



E-AGENDA MANAGER

# Duval County Public Schools

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February 13, 2015, Committee Meeting- Draft Agenda

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. Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, and 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 9:08 a.m.

Board

[Items to Be Discussed](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed the March 3, 2015, Draft Agenda with the Board. Discussion included the following:

- NETWORK MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT RENEWAL
  - Renewal of networking. No increase in cost
- INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANT - THE NEW TEACHER PROJECT
  - Grant from the Department of Education.
  - Contract to approve the grant in partnership with The New Teacher Project.
  - It mainly targets training for principals, assistant principals and regional superintendents.
  - Builds the capacity of our leaders regarding the new standards.
  - The training involves reviewing videos, studying documents on the subject and instructional walk through.
  - The financial impact is included in the item. The training is focused on the actual standards.
- SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES
  - Self-assessment is done each year and is submitted to the Board for approval.
  - Two areas need improvement, systems and capacity.
  - This item provides training for our leaders to understanding emergency management which is code red.

Board Member Becki Couch asked about training for administrators on gang activity. Superintendent Vitti said he would like to have a person to oversee this. They would work to train principals and administrators that deal with gangs. Board Member Couch said teachers also need to know the signs of gang activity. Superintendent Vitti said we can look at it for next year.

Board Member Couch discussed her concerns with Exceptional Education students. How do we ensure that a student who has multiple exceptionalities is receiving services. Dr. Vitti said we can look at this further. Board Member Couch asked how many Automated External Defibrillator's (AED) we have in schools. Paul Soares, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, said we have at least three at the high schools. Middle schools have at least one and only a few at elementary schools. Wendy Lehouckey, Chief of Staff, indicated the cost to have AED at every elementary school would cost \$150,000 up front and just under \$10,000 in maintenance.

- LEARNING FOR LIFE GRANT
  - The Board approved this in November but there was a delay in formalizing the contract.
  - No changes to what was presented in November.
  - In some schools there is an overlap in the program.
  - Most programs are purchased at the school level.

Board Member Jason Fischer inquired as to how many other character education grants we have like this. When was the last time we looked at the effectiveness of the programs? Superintendent Vitti said we have many but none like this one. All programs are not evaluated since there

are so many.

- FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE RIVER CITY SCIENCE ACADEMY - INNOVATION SCHOOL CONTRACT
  - This is an amendment to change the location of the school for the 2015-2016 school year. This school is focused on blended learning, professional development and teacher recruitment

Board Member Couch requested the free and reduced lunch rate for River City Science Academy. It was not available.

- APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO THE 2014-2015 DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL EVALUATION SYSTEM
  - Has been approved by the Department of Education.

Board Member Couch asked about the item bank the state developed for assessments. Superintendent Vitti said it does not cover the span of all the subject areas and grade levels.

- ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS JANUARY 29, 2015

Board Member Couch is concerned by the decrease in FTE by \$23.5 million. Superintendent Vitti replied it is the value of the student and how they are identified. We will break this down further in the budget meeting.

- APPROVAL OF ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF DATA
  - This is the annual FISH report, not including Prekindergarten.
  - The district is trying to identify the schools that are under-utilized.

Board Member Couch said she would like to have the utilization include Prekindergarten. Superintendent Vitti will make the information available. Board Member Couch inquired about a future K-8 in the Atlantic Coast High School area. What impact will this have on the FISH report? Paul Soares, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, said this project was already planned but it does not have to go on this site. We will keep it in the plan. Department of Education looks at our utilization. We have 20,000 excess seats and they will not approve additional facilities until we reduce excess seats. Superintendent Vitti feels there is a way to engage the Department of Education.

- PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: ADDITION OF POLICY 2.34 - DISTRICT STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
  - Development of our Student Government Association.
  - Focus on student leaders.
  - Provide student government training and what their role will be.
  - Every school has a functioning student government.
  - One student will come to every Board meeting to give us an update on what is working and what is not.
- CAPITAL PLAN PRESENTATION

- This is linked to the internal review findings of the capital budget and discovery of \$18 million dollars over the past three years.
- The attached presentation of the Capital Plan has been updated.

Board Member Paula Wright arrived at 10:30 a.m.

- SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT - Board Chairman Cheryl Grymes discussed the agenda item.
  - The recommendation of the Chairman is to extend the Superintendent's contract through June 30, 2019 and delete the moving expenses.
  - Include professional development within 30 days.

Comments included the following:

- Chairman Grymes stated she has the right to add an agenda item without Board approval.
- Board Members Constance Hall, Paula Wright and Becki Couch asked the Chair to delay this item until after the Student Achievement Data has been reviewed.
- Chairman Grymes stated she is not willing to postpone. Dr. Vitti sent an e-mail to all Board members explaining his concerns. The Superintendent needs to know we want to keep him.
- Board Member Hall voiced her concern that the item has come to the Board without information on the Student Achievement Data. She does not want anyone to think student achievement is not important.
- Chairman Grymes explained the Student Achievement Data will be sent to the Board today and will be discussed at the February 24, 2015 meeting.
- Superintendent Nikolai Vitti said the data will be sent to each Board member by school board district. We are showing growth but we are behind by grade level expectations.
- Board Member Jason Fischer expressed his interest in renewing the Superintendent's contract tied to the student data. Stability is important. We need to give our community and our employees some confidence in the future. We know who our leader is going to be and we can all work together. Lets renew now.
- Board Member Scott Shine said he spoke with former Board member Fred "Fel" Lee and he is in favor of the Superintendent. I will support the renewal. My concern is I do not want to see the Board divided.
- Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, explained the contract says the renewal should be done before December 19, 2015. After this day, it is day by day .
- Dr. Vitti said he has received calls from other districts but has not returned them because he wants to stay in Duval County. If the Board is not interested in renewing his contract he will look at other opportunities. This is an opportunity for the Board to send a message to him. Let focus on the work now. He does not believe the student data will make a difference.

- Board Member Couch said this is not personal. It is about student growth. This is a transition year. We hired the Superintendent but we do have a responsibility. This is a partnership. She will send the Superintendent a request for data she would like to see.
- Board Member Paula Wright's concern is commitment. She wants to know the Superintendent is committed. She does not want language in the agenda item that talks about what other districts are doing.

Adjournment

[Adjournment](#)

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

CSM

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Superintendent

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Chairman