



## Duval County Public Schools

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June 14, 2011, Board Workshop

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

ATTENDANCE AT THIS WORKSHOP OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present. Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent, and Ms. Karen Chastain, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the Board Workshop to order at 10:15 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[1. 2011-2012 CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT](#)

Minutes:

Staff provided the Board with an overview of the proposed changes to the Code of Student Conduct for 2011-2012. A copy of the proposed revisions is attached to the

Minutes. Points raised during the discussion included the following.

- How do we make sure the Code is uniformly enforced at all schools. Staff responded that there was training at the beginning of each school year for Principals and other school staff.
- How are we tracking to make sure the Code is uniformly enforced and how do we know that schools are actually charging students fairly?

Speakers:

Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Chairman  
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent  
Ms. Gloria Lockley, Director, Alternative Education Programs  
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member  
Ms. Pat Willis, Deputy Superintendent  
Ms. Betty Burney, Board Vice-Chairman  
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member

[2. DISTRICT OPTIONS - INTERVENE - CLASS SIZE PENALTY](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman provided the Board with an overview of the subjects.

Ms. Karen Chastain, Deputy General Counsel, Superintendent Pratt-Dannals, and Research and Evaluation Director Tim Ballentine, discussed FCAT 2.0 and the way it was artificially graded and how it would be difficult for any district to show gains from last year. After discussion, it was agreed that Ms. Chastain would review and come back to the Board with a recommendation in order to file a Complaint.

The Class Size penalty was discussed. The Board agreed to appeal the penalty through the Department of Education process. Ms. Chastain will also begin the process of drafting a Complaint which could be filed on this topic also.

Speakers:

Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Chairman  
Ms. Karen Chastain, Deputy General Counsel  
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent  
Mr. Tim Ballentine, Director, Research and Evaluation  
Mr. Mike Perrone, Chief Financial Officer  
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Member

[3. OLD JW JOHNSON USE](#)

Minutes:

Cluster Chief Lawrence Dennis provided the Board with a brief update on how well the Principals and staff handled the merger of James Weldon Johnson and Paxon Middle Schools. He also shared a copy of the new Mascot with the Board, which is a blended model of a falcon and a pirate. A copy is attached to the Minutes.

Staff provided the Board with a plan for using the former James Weldon Johnson facility. A copy of the plan is attached to the Minutes. Board Member Hazouri indicated that he thought the reason we were closing the school was because of its condition and that it could no longer house students. If this is the case, then why are we proposing using the school for all of the attached activities. Chairman Gentry also indicated that he was under the same impression and that the Board had made a profound decision on this and two other schools based on one set of facts and now staff is coming back with this proposal.

The Superintendent shared that reasons for closing the school also included the lack of space and lack of parking. He indicated that we also had a need for a space for overage students, as well as for students returning from DJJ. While the school was no longer appropriate for a 900 student population, these programs would be a good fit.

Board Member Hazouri asked if there was a need to improve the school. Doug Ayars, Chief Operating Officer responded that there would be a need in the future to consider some capital projects at this location.

Board Member Wright would like to see opportunities for members of the community to play primary roles in the process with a potential for jobs. She would like to know how we plan to use the various community groups, and asked that this be written into the plan.

The Chairman asked for a report on the annual cost for this initiative and what Capital plans are to make the building viable over the long run.

Vice-Chairman Burney indicated that she thought we were freeing up the facility for use by the community groups, and would be selling the building.

Board Member Hazouri feels that this type of action contributes to our credibility gap with the community.

Speakers:

Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Chairman  
Mr. Lawrence Dennis, Cluster Chief  
Ms. Betty Burney, Board Vice-Chairman  
Dr. Terri Stahlman, Chief Technology Officer  
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member  
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent  
Mr. Doug Ayars, Chief Operating Officer  
Mr. Paul Soares, Chief of Operations  
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member

Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member

#### 4. BUDGET

Minutes:

Staff reviewed a list of items to cut from the budget which would help reduce the number of furlough days for employees.

- Item 14 - Summer School Fees for Grade Recovery - do not cut.
- Item 15 - National Board Teacher Certification Supplement - do not cut.
- Item 16 - Community Education & ISSP - all agreed to this cut.
- Item 17 - Shift funding for Math & Science Coaches - all agreed to this item.
- Item 18 - Reduction of Summer Reading Professional Development - this is a shift in funding - all agreed to this item.
- Item 19 - Read It Forward Summer Program for grades 9-10 - all agreed to this item.
- Item 20 - Discontinue live telecast of School Board Meetings - do not cut. Board asked that staff use these dollars to build our own production company - look at using students, staff, purchase our own equipment, arrange with Comcast and/or Channel 7 to broadcast, and, video-stream to our website.
- Item 21 - Early Retirement - all agreed to this cut.
- Vice-Chairman Burney asked why we cut carpenters and kept contractors. Staff explained that we have to pay employees out of Operating and we can pay contractors out of Capital. The Vice-Chairman suggested allowing employees to become contractors
- Vice-Chairman Burney would like to see a list of all cuts made to date - programs, staff, school level, district level, etc.
- Staff indicated that so far 77 employees have taken advantage of the early retirement option being offered. The cut off date for this offering will be June 15, 2011. Another opportunity will be September-October 2011.
- It was agreed to restore furlough dollars to all employees if any funding becomes available.
- Vice-Chairman Burney asked that the Board be provided with an update on what UOPD has received in the way of salary increases for the past 4 years.
- Chairman Gentry shared that this would be a good time for the Superintendent to look at restructure and reorganization. It would give us potential to cut the least effective employees and keep the most effective, and not just cut the lower level staff, or last in - first out.
- Board Member Wright asked about the area of technology and does not understand why in the past 10 years we have not been able to hire people with certain expertise instead of having to contract out for these services. Our contractor payments have been in the millions over the past several years and she believes we could have hired staff to perform these functions and save dollars.
- Vice-Chairman Burney indicated that the Board should have received a matrix up front on cuts - programs and employees - without having to ask for the information. The Superintendent shared that he did provide the information to

the Board when requested, and that with some of the positions such as Civil Service, the individual names can not be provided until the bumping process is complete.

- The Chairman reiterated that furlough days would be the first item restored should we receive additional dollars. It was shared that furlough days would impact employees if this year was counted in their high five for retirement. The Chairman indicated that the only place left is furloughs. Everyone said they did not want to do this and asked that staff continue to look for places to cut, however, it is the only place left. In order to not have furloughs we would need \$7,130,000.
- The Chairman asked if there were any savings in the insurance area. Staff is tracking this and will provide a report.

#### Speakers:

Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Chairman

Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent

Mr. Mike Perrone, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Vicki Reynolds, Chief Human Resource Services Officer

Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member

Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member

Ms. Betty Burney, Board Vice-Chairman

Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member

Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Member

#### 5. BOARD-SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNANCE

#### Minutes:

The items discussed included the following:

- Chairman Gentry asked what would happen if we closed the four Intervene schools. Board Member Hazouri asked that we include the Opportunity Scholarship students in the response to the Intervene schools question. Vice-Chairman Burney added the close and reopen scenario to the request. Board Member Hazouri requested an update on the plan submitted to the State Board of Education by Broward County, in which they proposed to close and reopen one of their Intervene schools. Board Member Lee would like in writing the definition of closing and reopening a school, along with what is significant progress.
- The Superintendent shared information from the Florida Statutes on what transportation we are required to provide.
- The Superintendent met with the faculty of the four Intervene schools this morning.
- The Superintendent shared that he had met with Mayor Elect Alvin Brown this morning and he felt that the new Mayor does want to work with the school system.

- The Superintendent indicated that he was ready to move forward with the ACE process if at least four of the Board members were still in agreement. Board Members Gentry, Hazouri, Couch, Barrett, and Lee were in favor of moving forward. Board Members Wright and Burney were not interested in moving forward at this time. Board Member Wright indicated that she would be willing to revisit the Bank of America school closing. Vice-Chairman Burney could not support this action because of the disproportionate number of schools in North Jacksonville. She indicated that if we have so many empty seats there should be a moratorium on building new schools.
- The Chairman asked why summer school programs were only for Level 1 students and did not include Level 2 students. He asked that staff review costs involved and provide the Board with feedback.

Speakers:

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

[6. COMPREHENSIVE MAGNET REVIEW](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman recommended that we study the materials provided by staff and place this item as number one on the next Workshop. Board Member Hazouri objected to not discussing the topic today. He asked that the Board agree today to set the community meeting that was promised for this Fall to at least address the Priority One issue. It was agreed that there would be a meeting on September 28, 2011.

Doug Ayars, Chief Operating Officer, directed everyone to the tabs in the booklet and shared that each tab represented a phase and the materials laid out the objectives and timelines for each objective.

Speakers:

Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Chairman  
 Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member  
 Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent  
 Mr. Doug Ayars, Chief Operating Officer

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Board Workshop at 3:51 p.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

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Superintendent

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Chairman