



E-AGENDA MANAGER

Duval County Public Schools

January 10, 2017, Board Workshop

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 except Board Member Cheryl Grymes. 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 9:05 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

Agenda

Board Member Shine inquired as to the process for withdrawing an item agenda. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, indicated the time to withdraw an agenda item at the Regular Board Meeting from the

agenda is at the time the Board votes to approve the agenda.

Board Member Request

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez requested the following:

- Percentage of students graduating in each diploma program.
- Number of students that are graduating in each diploma program.
- Number of students who are graduating with a certificate of completion.
- Number of students who did not graduate with their cohort.
- Number of students who are using a waiver, broken down by subgroup.
- What is the evaluation process for using the waiver and the engagement of the parent and students?

Board Member Jones arrived at 9:12 a.m.

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, stated the District is obligated to test students at least once based on the Individual Education Plan. If the student does not pass the Florida Standards Assessment or End of Course Exams and they meet the credits set by the State, then they can qualify for a waiver. Also, the student can take the test as many times as they would like. Staff does not encourage the student either way concerning retaking the tests.

Tracking Students

Board Member Couch requested the number of students graduating based off of the ACT, SAT scores.

School Visit Process

Chairman Wright stated when Board Members are visiting schools in another Board Member's district, they will be notified. In the interest of time, it will not be possible to, coordinate additional date/time options. The desire is to learn more about as many schools as possible.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez and Board Member Hershey indicated they were able to speak with the students and demonstrate that we care when visiting the Pride Programs. Students stated they would like to have art as an elective at these schools.

Legal Plan

Chairman Wright will be meeting with Jason Gabriel, General Counsel, today. Jason Gabriel has continued to cancel meetings with the Board and there is a great need to move forward with the Legal Plan.

Board Member Couch stated we need to communicate with City Council regarding this issue. We have specialized needs and do not receive respect as a Board. This information is also needed to plan the budget.

Department Reports

Chairman Wright requested the Superintendent provide a list of

department reports to go to the Board. If the Board will let the Superintendent know in advance, he will contact staff.

Florida School Board Association School Finance Forum

Chairman Wright stated the Finance forum is on February 8, 2017, and a Personnel and Bargaining Issues forum is on February 9, 2017, at Howey-in-the-Hills, FL. We need to know who is going. She recommended everyone attend the Finance and Budgeting process which will help the Board with the budget process. Chairman Wright and Board Members Jones and Hershey have agreed to attend. Michelle Begley, Board Internal Auditor, will also be attending.

Master Board Training Dates

Training will be available on April 6 and 7, 2017, and June 29 and 30, 2017. The Chairman recommended everyone attend the April 6,7, 2017, training.

Project Break Through

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez sent information to the Board concerning OneJax. They are ready to move forward with the needs of the School Board. They will help us better understand the diverse experiences and prospective that each of us bring to the table and throughout our District.

Superintendent's Weekly Focus

The Superintendent asked for feedback on his weekly focus briefing by Monday, January 16, 2017. He has been sending this information to the Board each week but has not received feedback.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez wants to understand what the Superintendent's priorities and focus are on a weekly basis. Also, what progress he feels he is making that will contribute to goals the Board has set and what takes the bulk of his time?

J. Allen Axson Elementary

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez requested an update on any changes to the magnet at J. Allen Axson Elementary. Parents currently pay to have students attend the three and four year program. If the student attends the three year old program, they receive continuity to attend the four year old and Kindergarten programs. Her recommendation would be to remove the continuity.

The Superintendent has spoken with staff concerning making changes to the application. After much discussion, the Board recommended the current three and four year olds receive continuity for the 2017-2018 school year. New applicants to the three and four year old program will apply through the magnet lottery with no continuity.

The Superintendent does not recommend making changes to John E. Ford Elementary Montessori's program.

Board Member Couch suggested working with a prekindergarten provider to

see if they would like to take on a prekindergarten Montessori program. The Superintendent indicated that because of the high cost of training, he does not feel a provider would be interested. A private provider may be interested that uses the Voluntary Prekindergarten stipend and have the parents supplement the balance of the program.

LITERACY

Minutes:

Chairman Wright requested a plan from the Superintendent, on how the District is planning on decreasing the literacy gap for our students.

Dr. Vitti indicated that we do have a Request For Proposal for a literacy partner. Staff will review the proposals and then engage the Board on who would be the best partner. This should be available by the next Board Workshop on January 17, 2017. The mid-year report by school district will be available by the end of this week. The Superintendent will be prepared to offer pros and cons with different options.

The Superintendent discussed providing computer access at schools in each district for students who need access to computers. Students will be expected to be at the highest level of behavior. There would be no direct instruction. The Superintendent will send a list of opportunities to the Board by the end of the week. He will begin to advertise the opportunity to parents in the next week or two.

QEA REPORT

Attachment: [QEA Report 2016-17.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Updated QEA Performance Data.pdf](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent provided an overview of the Quality Education For All (QEA) Report. The QEA report is attached to the minutes. Discussion included the following:

- The data indicates we are moving in the right direction when it comes to the original thirty-six QEA or Duval Transformation Office schools. Almost every cell is moving in the right direction. We now need to look at what can be done better.
- The QEA grant will be ending this year. We will now need to decide what to fund or not fund. The Superintendent's recommendation,

which is in the report, is to lower the amount of the incentives for teachers from \$20,000 to either \$15,000 or \$10,000. We need to emphasize recruiting more teachers from outside the District.

- Dr. Vitti will provide the break down by grade level bands and the distribution of grades to the Board by the end of the day today or tomorrow morning. This information was requested by Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez and Board Member Couch.
- Ed White and Westside High Schools are moving in the right direction but the human capital work is complex and challenging in these feeder patterns. The Superintendent would like to consider offering incentives to those two feeder patterns. This would include about nine schools in each feeder pattern.
- Board Member Couch inquired about how the impact of recruiting teachers from other schools will affect remaining schools. We have to think about all schools. How many teachers have either received the incentive or just agreed to stay in the school for three years with the possibility of receiving the incentive are expected to stay next year? The Superintendent indicated that the incentive did help to staff difficult schools with stronger talent going in. The return on investment is high enough to deal with the impact on other schools.
- Teach For America teachers show a higher gain in math than the average undergraduate at the elementary level.
- Board Member Shine suggested developing a program to work with the military to recruit more educators.
- The New Leaders program was created for current assistant principals who wish to become principals. This program allows them to go through something new and different but does not have the commitment that the Columbia program has over the summer.
- The next phase will look at where the recruited teachers are and what they are doing in their classrooms.
- Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez would like to see more explanation in the data the Superintendent provided.
- The Superintendent indicated that the District has had a difficult time recruiting Algebra II and Geometry teachers. He does not believe Algebra II and Geometry teachers were incentivized.
- Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez requested Dr. Vitti look into what Broward County is doing related to the performance schedule.
- Chairman Wright stated her concern is how we are looking at our issues and how can we grow. We need to move from programs, focus on teachers and our professional development plan. She would like to see us move toward things that have worked for years, to more schools, to more teachers and look at how we can move forward.

Speakers

Paula D. Wright, Chairman
Ashley Smith Juarez, Vice-Chairman
Becki Couch, Board Member
Lori Hershey, Board Member
Scott Shine, Board Member
Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

BUDGET PREP

Minutes:

Chairman Wright indicated that last year we learned about Ms. Lehockey, former Chief of Staff, who is on contract in relationship with the budget. We want to make sure we do not have any outside contractors dealing with our budget.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez and Board Member Couch will meet on January 20, 2017, to discuss Strategy Abandonment. Everyone is welcome to attend. First we need to determine what we want to see and then the Superintendent will provide that information.

Some concerns are: What programs do we have to support teachers? How can we better prepare our teachers? How do we recruit from other Districts? Michelle Begley, Board Internal Auditor, has some good resources from GFOA on school district budgeting.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez suggested the Board craft a timeline for the information that will be needed concerning the budget.

Next Steps in the Budget Process

The subcommittee will create a template that will be used and shared with the Superintendent to move forward with the Strategy Abandonment process.

Dr. Vitti explained that Ms. Lockley's contract was for one year on an as needed basis for class size. She initiated the process as a staff member and will assist with contract capacity for next year. The scope of work was for this full year. Ms. Lockley would just assistance staff with historical information on an as needed basis.

Committee Assignments

A list of available of Committee Assignments were passed out to Board Members to select their preference. Board Member Grymes has agreed to represent the Board on the Value Adjustment Board. Chairman Wright has placed the new Board Members Hershey and Jones on the Grievance Committee. The Board Office will remove the Jacksonville Children's Commission from the list since there is no Board Member representation.

Speakers

Paula D. Wright, Chairman
Ashley Smith Juarez, Vice-Chairman
Becki Couch, Board Member
Lori Hershey, Board Member
Scott Shine, Board Member
Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

CSM

Superintendent

Chairman