



Duval County Public Schools

June 12, 2012, Board Workshop

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

ATTENDANCE AT THIS BOARD WORKSHOP with Mr. Ed Prat-Dannals, Superintendent of Schools and all Board members, present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[1. BOARD-SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

Discussion between the Board and Superintendent on:

* Florida Statute right to transfer property; Lease to Purchase , RFP (whichever would be best for the community; sale or transfer.

- * City Council - How do we want to expand collaborations: (A) Team Up - Academic Programs; (B) Pre-K - part of the Coalition; not with Richard Danford (will send a letter); performance data; flexibility; Cheryl Fontaine is on their Board; amount of major costs; Superintendent will pass on this information. (C) Summer Programming - now collaborating with the City; works well with our's and attendance is good. Will share this information with City Council.
- * Jacksonville Journey - Suspension Centers - 40% reduction of suspensions; DCPS provides information to them; they are involved with some funding that the City should be paying; ATOSS programs came from the budget; the Children's Commission and ATOSS.
- * Infrastructure - complaint/funding - Example: Brentwood Elementary School when the city closed streets due to drugs. The city worked with us and identified issues.
- * Schedule a Shade/Litigation meeting - Career Academies - Sonita Young will explain.
- * Schools for the Future - put this to bed. We must have correct data and number of students. Tim Ballentine's office can assist on this; FCAT showing different results; we can't go past June 21, 2012. We need honest information and get this behind us. We need to schedule a meeting to understand the data as these are "at risk" students. SFF was created for students who were two years behind; many of their students are only one year behind. We need to compare SFF's data to both Grand Park and Mattie V. Rutherford's. Additionally, we should receive the information first before it is released to the public. Look at the costs to operate SFF. What is the overall cost for double staffing? Again, we need answers prior to June 21.
- * Unions - we are not engaging the unions in a timely fashion. AFSCME - parameters - are we moving along? We need answers before the next budget meeting. Mr. Pratt-Dannals said he would give an update before the June 19 meeting.
- * SOS Charter School - asked about the status regarding appeal. Staff recommendation at the June 21 meeting will be to close the school. SOS wants to go to the law judge and then come before our Board. Will public comments be allowed at the June 21 meeting? Mr. Pratt-Dannals said you would hear from both sides and then deliberate. Their contract ends July 1, 2012. They are a "D" school. Why are we closing them when we have "F" schools that are still open? Their audit findings revealed audit discrepancies in three major areas: Academic performance; Financial mismanagement and Certification (lack of background checks).
- * Development meeting - request a date.
- * Superintendent's Evaluation - suggested either using what we have from last year by June 30 or do a waiver for this year. We don't want to break the policy.
- * Proper dress at Public Meetings - no campaign buttons, shirts, etc. Spoke with Officer J. Mike about addressing persons who attend our meetings. Will touch base with Karen Chastain in Office of General Counsel about possibly adding this to our script that is read by the Chair.

- * FAME and Climate Surveys - could we do a comparison between these two surveys in categories of students, parents and teachers? Many students are declining to participate in the surveys. Tim Ballentine's office may be able to assist with this. We need to initiate all employees to participate in the surveys in order to get good feedback. The FAME survey is electronic.
- * School Improvement Plans - we would like them to be more systematic. Will talk with Tim Ballentine and Phil Mobley.
- * Hiring Additional Counsel - the Office of General Counsel is very receptive to this. Some services are best suited for OGC and some are not; a very complexed business. We need a full-time attorney in-house. OGC is aware of the fact that there are holes but they can not be full-time attorneys for the district. Mr. Pratt-Dannals said we could collaborate with OGC about hiring 1-3 full-time attorneys for contracts, MOUs, etc. We would work on this for the right mixture while still honoring the Consolidation. We need more discussion on this before we hire the next Superintendent. We did a good job with Project Invest a few years ago and it was free.
- * Public Relations Employee - please give an update on what Larry Fairman is doing. The Chair said we could add this to our agenda for the next Board Development meeting. Mr. Pratt-Dannals said Mr. Fairman is working with Jill Johnson assisting with media requests and focus areas with Cheryl Reddick. He has also met with the Chamber. We will provide the Board with a report.

LITIGATION UPDATE:

Ms. Sonita Young said due to the schedules of attorneys and the need for a court reporter, we could not schedule the Litigation/Shade meeting regarding Ms. Rhona Silver. Ms. Silver was terminated in April, 2009. She requested a DOAH hearing and criminal charges were suspended and she was reinstated. The Board was not a part of that agreement. The Board denied a motion for legal fees. Her attorney filed an appeal and they have remanded the Order - which entity - the Board or DOAH? Any motion must be filed by Monday, June 18, 2012. I would need input from the Board in filing those motions and the motions can be withdrawn. I will provide copies of the Order to you, today.

Legal fees in March, 2012 were approximately \$300,000. Reimbursing employees for legal fees is huge and there can be serious policy complications. David Dagata needs direction in costs for moving forward. The filing deadline is June 18, 2012. He will file a motion to preserve the rights. Mr. Gentry said that we should have had a decision before now. Ms. Young said there are ongoing discussions between Karen Chastain and David Dagata. They will need to explain this and the cost of litigating and policies. Mr. Gentry said I would prefer to protect all our rights and interest - we don't have a choice.

Ms. Young mentioned an Oral Agreement and not a written agreement which would be something not on the record. Ms. Wright said it's alright to spend \$25,000 to preserve.

2. CAREER ACADEMY STAFF SUPPORT

Minutes: *This topic was withdrawn from the agenda and not addressed.*

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The workshop adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Isd

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman