



Duval County Public Schools

July 12, 2016, Board Workshop

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Chairman
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Becki Couch
Ms. Cheryl Grymes
Dr. Constance S. Hall
Mr. Scott Shine
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS REGULAR MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present with the exception of Board Member Becki Couch who participated via-telephone. 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 9:02 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

Participation Via-Telephone

Pursuant to Board Policy 2.26 Board Members may attend Board meetings and participate and vote through the use of interactive video and/or telephone systems. A quorum of the Board was present and agreed to allow Board Member Couch to participate via-telephone.

Board Member Couch joined the meeting via-telephone at 9:03 a.m.

Letter Concerning Highlights of the 2016-2017 Budget

Chairman Smith Juarez provided a copy of the letter to the Board for review before signing on behalf of the Board. This letter is a summary of the different priorities according to the Strategic Plan. Discussion included the following:

- The PITSCO Lab is an elective. Their curriculum is used but the district may add to it to make it align to the standards for each grade level.
- Board Member Hall requested a demonstration of the PITSCO Lab. The Board will plan to visit a school when students return to school.
- Funding will cover half-time Media Specialists. These are hourly dollars for the school to have flexibility to hire someone part-time.
- Schools will work through the district to set-up times and dates for workshops to engage parents, caregivers, and the community.
- Marketing funds at the school level can be used in collaboration with the principal and Mark Sherwood, Assistant Superintendent, Communications.
- Once the school's Allocation Plan is provided and they meet class size they can do anything they want with the positions they have outside of Music, Art, Physical Education, Reading Coach and a Dean.
- Vice-Chairman Wright requested the number of schools one nurse would serve. The Superintendent will provide the information to the Board by email.
- The secondary schools have received communication concerning having the Media Center opened for a specific number of hours for the Media Center allocation funds.

Strategic Targets

The Chairman indicated that when the Board reviews the Core Beliefs and revisions the Superintendent will be asked with those policies to revise or overall our current Strategic Plan including a plan for implementation of the Theory of Action that would define flexibility moving forward and then we will have the conversation with the Superintendent. This will happen in the Fall. It will be completed by the end of this calendar year for planning in the 2017-2018 school year. Discussion included the following:

- The Chairman requested moving the Strategic Plan discussion to the July 19, 2016, Board Workshop and Committee Meeting.
- Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, cautioned the Board concerning waiting for another meeting to include subgroup data in the conversation with Strategic Plan targets because it just delays the solidification of what those targets might look like. We can create a way of analyzing student achievement outside of the state assessment system but I am not sure we can completely ignore it when the average citizen relies on this to compare apples to apples.
- Board Member Hall feels we do need to go deeper which is separate from the targets.

- Board Member Shine agreed with Board Member Hall. We need to set academic achievement numbers going forward that are based on actual academic achievement.
- Board Member Couch suggested moving to a better way of measure internally and communicating this to the public.
- Vice-Chairman Wright requested the Superintendent share with the Board how the Department Of Education calculates the school grading. The Superintendent will plan on providing a presentation on how the school grades are calculated.
- The Chairman made a Board Member Request asking for all areas where subgroup data is available be provided.

Recommended Policy on Principal Selection Process

This will be discussed at the next Policy Handbook Subcommittee Meeting. Addison Davis, Chief of Schools, and Iranetta Wright, Duval Transformation Office, are looking into some of the suggestions.

Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez left the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Legal Services Follow-Up

Vice-Chairman Wright will be scheduling a meeting with Jason Gabriel, General Counsel. He is putting together a legal plan for the Board similar to the one he created for the Jacksonville Electric Authority. Discussion followed:

- The School Board needs focus and specialization concerning legal representation.
- Office of General Counsel does not have the expertise.
- Jason Gabriel has not followed up with our questions from our last meeting.
- The Board would need to obtain approval from the Office of General Counsel to add additional legal counsel.
- It was recommended that the Board contact Lori Boyer, City Council President, and Jason Gabriel to meet with the entire Board.

Joint Meeting with City Council

The date and time for this meeting has not been scheduled.

