent

Chairman