



## Duval County Public Schools

---

January 6, 2011, Joint DCSB - Duval Delegation Meeting

Ms. W. C. Gentry, Chairman  
Ms. Betty Burney, Vice-Chairman  
Ms. Martha Barrett  
Ms. Ms. Becki Couch  
Ms. Mr. Tommy Hazouri  
Mr. Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee  
Mr. Ms. Paula D. Wright  
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS JOINT MEETING OF THE DCSB - DUVAL LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION: All Board Members were present with the exception of Mr. W. C. Gentry, who was out of town. Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent, was also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

Present at the meeting were:

PRESENT:

Betty Burney  
Martha Barrett  
Becki Couch  
Tommy Hazouri  
Fel Lee  
Paula Wright

Ed Pratt-Dannals  
Doug Ayars  
Vicki Reynolds  
Mike Perrone

Bonnie Susan Cole

John Thrasher  
Steve Wise  
Charles McBurney  
Mia Jones  
Reggie Fullwood  
Mike Weinstein  
Susan Stewart

Michele Begley  
Jill Johnson

Don Redman  
Kelly Palka  
David Hertz  
Terry Brady  
Ruby George  
Roger Weeder  
Pam Paul  
Melissa Kicklighter  
Debra Gianoulis  
Pat Willis  
Jon Hayman  
Barbara Langley

Ed PD welcomed everyone and thanked the Delegation for taking time to come today. He also thanked Barbara Langley for setting the room up for the meeting.

J Thrasher thanked the Superintendent and Barbara Langley also for today. Wanted to have a meeting where we could sit down and meet on education and listen to your issues. Asked each member to talk about their committee assignments. Talked about his committees.

Betty Burney thanked Schultz Center staff and the Superintendent for putting this together. She also thanked the Delegation for coming here today. It is all about the children.

## Items To Be Discussed

### [JOINT MEETING WITH DUVAL DELEGATION](#)

#### Minutes:

Steve Wise – talked about his committee assignments for the coming year. Sometimes motto is nothing is impossible if you don't have to do it. Appreciated the unfunded mandates document – good information in the document. For raising standards but what are you going to do for the students who will drop out. Will do a bill on RTTT for Student Success. Will bring in

Kathy Haycock from DC and have the first hearing next week. Need to provide training to get a job for those students who will drop out otherwise. Really impressed with our unfunded mandate document.

Paula Wright – major concern is how we can connect well enough with the legislators and look at the whole child – education important but need to look at whole child.

Charles McBurney – thanked SB for having this meeting. This is where the rubber meets the road and this is important. Going into 4<sup>th</sup> year and have been cutting budget since then. Main issue for him is the budget. Very interested in document on unfunded mandates and which ones can we totally eliminate. Believe there is support.

Mike Perrone – CFO for school district.

Becki Couch – thanked everyone for coming today. Collaboration is important. Came from the classroom and what PW said is dead on – need to define what we are here for. Education is our main duty but how do we get there – collaboration.

BSC – Board Assistant

Mike Weinstein – Would like to see some minimum budget so that school districts can know what the bottom line on funding will be. Big on holding entity or person accountable – talked about all of those who are involved and hard to hold someone accountable. Believes in local control and local rule. Would like to move toward making that the entity responsible. Family of teachers and very involved. Talked about bringing in companies to State and economic development – have to have a workforce ready or this will not work.

Tommy Hazouri – We all represent all of the schools. Family of teachers also. What we do in Duval does impact the other counties. Money is important – not the answer but is part of the solution. What CMcB said is true – when you don't have substantive teaching that does not start until 4-6 weeks into the year that is a problem. Give the teachers the opportunity to teach without all of the benchmarks and FCAT – need accountability but also need teachability. Education is for everybody – not just a Republican or Democratic issue. Asked Ed PD to introduce new lobbyist.

Vicki Reynolds – Chief HRS Officer for district.

Reggie Fullwood – Asked to be on education committee – it is his passion. Really into mentoring. Mentoring only touches one child at a time but have to reach the young men and keep them from dropping out. Great we are meeting with the SB and should probably meet with the CC later.

Fel Lee – Have a Board that is willing to get the changes done that need to be done. Listening as we go along and a lot of us are on a very similar page. How do you help the children – the teachers are the ones who touch them every day. Teacher is also a parent, counselor, someone who gets them lunch, etc. – how do we help them. Help us get better local control. If you can cut some of the red tape. Need to be accountable but don't add more – whittle it down – need your help with that. Love the idea of funding base that MW talked about. Need to be in a pro-active mode. We have some schools that are knocking it out of the park – know we have

some that have a long way to go too. Let us complete fairly. Love competition. We can rise to the occasion if it is fair.

Doug Ayars – COO for district – Talked about challenge to find the floor level of school support that can be provided that does not pull from the educational experience. Looking at cost and how we do things. Need flexibility for dollars we have.

Mia Jones – Happy to be back home. Know you have the commitment in Duval for children. Did not forget what I saw and lived. Talked about funding and dropouts. When we look at innovations around country we need to see the whole picture. Health is important to the children and the quality of life at home. Look at models that work that helps the whole child.

Martha Barrett – Do have a very dedication SB and Delegation. Appreciate everyone coming today. Great partnerships. Saw Councilman Redman come in. So many people in the City are helping education – businesses and non-profits. Budget – vouchers – FCAT – resurrection of SB 6 is important.

Betty Burney – Thanked Mia Jones for all of her help with the District – especially District 4 and 6. As a Board member interested in vouchers and level playing field – just like MB. Interested in level of minimum budget that MW mentioned. Disheartening to sit down and not know what you will be working with. Final area interested in is the teacher. We have so much bashing of teachers without truly understanding what they have to do.

Ed PD reviewed the Strategic Plan with the Delegation. These goals translate into my evaluation and they are used to evaluate staff also. This is a living document with updates by staff to the Superintendent and Board. RF asked about school grades. BB asked Ed PD to speak on cut scores. Ed PD spoke about the choices for the intervene schools and that the current Commissioner of Education is willing to look at other options than the 3 recommended – don't see us closing the schools and there are not that many groups that can come in and take over a school – we are looking at single gender schools, several themes in a single school – other options also – will have to convince everyone with whatever we decide. Ed PD continued reviewing the SP. Steve Wise asked about advanced placements costs and why has the State minimized dual enrollment in place of advanced placement – especially for those children who will stay in State. Ed PD – needs to be addressed – if you look at grading dual is better. Textbook costs for dual enrollment also high. Steve Wise talked about GED issue – it is being minimized and now can't get them into the military if they can't have a GED – asked what we can do to not hurt the student. Ed PD responded – no longer counted in graduation formula – ESE diploma won't be counted next year – propose that we have categories to add bonus points for students who receive diplomas in these areas. It does push practice – want a regular diploma for each student but realistically they need other options. Steve Wise suggested that new consultant – Mike O'Farrell and Martin Miller work on this – incentive for graduation with GED exit option – cant' continue to disenfranchise.

Ed PD talked about Mike O'Farrell being our new legislative consultant and that Martin Miller will continue in the transition. Mike O'Farrell said he was excited about working with us. TH, Ed PD, John Thrasher – looks forward to working with him; Mia Jones, Steve Wise.

John Thrasher – focus on the 4 critical areas – you goal 1 is the most important to him. You

learn to read and then read to learn. Let us know how we can help

Break

Ed PD – Started SB 6 bill from last year. VRR presented on teacher quality provisions for the coming legislative session. Board has not voted on this document. We have a good relationship with our union. Like to RTTT for Student Success name for the new bill. All of this costs money. Can't take it the way we are now and make it work without funding and some type of out in the legislation if we get in a situation if we have a financial urgency. Committed to making what comes out of the legislature work. Formula is key and teachers need to understand and have buy in and think it is equitable and fair. Steve Wise asked how we deal with kids at Mt. Herman and Alden Road – can't talk – can't take test – how do you measure student performance – same as in the arts schools and non-core program teachers. VRR – shared our MAP program – needs work still – have a way to assess them and will get that information to you. Have for ESE, arts, and P.E. There are some complaints and still need to improve. There is a way to do it and had teacher input. Ed PD – Hillsborough and Duval put this into place – we are not afraid of the bill – we have experience. MAP and School Recognition are counter to each other – working on this locally – we would be moving forward on this no matter what happens. Have a lot of experience in this area unlike other districts. Art teachers would rather have a portfolio but that is expensive. Mia Jones asked about alternative school teachers. VRR – those teachers still eligible – they are in their own silo and compared to each other. Ed PD. Steve Wise – policy wise how do you write it into legislation – would like to sit down with you, T Brady, Mike OF, and Ed PD and talk about this. Reggie Fullwood – how do we get the better teachers at the more challenged schools and pay them. Ed PD – doing quite a bit of it but not able to pay them like we want to. Introduced Pat Willis who is our Deputy Superintendent and in charge of Academics – she was at Principals meeting this morning. Pat Willis – agree we have to recruit and retain the best teachers in this area – get teachers who really want to be there. Professional Development is important. Quality of teachers greatest factor in success of school. Ed PD. Paula Wright – taught at Northwestern MS – low performing school – interview team talked to her about PD and that was important – need support from legislators on PD funding. Mike Weinstein – obvious that all 67 counties will be at different places – what about idea instead of mandating that we will provide these extra dollars that have developed an adequate and approved plan – incentive rather than mandate. Ed PD – agreed it would be a motivation – two step process – fair evaluation system and then how do you apply it to a compensation system. We would support. MW – change in behavior by incentive rather than punishment. Ed PD – could move faster with funding and would love to do this. Spent millions on end of course assessments. MW – end of course assessments costs caused Hillsborough to not do as much as they wanted to also. VRR continued review of our document. Steve Wise asked about date you have to tell a teacher if they are not being rehired. VRR, Ed PD responded. Reggie Fullwood – asked when FCAT administered and results received. Ed PD responded. VRR continued review of document. Not against bill but would like to have input and some flexibility on accountability. BC – PD will be important to this bill. Don't have people who want to be teachers – need to change mentality and be more supportive of teachers – need funding for PD.

