



E-AGENDA MANAGER

Duval County Public Schools

January 17, 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 with the exception of Board Member Scott Shine. 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 9:04 a.m.

Chairman Wright hoped everyone enjoyed their break in spite of the unfortunate shooting at the Landing involving students from the District.

Items To Be Discussed

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

Minutes:

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

Public Hearing and Vote: Adoption of District-Wide Grades 9-12 English Language Arts Instructional Materials

Board Member Hershey arrived at 9:09 a.m.

- Supplemental materials will also be used.
- There will be one set for every student and a license is included .
- Chairman Wright expressed concerns with budgeting for the supplemental materials. The Superintendent stated the supplemental materials will come out of the supply budget at the District level.

Public Hearing and Vote: Adoption of District-Wide Grades 6-12 Social Studies Instructional Materials

- There were 5 books per subject reviewed by the committee.
- The Superintendent will send the rubric the committee used to evaluate the materials to the Board.
- The Superintendent gave an overview of how the companies were selected:
 - The process starts with a Request for Proposal.
 - Vendors indicate if they are interested in the bid.
 - A committee consisting of teachers, principals, assistant principals and staff is compiled to review the products .
 - If the product is not aligned with the standards, the product is disqualified.
- The Superintendent stated in regards to the digital process, math starting at 6th grade, the District is advanced. English and Language Arts depends on the teacher. As of today, all textbooks are available online. Teachers use disks with the interactive boards to enhance activated conversations. He also stated you cannot move to the digital process until there is a one-to-one ratio with laptops.
- The Superintendent will provide an updated request by Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez to the Board on QZAB III. Included in the report will be where the District stands financially with QZAB I and II.
- Wireless access is available in all 160 district schools.

Adoption of Budget Resolutions December 31, 2016

- Board Member Couch asked if the \$8,000,000 from maintenance salary has been pushed back into the balance. The Superintendent stated within the next couple weeks and months it should be reconciled.

Student Transportation Services Geographic Service Area (GSA) 5 Award

- Birnie Bus Service, Inc. will discontinue services at the end of the

school year.

- Board Member Hershey wanted clarity regarding the companies moving forward with renewal and new contracts and making sure they are accountable. The Superintendent stated the District is in the process of exercising penalties and will not agree to a contract that does not have a penalty. Mark Sherwood, Assistant Superintendent of Communications, Don Nelson, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Jim Culbert, Executive Director of Information Technology are working to create a process to communicate with parents regarding buses being late within the next week.
- Board Member Couch wanted clarity that Student Transportation of America is Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) compliant. Mr. Nelson stated the MBE is written into the contract which is reviewed by staff. The company has to show they have made an effort to obtain an MBE. Mr. Nelson will follow-up with the current MBE percentage held by Student Transportation of America.
- Chairman Wright would like to see the wording of the MBE portion of the contract. Karen Chastain stated they will follow-up with the information to the Board.
- Workshops are being held throughout the District to help minorities become certified.
- The Superintendent and staff are working and waiting for the right time to brief the Board on the overall evaluation of transportation; including reevaluating start time, consolidating stops and a partnership with Jacksonville Transportation Authority.
- Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez requested the Superintendent send the Board the remaining GSA zones current cost and size. She also would like information on natural gas for buses. The Superintendent will follow-up with the request.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Minutes: There were no public comments at this meeting.

MID-YEAR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

Attachment: [Mid-Year Data Review 16-17.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Agenda for Mid-Year Review.pdf](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Mid-Year Student Achievement Report (SAR) (see attached). Discussion included the following:

Board Member Couch left at 9:52 a.m.

- The Superintendent stated you can not compare last year's mid-year data and this year's mid-year data but because iReady has been used for three years, it can closer predict end of the year performance for the students who currently use the program.
- The 4th grade cohort is the 3rd grade cohort that started under the current administration in kindergarten and are expected to do well in math as compared to last year's 4th grade.
- The current 3rd grade cohort are lower from a grade level point-of-view as compared to last year's 3rd grade.
- There is no goal associated with the graph. The graph is showing apple to apples mid-year over the last three years.

Board Member Grymes left at 10:01 a.m.

- The middle school adoption will be implemented this year. It will have a positive impact on the core instruction in 6th and 7th grade.

Board Member Couch returned at 10:06 a.m.

- Chairman Wright requested the Superintendent provide detailed data showing the assessment and comparison annually.
- Students did not have enough time for the Civics exam and will re-take the exam to get better data. Students will retake the same test.
- Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez expressed concerns about the data being unreliable if students retake the same test. The Superintendent will reach out to teachers and get feedback regarding the students retaking the same test.
- If Board Members have questions or concerns about schools on the watch list, they can meet with the Regional Superintendent. The Superintendent will coordinate the meeting.
- The schools high-lighted are currently supported at a high level but the support will be intensified to make sure they are strong by the end of the year.
- Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez and Board Member Hershey expressed concerns with students speaking another language who take the test and how it factors in with taking the tests and the outcome of the results. The Superintendent stated the State did advocate at the Federal level, for one-year for the removal of students in proficiency but they are included in learning gains.

Board Member Grymes returned at 10:22 a.m.

- The Superintendent stated the State modified the count for school grades. Students had to be present for the October FTE and the day of testing, to count for the school grade. It has now been modified to February and the day of testing. The Superintendent stated this started this year and it is embedded in the Technical Assistance Plan (TAP).

- Board Member Couch asked if State Legislature can step in and undo the rule making and pass through legislation. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, stated they can have an expressed statement by legislation in statute. They can create a new or updated more refined policy statement.
- Chairman Wright suggested the Board with the Superintendent to construct a letter to the Florida Department of Education and the Duval Delegation to sponsor a bill to bring the issue forward.
- Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez requested the information from the TAP be sent to the Board. The Superintendent will send the requested information.
- Chairman Wright requested the data from the Young Men's and Women's Leadership Academy be disaggregated in order to view the students from Valor and Virtue Academy separately. The Superintendent will send the requested information including if the students attended a different school.
- The Superintendent stated all the middle schools are on the trajectory to be a C or higher. There are some concerns with Matthew Gilbert and Northwestern Middle School.
- If Lake Forest and Hyde Park Elementary are not at a C or higher by the end of the school year, another turnaround option will have to be implemented.
- The Superintendent will send the lexile level breakdown to the Board explaining the lexile rankings.
- Board Member Couch asked that a disclaimer be included on the slides stating the students who are not included. Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez has concerns with not having all students represented on the slides. She is requesting subgroup and K-2 data. The Superintendent stated it would create numerous slides and not be user friendly. Chairman Wright would like the information for all student proficiency. He will add a disclaimer and provide the additional requested information.
- The Superintendent stated we are losing teachers between their six to eight years of teaching because they need a new challenge or they have been in the profession for awhile and it is not right for them.
- The sub-groups are performing comparable to last year.
- Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez would like to see the students who are above grade level included in the data. The Superintendent will make the adjustment to include in the data.
- Andrew Robinson Elementary has received additional resources because it has been historically the location for homeless students.
- The Superintendent does not see Terry Parker, Englewood and Andrew Jackson High School having an issue with school grades. He does not believe they are as good as they should be.
- Phonics could have played a factor with the results of the SAR.
- The Superintendent will forward to the Board a list of the schools who did not have a principal change.
- Students who leave the country have not been addressed at the District level for support.
- The Superintendent will provide the Board a list of the watched

- schools in a feeder pattern.
- Chairman Wright suggested each Board Member meet with the Superintendent directly with Board staff to ask questions about their District. Board Staff will compile and send to the Board.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

Minutes:

Currently there are no updates regarding the next steps since the letter was received. The letter did include there would be a visit. The Superintendent will notify the Board once information is received.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez wanted clarification in regards to documentation from parents indicating the school they wanted to attend. The Superintendent stated parents either sent the school a signed letter or they received a call from the District admin team and indicated they wanted to stay at the school they were attending at the beginning of the year.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez stated, according to the minutes from the meeting on August 12, 2016, what was agreed upon was different than what was practiced. The Superintendent stated that after conversing with Florida Department of Education (FDOE) they confirmed documentation would be a letter signed from a parent or call log. This was confirmed by conference calls and emails with staff from FDOE. Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez stated the State may have agreed to a different method, she did not recall the method being discussed with the Board.

The Superintendent stated the original drafted letter based on the conversation from the Board was sent to the FDOE and they wanted it changed to include affirmation from the parent that they acknowledged the letter and wanted to stay in that school. There is documentation from all the students that were rebounded stating they wanted to stay at the school. The Superintendent is comfortable and confident that school and the District staff fulfilled the expectations that were defined by the FDOE. He believes the FDOE wants to confirm the documentation by seeing it, talking to school staff and parents to show we followed the process.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez expressed concern that the expectation of the Board were not in alignment with what was executed in terms of documentation and communication with parents and asked if it is compliant with Board policy.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez stated her intent is to inform the Board. If Board policy was not followed and there was a different agreement with the State, then a conversation with the governing Board needs to take

place.

Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, stated they can review in Chapter 5, a statement referring to policies that are different than administrative procedures.

OCR UPDATE

Minutes: There were no updates from the Office of Civil Rights.

GOVERNANCE

Minutes:

Florida School Board Association (FSBA)

The Board received an email from FSBA in regards to budget meetings that took place in Tallahassee and the plans to have two cuts in Public Education. One cut is for \$232,700,000 of that \$164,800,00 recurring and \$68,000,00 non-recurring. The second cut would be \$485,000,00 with \$417,000,000 recurring and \$68,000,00 non recurring. Board Member Couch would like to know the plans, knowing there will be a cut. The Superintendent has budget staff running two different scenarios and what it would mean to the District.

Duval Delegation

The Duval Delegation will be meeting on January 31, 2017, and the Board will be speaking on behalf of the J-bill that was just approved on the consent agenda at City Council. Chairman Wright will not be in attendance. Board Member Shine will be there to represent the Board.

Chris Guerrieri

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez had exchanged some emails with the Superintendent and Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, in regards to the cease and desist letter that was sent to Christopher Guerrieri. In reviewing minutes from a meeting on October 25, 2016, the Board's intent was to retract the letter that was sent and to date that has not happened. Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez would like clarity and action on what was the Board's intention. She understood direction was given to retract the letter that refers to the Duval County School Board. The Superintendent would initially have administrative oversight as to whether or not to revise the letter. Direction was given to the Superintendent that the letter not be revised but never changed the instruction to retract the original letter.

The Superintendent explained that in reviewing the minutes from the Board Members that were present, he decided not to retract the letter because it was in the window of reviewing additional information that had come in about the case. The minutes reflected that the collective agreement from the Board was not to send a revised letter because it was too far past the time in which the original letter was sent stating on behalf of the School Board. The letter was to be kept as is and the issue may be revisited with new information related to the discipline case. The Superintendent recalls this from a November 18, 2016, meeting and an updated conversation regarding the letter.

Chairman Wright will pull the minutes and bring it back to the Board.

Literacy Partnership

The Superintendent sent an email to the Board in regards to an Intent to Negotiate about the Literacy Partnership and Culture Competency and the entities that applied. The Board indicated they wanted input and the Superintendent agreed. Ms. Chastain stated if the contract is over \$75,000, it would come to the Board via Board policy. If a Board Member or Members are on the evaluation committee and the item comes back to the Board, the Board loses their voice as an elected official when the item comes back for a final decision. Board Members do not usually sit on the evaluation committee at this early stage. The consensus of the Board was not to sit on the evaluation. The item was on the website and was sent to universities in the area. The Superintendent stated looking at the number of applicants, it may have to go out again.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

NS

Superintendent

Chairman