Administration Building Security

The following changes in security are being considered. Discussion followed:

- Controlling the entrance and exit of the parking lot through a gate with an officer.
- Security has been increased for meetings as far as wandering with employees.
- A parking lot tag. Parking spots could be assigned.
- A security card that would limit access to each floor. Most employees will have access to any floor. This will probably be happening this Fall.
- Moving the School Choice Office to another building which would free

- up some parking spaces.
- The district is moving more employees to schools for unity and to free up some parking spaces.
- Working with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority for use of land.
- An intercom system is needed at the double doors leading to the Board Office and Superintendent's office. The Superintendent will look into this.

Florida Statute 1001.365-Votes by district school board chair and the district school board members

Karen Chastain and Board Member Shine have been working on this statute. Board Member Shine is asking the Board to bring formal action to say that we would like to have a local bill that would exempt the district from this statute. Next it would go to the City Council and the Duval Delegation and then to Tallahassee. This topic will be brought back at the July 19, 2016 Board Workshop and Committee Meeting.

Cabinet Add-Ons

Board Member Couch, requested a follow-up in writing regarding the difference in amount between Ms. Begley, Board Internal Auditor, and Latrell Edwards, Chief Financial Officer.

Investigation concerning Officer Ewest

Board Member Couch requested a copy of the investigation. This information can be emailed to the Board.

Future Boundary Change Plans

Board Member Shine recommended the Board take thirty minutes to discuss what we would want to see in this plan at each workshop. We could have someone meet with the Board to discuss what vision plans and public policy setting looks like.

Board Member Couch left the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Speakers

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Chairman
Ms. Paula Wright, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member
Dr. Constance Hall, Board Member
Mr. Scott Shine, Board Member
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent
Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services

STRATEGIC PLAN

Attachment: [Strategic Plan Targets.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent provided, a followed up on academic areas that the Board asked to be included and considered as part of the targets. Also included is a summary of student achievement data related to the Florida Standards Assessment. The Powerpoint is attached to the agenda. Discussion included the following:

- Traditional public schools continue to outperform Charter Schools.
- 18 out of 25 accountability cells would have been higher for the district had Charter Schools not been included.
- Algebra II and Geometry are areas where we need improvement. The problem is maintaining and recruiting teachers.
- We are above the State average in Biology and the highest performing among the big seven. We only have one accountability course in high school science so it is easier to focus with science preparation. We have four years of data with Biology because we have not had changes from the State.

Chairman Smith Juarez returned to the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

- The rate of the goal for K-2 Math would be to show a 1% increase in the next school year and .5% for the minimum target. The State has no weight or recommendations for K-2. At the end of the year students take an assessment and then we know if they are at grade level or below. We can compare Kindergarteners to other cities's and states that are using iREADY nationally. The Board asked the Superintendent to provide the numbers nationally as a comparison.
- In 2014-2015 all schools used iREADY at scale which gives us a better predictor of performance.
- The Kindergarten readiness rate of students who come from some kind of an early learning program is in the 80's. The Kindergarten readiness assessment is taken at the beginning of Kindergarten.
- Chairman Smith Juarez requested data be pulled for students who attended our Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program versus some other VPK and also no VPK.
- What historic trends have we seen when a new test or cut score has been implemented? We have seen about 8% state-wide. What historic factors were considered to determine if the pace will pick-up and we will meet or exceed the proposed targets? We have not seen that kind of up tick. The cut scores were applied in 2011-2012 to 2012-2013 have not been dramatic state-wide. The scores have been flat or the same in reading and math state-wide.
- The increase in referrals in 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 are mainly Level 1 referrals. This increase is because of the change in the Student Code Of Conduct but also how they are reported. There is no connection between arrests and referrals. Arrests are handled by police not teachers.
- Student engagement is defined by the Gallup Poll. Schools should look at how their school performs, the district averages and how schools performed that are similar to theirs. The district also tries to structure professional development for principals to hear from schools that made improvements.

- Student attendance has always been high but it does not align to performance.
- The district received above 90% response rate on the Gallup Poll which far exceeds what Gallup requires for validity.
- The district does not have state and/or national comparisons for acceleration participation. We have state-wide data for acceleration performance for 2014-2015 which can be added. The district also has some data for ACT and SAT which can be added including nationally by subgroup.
- The Superintendent and Board Member Shine will meet to define what the Board would like to see to meet the Board's expectations concerning the targets.

Speakers

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 Dr. Constance Hall, Board Member
 Mr. Scott Shine, Board Member
 Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

[ESE PLAN, MATH/SCIENCE PLAN, LITERACY PLAN](#)

Attachment: [FINAL GIFTED AND ESE PLAN.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Literacy Math Science Plan PPT.pdf](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent provided a review of the achievements in each area for the upcoming year. The Powerpoint is attached to the minutes for information. Discussion included the following:

- The Exceptional Education Students graduation rate was 35.6% in 2011-2012 and is now 55.9%. The district was ranked seven out of seven among the big seven in 2011-2012. We are now ranked fourth out of seven in 2014-2015. This includes all students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) with the exception of students with a special diploma.
- Average time from referral to consent for an IEP to results is about fifty days. Chairman Smith Juarez inquired about the distribution of these days. Where is the gap? The Superintendent will get back with her.
- The percentage of students that are identified as gifted but are not receiving services because the parent decides to opt them out is very low.
- African American students have historically and nationally disproportionately, particularly males have been placed in Emotional/Behavioral Disorder (EBD) units and classes when the

intervention needed to be more at the teacher-student level with a parent but not necessarily at the special education level. Cultural centrality training will help.

- Vice-Chairman Wright requested the number of students who were misdiagnosed for the EBD program. Mason Davis, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, said he will get back with her.
- Chairman Smith Juarez requested a breakdown of the percentage of the population concerning EBD students.
- There are over 100 students that have been identified to attend Oak Hill Elementary this fall. This number should continue to grow.
- The district would like to move to more non-dedicated magnets starting with schools that already have a high number of gifted students. The Superintendent would like to move to self-contained models in those schools based on what parents want.
- Board Member Hall voiced concern with gifted programs not being in the core. How are we addressing the African American community? The Superintendent indicated that he cannot justify a teacher with one student. Board Member Hall suggested he add interventionists. The Superintendent will look at other schools and bring it back to the Board.

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, discussed creating a separate school for students who have had consistent substance abuse challenges whether it is alcohol or drugs. This school would be an opportunity for students to continue to be part of Duval County Public Schools but be in a smaller learning environment with teachers who are trained to work with students who are recovering with a partner that can also help build capacity and support students at a higher level. The district would select a site probably not in one of our schools. This program would be unique to our district.

- The Superintendent discussed the proposed Middle School Gifted Hubs which was very concerning to the Board Members. Discussion followed:
 - The lack of geographic disbursement for gifted programs.
 - Parents of gifted students want unique gifted programs.
 - This plan will further remove students from their neighborhood schools.
 - Chairman Smith Juarez would like to see the numbers of elementary gifted students who go through our program but do not enroll in middle school gifted classes.
 - The district will be focusing on these middle schools to build the same gifted culture as those in dedicated magnets. We will add extra positions to build a self-contained environment in these schools in addition to the gifted endorsement training that is embedded in the MOU.
 - Kelly Coker-Daniel, Assistant Superintendent, Accountability and Assessment, stated it takes two years to obtain a gifted endorsement. Teachers typically will take three courses the first year and two the second year. The courses are very intense.

- o Chairman Smith Juarez asked the Superintendent to come back with a new model for gifted since the Board has many concerns.

Speakers

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Chairman

Ms. Paula Wright, Vice-Chairman

Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member

Dr. Constance Hall, Board Member

Mr. Scott Shine, Board Member

Ms. Kelly Coker-Daniel, Assistant Superintendent, Accountability and Assessment

Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

[BOUNDARY CHANGE PROPOSALS AND TURNAROUND PLANS](#)

Attachment: [Boundary and Turnaround Workshop.pdf](#)

Minutes: The Boundary Change Proposals and Turnaround Plans will be discussed at the July 19, 2016, Board Workshop and Committee Meeting.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

CSM

Superintendent

Chairman