Ed PD – Budget next. Mike Perrone – reviewed information. Deficit may be worse than what is here. Numbers will be different in a couple of weeks. Steve Wise asked if we had dollars in fund B. MP – had about \$400 left. Ed PD – got out before it crashed. TH – asked about pension and DROP. John Thrasher – both Senate and House working on this – will be interesting – education takes up about 32% of budget and health and human services about 40% of budget – need to get a handle on Medicaid this year and pension will be part and parcel

of that. Could be more than half of budget in 5 years if we don't deal with that. TH – pretty substantially funded – don't want to see dollars used for something else and end up where some cities are now and not to have an unfunded liability. John Thrasher – you all need to help us keep on top of this so we do not create problems. Ed PD – we have reduced district staff and looked at where we can be more effective but reaching point where we are at basic level services. John Thrasher – we hear you and have the same challenges – one problem is funding items with non-recurring dollars – need to be very careful on how we go forward. BB – window of opportunity – take MP list and unfunded mandates there is a window of opportunity if we get some relief. Charles McBurney – window of opportunity – allowed to introduce 6 bills of general effects – this year we are doing up to 3 repealor bills that does not count against the 6 – this is a window of opportunity to get rid of the mandates on what you think is unnecessary – you might want to look and educate us on these items. TH – does it include rules? CMcB – no, just Statutes. John Thrasher – if you have any ideas on rules let us know. TH – love to see legislators ask teachers and educators what they see as a burden. John Thrasher – associations should be doing this now. Ed PD.

Ed PD – Unfunded Mandates. We asked which of these we could stop doing and save money. A separate group on which items relate to lack of funding. Have 3 categories now – explained document. Steve Wise asked if we are collecting on stolen textbooks. Ed PD will get him the information. Explained what we currently do on this matter. Steve Wise – if FSBA and FADSS come in with a recommendation to get rid of item 4 it would make it easier on legislators. BB – on item 6 – creates vicious cycle – child leaves school and go to another school – then the receiving school sees the student coming in as bringing their school down – used Raines-Fletcher as example – have to provide transportation – then if they go back to their home school the dollars do not follow them. John Thrasher asked that we share research with Delegation. Steve Wise does not understand how McKay costs us money. Ed PD responded – will share information with Delegation on this also. Steve Wise – item 14 – virtual – was set up to help you make money and not lose money – gave example – what am I missing. MP – not fully developed to make it viable – if students passes then we get funded – if they don't we don't get funding. SW – talked about Florida Virtual. SW asked about 504. Ed PD – they don't qualify under ESE criteria – for most part students who can move forward academically. Mia Jones provided additional information on Item 22. Ed PD – Item 23 is the big one. Steve Wise – On 24 and 25 – if the Superintendent and Board associations support then we can see what we can do – need documentation in order to support.

Ed PD – Asked for closing thoughts and statements:

Mia Jones – Remind everyone we need to look at the whole child as you make recommendations.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

John Thrasher –Thanks for setting up – great conversation – very helpful and need to continue dialogue as often as we can. Lot of unknowns for the coming year – communications is important. Committee meetings start next week. Get with Susan Stewart to get information to Delegation and look forward to working with you.

Betty Burney – Thank you – just listening means so much.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman