



E-AGENDA MANAGER

Duval County Public Schools

August 18, 2015 - Board Workshop and Committee Meeting

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

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present with the exception of Vice-Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez and Board Member Becki Couch. 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 meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

Public Comment

Items To Be Discussed

[SEPTEMBER 1, 2015- DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed the September 1, 2015, Draft Agenda with the Board. Discussion included the following:

- Approval of Turnaround Leaders Program Grant- This grant will allow current leaders to attend the Harvard Institute of Urban School Leaders and future leaders will participate. The grant is for \$500,000 per year, for a total of \$1.5 million over the next three years.
- Duval County Public Schools Annual Literacy Plan - Board Members did not feel the plan indicated a clear path for students and more detail is needed. The Superintendent will create a summary after each plan.
- Duval County Public Schools Annual Exceptional Student Education Plan- Board Member Hall stated that under the section Parent Services Threats we have no control; therefore, it does not belong in this section.
- Approval of The First Amendment To The Agreement Between Duval County Public Schools And Curriculum Associates- This is an amendment to the Curriculum Associates contract which is iREADY. This will allow us to free-up dollars to give more support to iREADY. Funding of \$300,000 for professional development mainly in middle schools. Sessions will be at the school site.
- Department Of Defense Anchor Project Grant Award- Board Member Fischer will meet with the Superintendent concerning this item.
- Charter Application For Renaissance Charter School, Inc. to open Renaissance Charter School At Coastal Duval- Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, indicated the recommendation is not ready because the evaluation is still being conducted. The applicant submitted their application early which triggered the 60 day review period earlier than the others and they did not sign a waiver. The entire evaluation instrument will be attached to back-up the recommendation.
- Minimum Qualifications - Supervisor, Fleet Services- This position is new and replaced a traditional Civil Service position.
- Re-Approval Of Supervisor, Social Work- The position is being brought back because it has been vacant for a year. This position will allow for stronger monitoring of social work.
- QZAB II- Group 4-A High Density Wireless At Atlantic Beach Elementary School No. 65/DCSB Project No. QZAB-E99960-3065: Construction Contract Award- The assets under the grant will be covered for life as opposed to the life of the asset.

Board Member Jason Fischer left the meeting at 9:41 a.m. and returned at 9:47 a.m.

- Surplus Property Retirement Report- This item authorizes removal of items from the District's Property Records and disposal of the property.

Board Member Wright asked a general question concerning the make-up of the Leadership Team is and their role. The Superintendent said the Leadership Team is made up of Principals, Assistant Principal and Coaches. It varies by school. Most of the work is done through the School Advisory Council (SAC) or the Leadership Teams. They look at the school Improvement Plan, review data and create school-wide activities for literacy. We need to revisit this. He will follow up on this.

UPDATE ON ACE PROCESS FOR RECOMMENDED BOUNDARY AND PROGRAMMATIC CHANGES

Minutes:

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent reviewed the PowerPoint on the Boundary Change proposal with the Board. Discussion included the following:

Dr. Vitti met individually with Board Members about the proposed changes. The Board Members stated that they were comfortable with engaging the community but wanted to know what it would look like. Dr. Vitti explained that the District would engage the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and create working groups by late August. The working groups would represent each school that would be affected by the boundary changes. All groups will then meet together to review maps and data. The groups are required to be made up of parents, students, school staff, supporting organizations, local community members, business owners and civil organizations. Each school would have no more than four members for the working group. The recommendation from the working groups will come back to the Board no later than November to take action by December. We would have a workshop around November to discuss information from the working group.

Board Members were concerned with the small number of people in the working group. Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, indicated that we can change the number of working group members to eight.

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, indicated that he is following the policy concerning the community engagement process.

Board Member Hall said more information needs to be provided to the Board before we are ready to move ahead. The Board will have a workshop on September 8, 2015, concerning the proposed boundary changes.

RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS FOR UNIFORMS IN 2016-17

Minutes:

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, provided the Board a one-pager on Survey Data Analysis for School Uniforms. Discussion included the following:

- Engage School Advisory Council (SAC) and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) by explaining the change.
- Online survey for parents.
- Web-Based apps for parents for the survey.
- Meet with Board in November or December with the feedback and make a recommendation by January.
- The survey information provided shows the schools with uniforms felt significantly safer than those without uniforms.

Board Member Hall asked if we could look at pros and cons for the uniforms. Engaging the retail stores are also important. The Superintendent said he has not engaged the retail stores yet but there are some companies that have shown interest in helping students with lower social economic status. He would like to have each school choose the colors but stay with the general policy.

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, will move ahead to engage the community concerning uniforms.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Minutes:

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, reviewed Policy 4.90 concerning Graduation Requirements-The Certificate of Completion. Discussion included the following:

Currently students receiving a Certificate of Completion are non-graduates for the purposes of the graduation rate but participate in graduation ceremonies. Dr. Vitti's recommendation would change their ability to participate in graduation ceremonies. Only students who receive a traditional high school diploma or students with an Individual Education Program (IEP) would walk at graduation ceremonies.

Students who receive a Certificate of Completion are not eligible to receive financial aid or enlist in the military. They can enroll in a community college but are required to complete all the classes that were not completed at the end of high school year in order to receive a standard diploma.

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, surveyed principals and students concerning students who received a Certificate of Completion They felt it gave students a false sense of accomplishment. The belief is if they are not able to participate in the graduation ceremonies it will motivate them and make them more aware of the endurance of the Certificate of Completion opposed to a high school diploma. Over 90% of principals agreed. The systems are in place to support our students. He would like to engage the

senior class this year concerning this policy change if approved. Dr. Vitti would like to see more students graduate with a high school diploma.

Board Member Wright asked the Superintendent why this was not brought forward when the policy was changed in October.

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, felt we were not ready to make the changes at that time.

Board Members Shine and Fischer were in favor of the change.

Board Member Wright asked how the information is communicated with the student about the extra support that is offered.

The Superintendent stated that we talked to the students directly, he sends an e-mail to all principals with a list of students who would be affected for contact purposes and we send Duval Connect messages.

Board Member Wright attended a meeting of The Concerned Citizens where they pledged to assist in contacting hard to reach students. They developed a plan to help reach the students. She encouraged the Superintendent to contact this group.

GOVERNANCE

Minutes:

Michelle Begley, Board Internal Auditor, provided information to the Board on the Board Office Duties and Responsibilities for informational purposes. The updated duties for each Administrative Assistants has not been assigned at this time.

Board Member Hall asked that the Administrative Assistants cross train.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

CSM

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman