



E-AGENDA MANAGER

## Duval County Public Schools

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February 21, 2017, Board Workshop and Committee Meeting

Ms. Paula D. Wright, Chairman  
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Vice-Chairman  
Ms. Becki Couch  
Ms. Cheryl Grymes  
Ms. Lori Hershey  
Mr. Warren A. Jones  
Mr. Scott Shine  
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present. Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, and Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Officer of Legal Services, were also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[DRAFT AGENDA - MARCH 7, 2017](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed the March 7, 2017, Draft Agenda with the Board. Discussion included the following:

## Amendment to the Agreement between Duval County Public Schools and PITSCO Education

- The addition of the labs has been effective in increasing enrollment inside and outside the boundaries.
- Based on the data, the labs are having a positive school-wide impact on science mid-year data.
- There is not a direct alignment at the high school level.
- There is not a science assessment for Merrill Road Elementary K-2. The testing was eliminated to reduce testing. There is a reading and math assessment.
- Rufus Payne Elementary is the only school showing a mid-year decline. The Superintendent will give a follow-up response to the Board regarding the decline.

### Interactive Display Settings

- Once this agenda item is approved there will be 3 potential 2-year renewals, for a total of 6 additional years.
- The interactive displays are not placed in all schools. They are in the core of middle, high and elementary schools that were in the QEA initiative. They would be in other schools if the school used its own budget, the PTA raised the funds or SAC provided the funds. The Superintendent stated the greatest challenge is non-Title I elementary schools. The District has been piggybacking off of other contracts throughout the State. With this contract it will allow the District to singly purchase the displays.
- The Superintendent is unsure if there will be an Invitation To Bid with other contracts but there has been internal conversations.
- GIZMO's are no longer being used. The District has moved to a different platform for virtual labs.
- The District will own the displays. Jim Culbert, Executive Director of Information Technology, stated the life of the equipment will be 20 years according to the manufacturer.

### Approval of the District 2016-2019 English Language Learners (ELL) Plan

- Board Member Hershey expressed concerns about the language in the Previous Outcomes section of the agenda item.
- The Superintendent stated there are nine accountability areas that showed improvements and the language in the description can be changed.
- The plan is a compliance document to receive Title III funding.
- The Superintendent will provide more information with the Board on the status of the ELL students.
- The ELL plan will be added as a topic for the next Board Workshop.

### First Amendment to the Florida High School for Accelerated Learning-Jacksonville Campus, Inc., D/B/A Lone Star High School Contract

Third Amendment to the Florida High School for Accelerated Learning - Greater Jacksonville Campus, Inc., D/B/A Biscayne High School Contract

Application for Renewal of Charter School Contract (Charter) - Duval Mycroschool of Integrated Academics and Technologies, Inc. (Mycroschool Jacksonville)

- The Board Members wanted clarification on going from a private to a public Charter School.
- Pearl Roziers, Executive Director of School Choice and Pupil Assignment Operations, stated that Biscayne and Lone Star were part of the Accelerated Learning Solutions management company but is now in partnership with New Education for the Workplace (NewCorp) management company.
- The amendment would allow the employees to have benefits and take part in the Florida Retirement System. This can not be done as a private entity but can be done as a public entity.
- Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, stated there will be a document change in the contract based out of statute, amending the status from a private employer to a public employer.
- Board Member Jones asked for an explanation regarding the low graduation rate. The Superintendent stated the schools receive students who are behind in credit and out of their age cohort. If students are two years behind they can attend the Bridge to Success program within the District. Once students are beyond two years or out of their age cohort the District relies on the Charter School partners and Catapult.
- Catapult is a Contract School and not a Charter School.
- The graduation rates from the schools are included in the District's graduation rate.
- Board Member Shine would like a brief statement of program added to the agenda item under description.
- Chairman Wright referred to an email she sent to the Superintendent regarding agenda item numbers 4, 5 and 7. The number of students who were eligible for graduation were not listed. The Superintendent stated Lone Star Charter School had 128, Mycro had 121 and Biscayne had 103 students who were eligible. He will forward the information to the Board.
- The Superintendent would recommend termination of the contract with the Accelerated Learning schools if they were not willing to make changes and do things differently. He does believe there is an opportunity for refinement.
- Chairman Wright expressed concern regarding the decrease in the graduation rate for Sal Tech from 29.17% to 6.25% and from 15.12% to 9.71% for Biscayne. The Superintendent stated unless there is repeated violation of the contract or extreme financial concerns, there is nothing to be done before the renewal of the contract. Ms. Chastain stated they have been put on notice.
- The Superintendent recommended Mycroschool for a 5 year renewal because they have been one of the stronger alternative programs and they have been stable financially. They have been implementing

their system to what has been requested by the District.

- Chairman Wright would like the Board/Superintendent Team to discuss and develop a criteria metric terms of contract length of 3 to 5 year. The Superintendent would not like to use a rubric system.

Board Member Grymes arrived at 1:49 p.m.

- The Superintendent will send a breakdown of the alternative schools including Bridge to Success and attach the financials to show the cost to graduate students at different percent levels.
- Board Member Couch requested a comparison of these schools to other large districts. The Superintendent will forward the information to the Board.
- The schools are given ratings and not school grades.
- Board Member Couch asked if there was language in State Statute regarding performance to allow termination of the contract. Ms. Chastain will research and follow-up with the Board.
- Board Member Couch would like some accountability included through the contract.
- Board Member Shine suggested this be a workshop topic and would like a rule created to include the language, "should or should not be" as opposed to "shall".
- Chairman Wright will add this to the workshop topics to include criteria for three-to-five-year contract renewals.

Application for Renewal of Charter School Contract (Charter) - KIPP Jacksonville, Inc. (KIPP Voice Elementary School)

- Board Member Grymes wanted clarification on the recommendation for a three-year renewal. The Superintendent stated the school is a D and they have had the students since kindergarten and the 3rd graders did not improve on learning gains.
- The only non-compliance issue letters they received was in reference to the Governing Board Chair to be fingerprinted. Those issues have been resolved.

Health Plan Services RFP No. 04-17/TW

- Board Member Shine had concerns with Borland Groover being removed from the network and it causing a big impact. He would like to know what influence the District has being self-funded over what and who is in the network. Sonita Young, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, stated there is a potential for significant input. The District relies on the support received from the consulting group, Robinson Bush, Inc., on advisement in the area of health benefits.
- The District has been self-insured for more than the last 10 years and we cover our own cost for medical and pharmacy expenses.
- The AETNA fully insured plan was the most expensive, coming in at a cost of \$12,000,000 more than the current plan.
- Voluntary services will continue to be covered under the voluntary

offerings with the current providers. They have never been covered under the comprehensive medical and pharmacy plan.

- The consultant stated Borland Groover is currently at an impasse and are not in the network.
- Chairman Wright wanted to clarify that this has no impact on the Board expressing the desires of employees. Ms. Chastain stated that if the ranking is approved, negotiations can take place with the highest ranking proposal. She will follow-up with the Board with more details.

#### Application for Renewal of Charter School Contract (Charter) - S.O.C.K Outstanding Students Academy, Inc. (S.O.S Academy)

- Board Member Couch had concerns about the renewal with the conversation that has taken place on agenda items 4, 5 and 7.
- The Superintendents is only recommending a one-year contract term due to the State having the potential to overturn if the contract is not granted. The Superintendent will support the Board if the recommendation is not granted but defending it to the Stated could be difficult.
- District coaches have been sent to the school for equivalent services.
- The Superintendent will follow-up with the school and send the Board their mid-year data.

#### Renovate and Remodel Existing Facilities into Auditorium at Ft. Caroline Middle School No. 238; Selection of Design Services Professional Consultant /DCB Project C-91620; OFDC-RFQ-001-17

- This agenda item is for design and not construction.
- There has been \$2,500,000 put in the long-range Capital Plan for this project. The Superintendent will follow-up and verify the amount.
- The magnet grants are still in process. Phase II is due the end of March, beginning of April. The grant is being developed and will include the schools that were directly linked to the boundary changes last year.

#### [PUBLIC COMMENT](#)

Minutes: There were no public comments at this meeting.

#### [QZAB III](#)

Attachment: [QZAB III.pdf](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent presented a PowerPoint presentation on Qualified Zone Academic Bonds (QZAB) III (see attached). Discussion included the following:

- QZAB II was focused on middle and high schools in the core and did not go into non-Title I schools.
- Title I dollars have been used for technology at the end of the fiscal year and District level.
- Interactive monitors were distributed to the Ribault, Raines and Jackson High School feeder patterns.
- In order to provide more technology access at non-Title I schools, the budget would have to be cut drastically.
- Providing the device lockers at the middle school level would give students the opportunity to check out a laptop at the beginning of the day and having it the entire school day.
- There is an allocation of roughly \$10,000,00 in Capital Refresh Funds in the existing budget, recurring dollars.
- The Superintendent will forward to the Board the Big 7 Debt Service Comparison slide staff has been preparing.
- Staff has looked at the option of leasing laptops versus purchasing.
- The life span of the laptop lockers and the interactive monitors is 20 years. The life span of the laptop is 5 years.
- Board Member Shine suggested in five years the laptop portion of the debt be paid off. This will allow the debt to match the longevity and the age of the devices versus how much is owed over a 15 year period.
- The laptops would cost \$39,000,000, device lockers at \$7,000,000 and the monitors would be \$9,000,000.
- Board Member Shine expressed concerns with the longevity of a device being 5 years and the debt on the device being 15 years.
- The Superintendent stated the Board will need to be comfortable with not having a short-or long-term solution with a non-Title I problem in the next two years. The gap and the need to refresh will widen with not having a concrete revenue source.
- Chairman Wright reminded the Board Members this is an idea and there is time. There are a lot of questions that will need to be answered and this is nothing that needs to be rushed. The only timeline related to this decision is other districts receiving portions of the QZAB dollars and the solution for non-Title I schools regarding interactive monitors and devices.
- The Superintendent will forward to the Board the cost for monitors and laptops for non Title 1 schools. The laptop sale generated \$50,000 and goes back into the IT budget.
- Michelle Begley, Board Internal Auditor, suggested staff contact bond rating agencies to get information regarding the impact increased debt on the District's rating.
- Board Member Couch asked how much the District received from the State for Blended Learning Categorical. The Superintendent stated roughly \$8,000,000 but would need to verify the amount and follow-up.
- The Superintendent stated if there is not revenue injection, the current ratio for devices will drop or increase.
- Board Member Shine stated we will need \$7,800,000 a year for laptops. If we continue to borrow 15-year money to purchase 5-year

- laptops we are constantly digging a hole.
- The Superintendent will run the numbers to look at the allocation, it will help the Board to see the picture. He stated the District can cut multiple \$500,000 contracts.
  - The Superintendent will forward the balance of QZAB I and II to the Board.
  - There is no cost for the accidental warranty coverage and an additional year of warranty was no cost and done in-kind through only bidding to Lenovo.
  - Board Member Shine suggested the funding for the laptops be a finance discussion. There needs to be plan and funding source for the technology need.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez arrived at 3:36 p.m.

- The consensus of the Board was to move forward with a finance discussion.
- The Superintendent stated if they had to choose between interactive monitors or laptop devices, it would be the laptop devices but depending on the circumstances it could be the interactive monitors.

### STRATEGIC ABANDONMENT

Minutes:

The Superintendent stated staff is working on the list of initiatives and a glossary will be included. Kelly Coker-Daniel, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Assessment, Liz Cutrona, Assistant Superintendent of Strategic Planning, and Dana Kriznar, Chief of Staff, will review the analysis created by staff and it should be completed by mid-March. The Superintendent will send the review prior to the briefing with the Board.

Chairman Wright informed the Board if they have additional items they would like added to the report to share them with the Superintendent.

### GOVERNANCE

Minutes:

#### BoardSync

Board Member Shine inquired about the new agenda system. Michelle Begley, Board Internal Auditor, stated staff has been transitioning and a trial run will be implemented for the March Regular Board Meeting.

#### Superintendent Evaluation

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez will take the lead on the revisions for the Superintendent's evaluation. She reminded the Board, the mid-year informal evaluation will consist of a conversation with the Superintendent. There will also be a small group of Board Members to do some preliminary work and will follow-up with all the Board Members.

#### Text Message

Board Member Couch wanted to clarify a text message that was part of a public records request. She stated the text was in jest, not intentional and wanted to make sure it was not taken out of context. Board Member Shine stated he saw the text as harmless banter.

#### Public Records Request

Board Member Grymes inquired about the status of the outstanding public records request. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, stated they are working on the request. Ms. Chastain will provide copies to Board Members upon request.

#### SAC Minutes

Board Member Couch will meet with the Superintendent to discuss the minutes regarding Normandy Village Elementary School.

#### HRO Letter of Support

Chairman Wright asked the Superintendent for data to support the statement he made that candidates declined offers because of a lack of an ordinance. The Superintendent stated he does not have data but has clear anecdotal examples of individuals he would not feel comfortable identifying. Chairman Wright asked the Superintendent that his personal opinion does not become the District's opinion.

#### Lobbyist

Chairman Wright stated the Board should be part of the interview process from the beginning. The Superintendent stated for the 2015 -2016 school year and moving into 2016-2017 the contract with Ballard would be continued. The Board recommended advertising, identifying and hiring someone full-time for the 2017-2018 school year and reevaluate the Ballard contract for 2017-2018 with a full-time person. The Superintendent stated the first posting did not produce any valuable candidates but the second post produced two candidates.

The Superintendent will forward to the Board the minimum qualifications for the position. The consensus of the Board is to have Board Member Couch narrow down the candidate process with the Human Resource Department and bring the recommendations to the Board for a final selection. The Superintendent will have staff readvertise the position. The finalist will be informed, the position will be reposted, and



they are encouraged to reapply and the process will include a Board Member. They will also be instructed not to call Board Members.

#### Traffic Patterns - Charter Schools

Board Member Jones shared information on the meeting with the Joint Planning Committee in regards to creating a criteria for Charter Schools and the traffic patterns. If a criteria is created, it would have to apply to the School Board. Legally we do not have to comply with any requirements of the county but because of State statute you can not put one requirement on the Charter Schools and not Public Schools. Ms. Chastain stated under Florida Statute, Chapter 1013, this would allow the District to lose our sovereignties and this is where the two issues collide. Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez suggested City Council assist and lobby with the District to put Charter Schools under State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF). Board Member Jones stated the working group is looking into that option.

#### Legal Plan

Board Member Shine recommended a resolution in support of the plan. Ms. Chastain stated the resolution will need to be added to the agenda for the March 7, 2017, Regular Board Meeting. Board Member Shine will work with Ms. Chastain to create a resolution.

#### Northeast Florida Coalition

Board Member Couch and Hershey attended the meeting and shared the discussion with the Board. A presenter spoke about (SREF) and most districts supporting it. There were discussions on the federal issues from members who visited Washington. Board Member Couch forwarded a link to the Board Members about the vouchers, included is information about the bill and within the bill is information regarding school lunch and encouraged them to speak with their Congress person. Chairman Wright met with Congressman Lawson and asked if they could arrange a meeting with Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos.

#### Ribault & Stanton

The Ribault High School Girls Varsity Basketball team is traveling to Lakeland to defend their State Title on Thursday, February 23, 2017.

The Stanton High School Girls Soccer team were in the State finals for Soccer.

#### Charter Schools

Board Member Couch asked the Superintendent to send a list of recently closed Charter Schools and the money they spent through a lease or capital funding they received. The monies are not recouped back to taxpayers. Someone from the Coalition will speak to lawmakers on the issue and why Districts should not share millage. The Superintendent

stated if they are going to give flexibility to increase the mill, to 1.75 or 2.00, they would include a provision for Charter Schools to receive the funding. The dollars can not be used for private gain.

The Superintendent stated there is support and a recommendation for splitting District and Charter grades. Senator Bean will be putting forth the language regarding the bill and the accompanying bill will be done by Representative Fischer. He asked the Board to monitor the bill, there maybe other things added to the bill.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

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Superintendent

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Chairman