



E-AGENDA MANAGER

# Duval County Public Schools

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July 14, 2015, Board Workshop Meeting

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

[PRESENTATION - ACHIEVERS IN MOTION](#)

Minutes:

Board Member Paula Wright shared her proposal on Achievers in Motion (AIM).

- This program that will provide support for the family unit outside of school. The families of at-risk students will be identified by the neighborhood schools, the district, and other cross-sector agencies and organizations.
- Dr. Cheryl A. Fountain, Executive Director, Florida Institute of Education, provided an update on the proposal.
  - Goals and Objectives are aligned to district goals.
  - One of the challenges is collaboration with partners that already have full-time jobs.
  - District 4 neighborhoods have expressed a desire to be involved.
  - The program supports people who impact students.
  - We are ready to bring groups together to create a network.
  - Funds will come from foundations or grants.

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed the attached PowerPoint. Discussion included the following:

- K-5 Mathematics- iREADY was used to create targets.
  - Overall the data shows an increase in performance from grade to grade with the exception of Kindergarten, which decreased by 6% from Kindergarten to 1st.
  - The greatest difficulty has been with the new Kindergarten math standards.
  - The data indicates that Tier 2 and 3 intervention has to be improved in elementary mathematics.

Board Member Constance Hall expressed the need for more levels of professional development. Superintendent Vitti said the district is planning to offer more training as it relates to the standards and differentiation. Grade level training, Teacher Academy and broader level training will be provided through-out the year.

- Duval Transformation Schools - Mathematics.
  - Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, explained that the data is similar to non-DTO schools when you look at each grade level you see improvement. DTO data shows more of an increase with cohort moving from grade level to grade level.
- Middle School - Mathematics.
  - The shift to iREADY was not made until mid-year. The more it is used the better the algorithm is.
  - The targets in 6th and 7th grade were met but not in 8th grade.

In 8th grade mathematics, we do not have the highest performing students included in the data because they take Algebra.

- A new curriculum was adopted this year called Pearson Digits. Our teachers met the demands of the standards but struggled.
- Tier 2 and 3 intervention in math is a challenge.

The Superintendent said we are not seeing the reinforcement of skills in remediation but a teaching of the standards in the core. This does not bring students up who are below grade level. The challenge is between the middle school curriculum team and the teachers at the middle school level.

- Algebra - No targets were set- State released data.
  - We have declined since 2012 while the state has gone up.
  - We were 66 out of 67 in the state when Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, came to Duval County.
  - This past year, the state improved by 1% and we declined by 1%. Four out of seven of the big seven school districts dropped in algebra.
  - We are not identifying students early enough as far as skill level.
  - Students were put in 8th grade algebra when they were not ready.

Board Member Becki Couch asked the Superintendent to provide information on student performance in middle school and high school as it relates to algebra. If we do not make bigger gains we will always be behind. How are we targeting intervention with resources? This information would be helpful for all of us.

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, said he has seen some reports that on average show Teach For America teachers outperform our teachers. He will look at the data and report to the Board. What would it take for our students to exceed the state average? How much growth do we need to see each year to exceed the state average? These questions will be answered at the end of next year in relation to his professional development plan.

Board Member Scott Shine requested the Superintendent provide the VAM data for teachers.

Board Member Jason Fischer left the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

The Superintendent stated Region and School based leadership problem solving, ownership and monitoring is how we are can see improvements. Systems are changing district-wide.

Board Member Paula Wright would have liked to see information in a chart form on what is changing and how staff is making adjustments. She wants to see this in the plan. The Superintendent will talk with her concerning this information.

- Reading
  - Comparing Kindergarten's from last year to the end of this year had a 5 percentage point increase. A 12 percentage point increase in 2nd grade and then flat with 3rd, 4th and 5th graders compared to last year's 3rd, 4th and 5th graders.
  - District-wide, the challenge is teaching children not to read words on a page, but teaching them to comprehend, apply and analyze.
- Reading in Duval Transformation Schools (DTO).
  - Every grade level with the exception of 4th grade improved from last year. Skills, not standards, were emphasized.

Board Member Jason Fischer returned to the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

- Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, said he is required to engage the Board about any proposed changes. These are his long-term solutions. He would like the Board to consider the following changes:
  - Proposed Elementary Program Changes - A shift to Prekindergarten-2nd grade schools at underutilized schools. This will allow us to concentrate the work and resources at these schools. He would like to have an Assistant Principal or Master Teacher lead the school.
  - Create a KG-8 grade Autism Center at Oak Hill Elementary. We can hire a staff that can focus on the needs of the students. He would like to move away from units in schools. The current principal has a background in Exceptional Student Education (ESE).
  - Change North Shore Elementary to serve as a KG-8 Center.
  - Create a single gender school at S. P. Livingston Elementary.
  - R. L. Brown Elementary would change to a dedicated magnet for the Gifted and Talented.
  - Create a Veterinarian program at Westview KG-8.
  - Bring back the traditional trades at A. Philip Randolph Academies of Technology.
  - Andrew Jackson High School would change to a dedicated magnet for Advanced Studies.
  - Northwestern would change to a Vocational Trade School at the middle school level which would feed into A. Philip Randolph Academies of Technology.
  - Change Ed White High School to a 7-12 dedicated magnet with a military theme.

Board Member Becki Couch asked the Superintendent what kind of district support he was going to give Ed White High School. What is your plan when you expand the reading coaches with Duval Transformation Office (DTO)? What is the plan to back fill when teachers leave?

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, said Ed White High School has been a challenge staffing. The current principal will remain and staffing has been prioritized.

- o Convert Joseph Stilwell Middle to a Bridge to Success School, a reformatory school linked to discipline or a Virtual School.
- o Highlands Middle School - phase out the current Aviation program and create a Digital Media non-dedicated magnet program.
- o Boundary change for Oceanway Middle to Highland Middle.
- o Boundary change for First Coast and Ribault High.
- o Convert Wolfson High School to a magnet for International Baccalaureate (IB) program along with academies related to the theme.

Board Member Paula Wright said she will need to meet with the Superintendent concerning why there are so many recommended changes in her area.

Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez voiced her concern for how these changes will drive school culture, student achievement and engagement. We do not want to fill seats just because they are available.

Dr. Vitti said the priority is student achievement. His recommendations were influenced by this.

Board Member Becki Couch asked the Superintendent to provide the number of students that are on waiting lists for magnet programs that attend our regional IB and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) programs. Also what impact does it have on the neighborhood high school programs. The Superintendent will pull the data.

#### [DISCIPLINE](#)

Minutes: This topic was not discussed.

#### [DROPOUT PREVENTION](#)

Minutes: This topic was not discussed.

#### [ATTENDANCE PLANS](#)

Minutes: This topic was not discussed.

#### [CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT CHANGES](#)

Minutes:

Chairman Cheryl Grymes left the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, reviewed proposed changes to the Code of Student Conduct. A PowerPoint is attached to the minutes.

- Discipline Data Review
  - Number of students with suspension events decreased by 24%.
  - Schools Alternative to Truancy and Out-of-School Suspension (ATOSS) decreased by 86%. ATOSS declined more because it started late since funding had not been determined. We used indoor and outdoor suspensions more.
  - In school suspension decreased by 13.5%.
  - Outdoor suspensions decreased by 44%.
  - Restorative Justice 9,600% improvement from 2,231 to 23 in 2014-2015.
  - The percentage of repeat offenders has declined.
- Board Member Constance Hall requested the Student Achievement data be included with data presentations.
- The task force met four times and recommended the following changes:
  - Interventions assigned for infractions need to be considered from previous infractions. The infractions are grouped based on the severity of the action.
  - Add language for Students with Disabilities to increase awareness and accountability. These students have to face the same consequence as other students.
  - Add "School Bus Code" back to strengthen consequences for negative bus behavior.
  - Make ATOSS an intervention. They will have a Certificated Teacher, Case Manager, and Social Worker.
  - Needs to be more awareness about Exceptional Student Education students (ESE).
- Board Member Becki Couch requested the ESE data for these students regarding discipline.
- Board Member Paula Wright suggested the district hold a Parent Court on Saturday. Once a month the parent or guardian would have to attend and conference with school staff. We need to make sure the teachers are keeping in touch with ATOSS teachers.
- Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, said he is open to Parent Court as part of suspensions. He will look into this further. The Superintendent made the following recommendations:
  - Mattie V. Rutherford will be converted to a school for students with more minor infractions.
  - Grand Park to 6th-12th grades will focus on the more aggressive behavior. The student would stay longer than the traditional 30 days.

- Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez is concerned that this maybe to proscriptive. Have we looked at other models for elementary students.
- The Superintendent said that the most extreme behavior can still led to the alternative schools depending on the accumulated points. He feels 3rd grade is to young but needs to look at a 4th and 5th grade alternative school setting.
- Board Member Constance Hall said we need to look at this again. We need to make sure our programs are a good fit.
- Dr. Vitti, Superintendent met with the Gang Unit. He spoke with them about how students are referred to alternative schools. Students need to be screened by JSO before they can go too another school based on hot spots.

### GOVERNANCE

Minutes: This topic was not discussed.

Adjournment

### ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

CSM

We Agree on this

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Superintendent

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Chairman