



## Duval County Public Schools

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August 27, 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. 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 8:45 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

### [1. GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

The following items were discussed during Governance:

- Ethics Training - Chairman Lee shared the options, which include the training

being offered by FSBA as part of the fall conference in November; on-site training; off-site sessions being offered by FSBA; and, having staff conduct the training. He asked that Bonnie Susan Cole and Karen Chastain to research all options and bring this topic back to the Board for consideration.

- The Chairman reminded everyone that he would be out of town for the September 3, 2013, Board Meeting. Vice-Chairman Couch will chair the meeting.
- Chairman Lee reminded the Board that our Audit Committee meeting would be September 24, 2013.
- The Chairman shared that City Councilman Richard Clark would like to work with the school system on the Joint Use agreements we have with the City. He is spearheading this project for the City Council and will try and provide money to upgrade parks and facilities we have Joint Use agreements for. If Board Members are interested, please let Board Member Wright know, as she is the liaison with the Council. She recently made a presentation to the City Council on this matter with staff members Tyler Loehnert and Andy Eckert from Operations. Board Member Hall asked that principals be reminded of how the Joint Use agreements work, especially with so many new principals. Vice-Chairman Couch said that Whitehouse does not have a joint use for the playground they use, which is a City park across the street. She shared that Ruth Upson was another school that did not have a playground and used a park for the students. The Superintendent will ask staff to review and provide an updated list.
- Vice-Chairman Couch attended the DAC meeting yesterday evening and shared that Paul Soares did a great job talking about transportation. The group also asked about class size for electives. Other questions centered around Pre-K teachers having planning time. Parents from Mayport Middle School asked about Social Studies books and when they would be received. One parent also talked about overcrowding in classes, especially the elective classes. Chairman Lee shared that he was hearing this more this year also. Board Member Wright asked what the plan was to relieve overcrowding. The Superintendent said at middle school they were expanding music and art, and at high schools they were expanding technology. It varies depending on the school.
- Vice-Chairman Couch asked about enrollment. Chairman Lee asked if the numbers included VPK. Dr. Vitti indicated that did not, with the exception of one school. Board Member Juarez asked about her questions on enrollment. The Superintendent said it would be hard to determine until we know more about the Charter schools and where their enrollment is coming from. Board Member Wright asked about the satellite schools being used for the Bridge programs. She asked what we are doing to market those schools and bring students back.
- Board Member Juarez provided an update from the School Health Advisory Council meeting. They revised their bylaws over the summer and will be creating an annual plan. The focus for the coming year will be on school nurses. They will look at external and internal capacity to expand the program.
- Board Member Hall asked if we followed up on "no show" students to find out what happened to them.
- Board Member Hall spoke about students fees. Some schools are charging fees for a lot of different things and some parents cannot afford them. We need to look at this, especially in the area of graduation. Chairman Lee said he would add this to a future workshop.
- Board Member requests were discussed. All agreed that responses should be sent

to all Board members.

- The Chairman will work with Bonnie to develop a protocol manual.
- Board Member Fischer asked about the situation with the books at Douglas Anderson. The Superintendent will check and get back with him.
- Board Member Fischer asked about a required reading book that were explicit. Superintendent Vitti has asked staff to review the concerns.
- Board Member Wright expressed her appreciation to the Superintendent for attending a community meeting with the Concerned Citizens in Support of Education. She is also touring schools with the Superintendent that house the Bridge programs and this group. Most are former educators and ministers.
- Board Member Wright asked that we schedule a joint meeting with the Schultz Board.
- Board Members asked about the recent orders involving two employees and when they would receive for action. Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, explained the process.
- Board Member Fischer shared that he read an article about Councilman Gulliford forming a task force to review the Charter. He reminded the Board that this group looked at an appointed School Board and we might want representation on the Committee. The consensus of the Board was to let the Councilman know we would like to be involved.

#### Speakers:

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Chairman  
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Vice-Chairman  
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent  
Dr. Constance S. Hall, Board Member  
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member  
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member  
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Member  
Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member  
Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief, Legal Services

## 2. BOARD DEVELOPMENT

#### Minutes:

Board Member Hall has been working on a Professional Development plan for the Board and Superintendent team. While Board members do participate in individual training at conferences, there is a need for training as a team. Dr. Hall has contacted FSBA, and CRSS and provided the Board with a packet of information for review.

After discussion, it was agreed that we would pursue the training with CRSS (Center for Reform of School Systems). Past Boards have participated in this training and found it to be most helpful. They are a nationally recognized group and are highly recommended.

Dr. Hall will contact CRSS and make arrangements.

Board Member Wright received an e-mail from Mr. Allen Moore sharing that there would be a meeting of the Safety and Discipline Task Force on August 29, 2013, at 6:00 pm at North Shore Elementary School. The topic of Civil Citations will be discussed.

Speakers:

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Ms. Becki Couch, Board Vice-Chairman  
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Dr. Constance S. Hall, Board Member  
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member  
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member  
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Member  
Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member

3. BUDGET

Minutes:

The Superintendent shared information with the Board on some unexpected expenditures. A copy is attached to the Minutes.

Board Member Grymes asked how we can make sure this does not happen again next year. Superintendent Vitti indicated that he was making sure it was clear and would not happen again. Board Member Grymes asked if we were expecting anything else, and the Superintendent said no. Board Member Hall asked if they were errors or oversights. The Superintendent shared that it was a combination of reconciliations and information that did not bubble up in the budget. He also said that this would happen in the past and that the Budget office staff would just charge the fund balance and not bring to the Board.

Board Member Juarez asked that information be sent to the Board on how the Perkins and IDEA funds would be redirected.

Board Member Wright asked that the Superintendent share the Curriculum Guides with the Board.

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Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member  
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Member  
Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Board Workshop at 11:57 a.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

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Superintendent

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Chairman