



Duval County Public Schools

June 10, 2014, Board Workshop

Ms. Becki Couch, Chairman
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Jason Fischer
Dr. Constance S. Hall
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee
Mr. Ms. Paula D. Wright
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS WORKSHOP OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present, with the exception of Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, who was out of town. Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, was also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the Board Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[1. GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

The following items were discussed:

- Board Member Hall suggested that we provide local and state officials with list of graduations with an invitation from the Board to attend graduation ceremonies. The Superintendent will follow through on this request.
- Board Member Hall asked that the Board be provided with a list of Baccalaureate services each year. The Superintendent will follow up on this request.
- Discussed 5th and 8th grade recognition ceremonies for next year. Chairman Couch asked that they be scheduled by Board district and not Regions. Board Member Hall asked about having one ceremony for all 5th and one for all 8th graders. After discussion, it was agreed to hold them at high schools and schedule by Board district.
- The June 26, 2014, Expulsion Hearing is needed. The Chairman asked about Board members rotating attendance and that it was necessary to have 4 each time.
- The Vicky Olson hearing was rescheduled at the request of the attorneys involved. The new date is July 29, 2014, at 2:00 p.m.
- Board Member Fischer arrives at 9:29 a.m.
- Board Member Wright asked about the possibility of revisiting previous contracts prior to the budget process beginning in April 2014 to see if there were areas that might be cut to help reduce employees being RIF'd from their positions. A BMR will be prepared that will list those contracts, along with funding sources, as well as the budgeted amount and the actual amount spent. The Superintendent shared that most of these items would be using Federal funds and not General revenue which could be used to reduce the RIF list. Teach for America and curriculum materials might be only areas, but the Superintendent will look at this. Consensus was that the Board did not want to revisit the budget, but will review the response to the BMR.
- Dr. Vitti shared that the contracts for Team Up, Achievers for Life, and City Year, will not be brought to the Board for the coming year until he has reviewed the data for performance.
- Charter school enrollment was discussed. The information provided to the Board previously was based on reviewing trends.
- The Superintendent shared a new Organizational chart with the Board and explained changes. This is not the final chart and other changes are anticipated. A copy is attached to the Minutes.

Speakers:

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

[2. MIDDLE SCHOOL REFORM](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed a presentation with the Board, a copy of which is attached to the Minutes. Discussion included the following:

- The Superintendent thinks cut scores led to lower scores. He believes that tests should be level for grades 3-10 and not progressively higher. The curriculum should be grade level.
- Board Member Wright suggested we offer after school activities for students.
- Chairman Couch asked that we look at sports for 6th graders.
- Board Member Juarez suggested that we ask the students why they are leaving and what would make them stay for middle school.
- Board Member Hall suggested we have after school care but not call it Extended Day at the middle school level.
- Board Member Hall asked that we look at the literacy rate and reading strategies
- Board Member Wright talked about common planning and teachers coming together to work on a common project with their students and then given them all the same test.
- Board Member Juarez asked about the single gender schools and if they will had truly researched gender based instruction and practice. Dr. Vitti indicated that staff will be provided with training during the Summer.
- Board Member Juarez left at 11:30 a.m.
- Chairman Couch asked about Carnegie and asked that the Board be provided with data on this program, along with the plan for the future.
- Vice-Chairman Grymes left at 11:33 a.m.
- Chairman Couch suggested staff look at smaller learning communities in the middle schools.
- The single gender schools were discussed. Chairman Couch asked about funding. Dr. Vitti said all funding was in place and that while the dollars vetoed by the Governor would have been helpful, we still had funding in place to move forward.
- Board Member Fischer asked about a military magnet at the high school level. Dr. Vitti indicated that the JROTC programs were a continuity for the middle school program, and he would like to replicate at another middle school in the future.
- The Board broke for lunch at 12:04 p.m.

Speakers:

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

[3. NEW TEACHER LEADER PROJECT](#)

Minutes:

The Board reconvened from lunch at 1:24 p.m. Board Member Juarez returned prior to reconvening the meeting.

The Superintendent gave a brief background on the New Teacher Leader Project and turned the meeting over to Liz Cutrona and Tequilla Banks make the presentation. A copy of the presentation is attached to the Minutes. Discussion included the following:

- Chairman Couch asked about how the schools were selected. Ms. Cutrona indicated she would provide a list of the schools. They were selected based on diversity, free and reduced lunch, FCAT scores, and the list was reviewed with the Superintendent and his team. National tools based on common core were used as criteria.
- Board Member Grymes returned to the meeting at 1:36 p.m.
- Board Member Fischer returned to the meeting at 1:41 p.m.
- Chairman Couch asked how the budget process would impact implementation of this program. Ms. Banks shared that we could project out the vacancies by content area and staff and go from there. You can also make conditional offers, based on outcome of the budget process. Dr. Vitti said that the next step would be to project where the consistent openings are and start staffing with those positions.
- Board Member Wright returned at 2:20 p.m.
- Board Member Wright asked what their definition was for a "good" teacher.
- Board Member Juarez asked if there were districts who give high performing teachers more autonomy in the classroom. Ms. Banks indicated there were and it was called earned autonomy. The Superintendent said schools that have moved up in academics had a balance of standards and autonomy.
- Board Members Wright and Hall left at 2:30 p.m.
- Ms. Cutrona said that their group supported setting district wide targets and school level targets.
- Board Member Juarez asked about models that capture and recognize that some students have better supports to realize their capacity to learn than other students. Ms. Banks said some districts do and that specific goal setting for individual students is one method. New York City, as well as districts in Texas and Indiana have this. It is called "alternative growth added." "Measures of student learning" is another term.

Speakers:

Ms. Becki Couch, Board Chairman
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent
Ms. Liz Cutrona, TNT
Ms. Tequilla Banks, TNT
Dr. Constance S. Hall, Board Member
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Vice-Chairman

Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Member

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Board Workshop at 3:12 p.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman