



Duval County Public Schools

August 15, 2013, Board Workshop

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Chairman
Ms. Becki Couch, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Jacon Fischer
Ms. Cheryl Grymes
Dr. Constance S. Hall
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez
Mr. Ms. Paula D. Wright
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS WORKSHOP OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present, with the exception of Dr. Constance S. Hall and Ms. Paula D. Wright. Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, and Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, were also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the Board Workshop to order at 9:07 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[1. GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

The following items were discussed:

- Chairman Lee thanked staff for their assistance at a community meeting held at Fletcher High School last evening regarding the accelerated programs. There were about 250 people in attendance, and he felt that the meeting was helpful and cleared up a lot of misunderstandings.
- An Expulsion Hearing was set for August 27, 2013, at 12:30 p.m.
- A Workshop on Way of Work, and a Board Audit Committee Meeting will be held on the backup Workshop date of September 24, 2013.
- A Workshop was scheduled for September 16, 2013, at 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm to address the topics of the Parent Academy and ESE concerns.
- Board Member Grymes referred to an e-mail exchange regarding the Board Auditor position and her concerns on how the Board uses the position. Chairman Lee indicated that he and Vice-Chairman Couch had discussed and this topic would come back to the Board for resolution. He acknowledged that the majority of their time has been devoted to the Superintendent, and that they needed to spend more time with the Board Auditor. Vice-Chairman Couch reminded the Board that the Auditor was the Board's 2nd employee, and that while we have an evaluation instrument for the Superintendent with expectations, we have not done this for the Board Auditor position. Both employees should be afforded the same courtesy.
- Board Member Grymes asked about protocol for Board members visiting schools the first two weeks of the school year. Board members shared that they often visited their schools and that principals also invited them to stop by for various back to school functions. Board Member Fischer asked when we could finalize discussions on the Strategic Plan targets. The Chairman indicated this would occur at our August 29, 2013, Board Workshop, along with finalizing the Superintendent's evaluation instrument.
- Board Member Fischer reiterated his desire to look at a multi-year budget process so that we would have consistent numbers for the future.
- Board Member Fischer shared that he would like to conduct town hall meetings in his area. He would also like to see the Board have a newsletter and a better web page.
- Chairman Lee shared that Bonnie is working on a SharePoint page for the Board.
- Vice-Chairman Couch shared information from the most recent NEFLSBC meeting. Common Core was a topic of discussion and St. Johns County Superintendent Joe Joyner addressed their group on this topic. He participated in a phone conference with the STate and shared information from that call. There is confusion on what test will be used - ACT, PARK, or Fair Evan Balanced. He encouraged Board members to be as informed as possible in order to address questions from their constituents. St. Johns County has developed a short - 5 minute - video on Common Core that will be shown at Open Houses this year.
- Superintendent Vitti shared his concerns on implementation of Common Core and the testing method to be used. He will pull some information together for the Boards use. Vice-Chairman Couch suggested that we add information to the website on this topic.
- Board Member Grymes asked about meeting with the Duval Delegation this Fall. The Superintendent shared that he was originally going to have a staff person cover the Legislative session on behalf of the system, however, he had decided it would be more effective to contract out with someone who has ties to the Legislature and would be able to open doors and set meetings. He should have

this person under contract in the next few days.

- Vice-Chairman Couch shared that the FSBA Legislative agenda deadline is coming up soon. Any input from Duval should be shared with her as soon as possible. She is the Chair of the FSBA Legislative Committee this year and they meet to finalize their platform in October.
- Board Member Juarez indicated that she would like to do school visits with other Board members in the Fall. She has asked that Bonnie coordinate these visits.
- Board Member Juarez asked about school utilization rates for outside groups. She would like for the Board to discuss at a future Workshop.
- Chairman Lee provided an update from the last Jacksonville Journey meeting. The Mayor had proposed cuts across the board of 14% for all programs funded by the Journey. The original funding of \$30 million has gone down to \$8 million for the coming year. After discussion, all of the child-centric items were moved to the top of the list. The DART program was completely eliminated because the City already has an organization to address this issue (tearing down old drug homes). After all of the changes, the percentage was reduced to 8%. He expressed thanks to Superintendent Vitti and former Board Member W. C. Gentry, for testifying before the Journey on behalf of our programs.
- Chairman Lee shared that he had been contacted by Jim Milligan, Chairman of the Schultz Board, and that due to various issues, it would be about 2 months before our Board and theirs could meet.
- Chairman Lee asked that Superintendent Vitti have staff collaborate with the Navy education liaisons. Various Board members have been approached recently about grant money that is available. The Superintendent will have Doug Ayars follow up on this item.
- Superintendent Vitti shared that people were saying he discouraged schools from planning field trips for students. He indicated this was not true and that he would be sending an e-mail to Principals encouraging appropriate field trips for students.
- Superintendent Vitti shared an update on Flawless Opening. He said that we are pretty much where we were at this point last year, and that textbooks and supplies should be arriving at schools by next week.
- Chairman Lee asked about Charter School enrollment numbers. The Superintendent said that we were recapturing some students, but that it is too early to tell numbers.

Speakers:

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Chairman
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Member
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Vice-Chairman
Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

[2. SEPTEMBER 3, 2013, DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed the September 3, 2013, Draft Agenda with the Board. Discussion included the following:

- Academics Item 1 - MOSH - Superintendent will provide Board with list of those contracts under \$100,000; Vice-Chairman Couch asked that the Financial Impact section of the agenda item be revised to include all additional costs - for example, transportation.
- Academics Item 4 - Diplomas Now - Board member Fischer asked that recommendation 2 be revised to say "non-substantive changes" for authorization. Non-substantial would not include years, or substantial amounts of money, etc.
- Academics Item 5 - City Year - Board member Fischer asked that the "non-substantive changes" language apply to this item also, as well as to any agenda item regarding a contract which comes to the Board for vote.
- Academics Item 6 - This item will be removed from the agenda for September.
- Academics Item 7 Title I - Vice-Chairman Couch asked about students who attend private schools but come back to our school system for speech therapy. The Superintendent will look into this and provide the Board with information.
- Academics Item 8 - Medicaid - Superintendent Vitti indicated that he was revising the agenda item based on recommendations from Vice-Chairman Couch.
- Operations Item 10 - Head Start - This item will be removed from the agenda for September

Speakers:

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Chairman
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Member
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Vice-Chairman
Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Board Workshop at 11:18 a.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman