



Duval County Public Schools

February 18, 2013, Committee Meeting

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 COMMITTEE MEETING 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 Committee Meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[1. GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

The following items were discussed:

- Chairman Lee indicated that the past couple of years the Board has held a joint meeting with the Times-Union Editorial Board. He asked if the Board would like to pursue a meeting this year after the Strategic Plan rollout. Consensus was to go forward with this meeting.
- Chairman Lee shared that he is inviting Legislators and other elected officials, as well as Rotary members, church leaders, etc., to accompany him on his school visits. He is pleased with the response he has received and encourage other Board members to do the same. He has also invited members of the media to attend.
- Chairman Lee told the Board that JPEF had requested a joint meeting with the Board to be held at a school, similar to the one we had at LaVilla. Vice-Chairman Couch offered up Lee High School as a possibility. The construction is almost complete and it would be a good opportunity for everyone to visit the school. Board Member Hall expressed concerns with meeting with only certain boards, and that we were possibly putting ourselves in the posture of having to meet with other groups. She shared that they are always welcome to attend our meetings. The Chairman indicated that she had made a good point.
- The Chairman asked the Superintendent to briefly address the SIG (School Improvement Grants) issue.
 - Dr. Vitti shared information on how they impact our organization. We are not sure what the future of these grants will be for the coming year, and Dr. Vitti pointed out that all grants are subject to non-renewal. He indicated that staff could look at other funding sources, as well as go out to the public for donations.
 - Board Member Hall asked that the Board be provided with a list of grants, along with their effective dates. She also asked for a similar list of articulation agreements. Board Member Fischer shared that he had made a Board Member Request that would include most of this information.
 - Board Member Hall indicated that it was difficult to know who was asking for what now, and the process needs to be streamlined.
 - Board Member Juarez asked if there was any data on who is being attracted by the funds. The Superintendent will share any data he has on this topic, however, he has found that it does not necessarily recruit teachers to those schools.
 - Board Member Hall requested information on the makeup of teachers in years of experience, along with how they came to the schools.
 - Board Member Wright requested information on how many teachers have received their Masters through the Lastinger program.
 - The Superintendent will keep the Board in the loop as this develops.
- Vice-Chairman Couch asked that Board members be allotted time at meetings to report out on meetings and conferences they attend.
- Board Member Hall asked how we can get an update on FCAT readiness. The Superintendent shared that staff was working on a report in response to BMR's from Vice-Chairman Couch and Board Member Wright. He should have the information to the Board by the end of the month.
- Board Member Wright shared that she had requested a report back in November 2012 on the schools and Educational Directions. She has not received a response to date. The Superintendent indicated that he was not clear on the schools involved and had sent an e-mail to the Board, and he had not heard back from

her. Ms. Wright said that she would take ownership of that, however, she had made clear in their first meeting that she did not want to see the schools that earned improved grades fall backwards. The report would be for the SIG schools.

- Board Member Wright shared that she had made contact with members of the City Council and others to visit her schools also. She has spoken to Mr. Fred Heid, Chief Academic Officer, regarding their desire to teach a Civics class. He is working on a list of schools and will share with the Board when the schools, dates, and times, are scheduled.
- Board Member Wright complimented staff on the meetings they have conducted for minority participation in terms of contracts with the school system. They are being held at the Wells Fargo Community Center, and have been very successful.

Speakers:

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

[2. MARCH 5, 2013, DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed the March 5, 2013, Draft Agenda with the Board. Discussion included the following:

- Academics Item 1 - Test Item Banks - they are field tested; aligned with Common Core; one year test items and they are secured; they are computer based; funding is being repurposed for this purchase from funds that were allocated but not spent
- HRS Item 2 - Transactions - Board Member Juarez requested an assessment of trends over time - resignations, transfers, promotions, school site and school level, reasons if provided - provide quarterly update to Board with this information; Vice-Chairman Couch asked who provides a recommendation when an employee leaves. She indicated that staff has shared that when they leave the system or are not renewed and no negative evaluations are given, they find their former Principal will not give them a letter of recommendation to another system. Ms. Sonita Young, Chief Human Resource Services Officer, indicated that a generic letter would be developed that they would be able to obtain that said they did work for us and give the.
- Operations Item 5 - Pre-Qualifications - Vice-Chairman Couch will have to abstain from this month's item.

- Operations Item 10 - FISH Report - the Superintendent shared that he had provided the Board with a breakdown this past Friday/
- Operations Item 12 - Landscaping - Board Member Wright will place on Discussion to highlight our efforts to include minority and local businesses.

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Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Member
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
Dr. Constance S. Hall, Board Member
Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member
Ms. Sonita Young, Chief Human Resource Services Officer
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Vice-Chairman
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Committee Meeting at 2:28 p.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman