



E-AGENDA MANAGER

## Duval County Public Schools

---

July 27, 2015 - Board Member Meeting - City Council

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 JOINT MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: Board Members Constance S. Hall and Paula D. Wright were present. City Council Members Katrina Brown, Reggie Gaffney, Anna Lopez Brosche, and Garrett Dennis were also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[HOW THE SCHOOL BOARD AND CITY COUNCIL WORK TOGETHER](#)

Minutes:

Board Members Wright and Hall thanked everyone for coming and explained that the purpose for the meeting was for everyone to work together in a collaborative way to get information out into their communities to empower their constituents and improve their home lives

and ultimately education for the children.

The group discussed different types of information needed by constituents and how to get that information out into the communities. Council Members are asked by their constituents what will be happening to various schools and the libraries. Constituents need to understand the different roles performed by Board Members and Council Members.

Council Members would like to learn more about the programs being implemented in the school district to pull up student performance. Board Members could come to Town Hall meetings to help explain education in our communities. It would be helpful to understand how things have evolved over time in the schools - example: the police department in the schools has evolved into school police, etc.

Various community organizations such as United Way and JEA have programs available that can help people in the communities. Helping people get in touch with those programs is important.

The Public Education Strong video was played at the meeting. Board Member Hall reiterated the point of the film showing that people make public education strong and it's the heartbeat of the community.

Many constituents would like to see more money spent on preventative measures with discipline in the schools. Our schools suffer from suspensions. Community centers used to thrive more than they do now.

Many parents don't have a high school diploma or GED. They would like to help their student go farther but don't know how. The schools are doing a better job helping struggling students when they are at school but they need help within their homes. Everyone wants to help the children, but the families need the help. The solution is to go out into the communities. That helps erode any distrust they may have. Money will be needed to do this but no one knows a dollar figure at this point.

Board Member Hall said the Parent Academy needs to grow and can be tweaked. Some schools have an after-school club that partners with organizations that help get students back on track. The program needs to expand to more schools. War on Poverty can help with that. A mobile Parent Academy would be very helpful. Title I money is so minuscule and has to be directed. My Brother's Keeper is an initiative designed to help.

Board Member Hall noted that there are non-profits in the community but oftentimes people don't know about them or know how to go about tapping into them. Can a directory be developed with information to help people? The 211 phone number was set up to help answer city government questions. It was managed by United Way.

Council Member Gaffney asked if we could have United Way and JEA come to the next meeting. Council Member Brosche suggested we invite all the At-Large Council Members.

Council Member Dennis mentioned that in the past there have been problems with Council Members going onto school campuses without going through formalities. Is there a chance that can get simplified? Board Members will clarify the policy.

It was noted that both groups would need to bring a budget to the table to do the work needing to be done.

Setting up partnerships between corporations and high schools helps prepare students for work and there should be more of those programs. An example is Vistakon working with Englewood High School. Building that partnership will help our students be more employable when they graduate. If students cannot go onto college, they need to move into meaningful jobs. Programs can begin as early as middle school so they can be certified in a trade when they graduate.

Council Member Gaffney noted that when he ran, the main concern was to reduce crime. Educating our students will help with that.

Council Member Dennis noted that funds will be very limited. Board Member Wright reminded everyone that they have a voice that is powerful when united.

Board Member Wright expressed concern over a lack of businesses in her district. Council Member Katrina Brown said focusing on infrastructure and working with the Chamber of Commerce should help with that. They try to focus on doing what they can to help keep small businesses in business. Unfortunately, not all businesses that come to Jacksonville locate in the areas where the city needs them.

Next Meeting - Monday, August 10, 2015 - 12:00 noon at the School Board Building.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

LBL

We Agree on this

---

Superintendent

---

Chairman