



## Duval County Public Schools

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March 14, 2013, Board Workshop

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

ATTENDANCE AT THIS WORKSHOP 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 Chairman called the Board Workshop to order at 9:06 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

### [1. GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

The following items were discussed:

- Vacant Positions

- Board Member Wright had asked if there was a procedure to close positions that are vacant and not funded. The Superintendent indicated that there currently was no policy to address this issue. He asked Karen Chastain to look at how other districts handle this and she found one who addresses this, but most just give the Superintendent the authority to handle. Clay County has an annual agenda item that lists budgeted positions for the year. As changes occur to the allocation plan, there is an agenda item to amend the list. Board Member Grymes asked what the purpose would be to close the positions. Board Member Wright shared that the purpose of her inquiry is that if the Board is responsible for the budget, and after you pass a budget and positions are added, how does it impact the budget. She has an idea for a policy and will share that with the Board. The Chairman indicated this would come back to the Board after the budget process.
- K-2 - FAIR Test
  - The Superintendent explained the data on retention rates and the concerns with our current policy on K-2 students as it relates to the FAIR test. The changes to the current policy will reflect more of our past practice, that the FAIR and SAT 10 be looked at by teachers, but it will not mandate retention. Duval is the only county in the State currently using FAIR to retain students. There are plans in place to help those students impacted last year by this policy.
  - After discussion, a majority of the Board agreed to the proposed changes.
- Strategic Plan
  - The Superintendent shared that JPEF was offering to hold a rally for the launch of our new Strategic Plan. It would be in conjunction with their One by One rally on May 4, 2013.
  - Vice Chairman Couch asked if the Superintendent's Book Club event would still occur this year, and that it would be good to tie those two events together instead. We have a great turnout for the Book Club event, and parents may not be willing to come out in numbers twice so close together.
  - Board Member Hall asked if there was a way to involve other groups and make it a joint effort, and not just JPEF.
  - The Superintendent shared that the District would drive the event.
  - The Superintendent will discuss with staff and come back to the Board on this event.

Speakers:

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

[2. APRIL 2, 2013, DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed the April 2, 2013, Draft Agenda with the Board. Discussion included the following:

- Academics Item 1 - Course Codes - retiring some courses and opening new ones; will bring information on feeder patterns to the Board in late Spring, along with continuity of programs; Board Member Wright expressed concerns with Peterson and Randolph Academies - Randolph has less course offerings than Peterson and students are leaving. She would like a review of the two programs. Vice-Chairman Couch asked what happens to students who are in the 2nd or 3rd year of a course and their program is cut. The Superintendent indicated they should be allowed to complete and be grandfathered into the new courses.
- Academics Item 2- Inservice - the Superintendent will provide the Board with actual numbers on how this has increased.
- Academics Item 3 - Virtual School - the Superintendent explained how and when a provider is paid for students participating in virtual school courses. Vice-Chairman Couch asked about AVENTA and recent audit findings. Ms. Karen Chastain, Legal Services, indicated that this would be addressed during contract negotiations with Duval Virtual, who AVENTA works for. Ms. Chastain will provide the Board with information on one of the affiliates which is under investigation at this time.
- Academics Item 4 - Hope Haven Contract - the Superintendent explained that the contract is being completed at this time. He shared that his son is the on the children who will take advantage of this program.
- Human Resource Services Item 6 - Transactions - Board Member Hall requested that salaries be included for the Administrative hires section. Discussion centered on the best way to provide this information.
- Administration Item 8 - Budget Resolutions - Vice-Chairman Couch asked about the radio item. The Superintendent explained this was for the radios themselves, and a previous item that had been pulled was for an agreement with the City to provide service.
- Administration Item 9 - EMTEC - the Superintendent is removing the item until the May agenda.
- Facilities Item 11 - Fire Alarms - the bid should be opened and all blanks filled in prior to the agenda being finalized and published.
- Facilities Item 13 Drainage - Board Member Hall asked if this was already part of our planning process. Mr. Doug Ayars, Chief Operating Officer, shared that this was in the existing Major Maintenance plan approved by the Board last year.
- Facilities Item 14 - Capital Outlay - Staff explained the purpose of this agenda item.
- Operations Item 17 - Carpentry - Staff explained the purpose of this agenda item.
- General Item 19 - Strategic Plan - this item will be updated after our Workshop next week.

Speakers:

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

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Board Workshop at 11:44 a.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

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Superintendent

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Chairman