



Duval County Public Schools

March 15, 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 12:05 p.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[1. GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

The following items were discussed:

- SIG Grant

- Mr. Fred Heid, Chief Academic Officer, provided the Board with an overview of the following schools:
 - Forrest High School - overall school culture has improved; teachers are directed; 1 of the current 7 reading teachers is reading endorsed
 - Ed White High School - went from a D to a C; principal doing excellent; strong TFA core
 - Ribault High School - discussed areas of improvement; still need improvement in writing
 - Raines High School - improved from a D to a C; their weakness is in the area of Science, and they are working to improve in this area
 - A. P. Randolph - has shown improvement
 - Also talked about the progress at Butler Middle School, Ribault Middle School, North Shore Elementary School, Pinedale Elementary School, and Long Branch
- The Superintendent indicated that there would be monthly updates
- Board Member Wright will e-mail her ideas
- Chairman Lee asked that information be provided to the Board a few days prior to Workshops for review
- Board Member Hall would like to see a team identified to go into the schools and do walkthroughs and identify issues and solutions
- Legislative Update
 - Vice-Chairman Couch shared information on the upcoming FSBA Days in the Legislature trip to Tallahassee. Mr. Mike O'Farrell is making appointments for our Board to visit with Legislators during the trip. An updated list will be provided to the Board. Everyone will have copies of the one page legislative brief for our District, as well as the longer version. It was suggested that members provide legislators with the one page brief, and provide the longer version to their aides.
- Douglas-Anderson
 - The Superintendent provided the Board with a project schedule for the Douglas-Anderson project.
 - Funding options were discussed. Chairman Lee asked about the interest rate, as it seemed high to him. The Superintendent thought it was reasonable.
 - This project has been in the Capital Plan for four years
 - Board Member Wright supports the project, but wants to make sure we have the whole picture of our needs. She shared that Martin Luther King is also a performing arts magnet, and it also needs works.
 - Board Member Hall also supports project, but we need to look at the needs of other schools too. Board Member Juarez agreed.
 - Board Member Fischer asked if this project was the best use of our Capital dollars. The Superintendent indicated that it was. He shared that we also need to address safety to life issues in some of our schools.
 - Board Member Wright asked about Southside Middle School. The Superintendent stated that it would be the next big project. Board Member Wright also asked about the new K-8 school.
 - After discussion, the consensus was to move forward with this project.
- Contracts

- o The Superintendent shared that most of the commitments made in 2912-2013 were to one time bonuses. AFSCME is still negotiating for 2012-2013. DTU and the Paraprofessionals area a Step plus \$1,300.00. FOP is still negotiating. JSA, ILUNA and Maintenance are the same. DTU is the only one relevant for the budget.
- o Staff has already calculated for commitments and what it would cost is we applied a one step situation.
- o For teachers, some of the language changed to step plus \$500.00 if economically feasible.
- o Ms. Sonita Young, Chief of Human Resource Services, explained how teachers are selected for the summer instructional programs.

Speakers:

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

2. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Minutes:

The Superintendent provided the Board with an overview of the handout, which is attached to the Minutes. Discussion included the following:

- Will vet with teachers, principals, etc.
- Provided a brief explanation of each area.
- Special revenue is really just under \$6 million - set aside for sequestration
- Chairman Lee suggested the Board go back and review the e-mail on the Board office budget.
- Board Member Wright asked how we ensure equity when Title I dollars are used. The Superintendent would like to see more invested in technology, field trips, parent outreach.
- Chairman Lee asked about other districts that use staff allocation. The Superintendent said that we were the only large district that did not use a staff allocation plan.
- Board Member Juarez asked about leveling of art and music in schools.
- Board Member Wright indicated she would like to see us reinstate the 1 1/2 mile for transportation.
- Vice-Chairman Couch asked that on Magnet transportation, we look to see where there were inefficiencies - i.e., buses with only a few students.
- Board Member Hall asked that as we run numbers, to provide the Board with a

projection over time on how we can sustain the initiatives. Also, on art and music, provide impact on planning time.

- Chairman Lee asked that the Board be provided with simulations on the budget to provide a comfort level.
- Board Member Wright asked about additional dollars for teachers. The Superintendent shared that at this point it is to fulfill the one step commitment, the \$500 bonus, and whatever amount comes from the Governor's budget.
- Chairman Lee would like to spend time understanding the \$100 million.
- Board Member Wright asked what the role of the Board would be in sharing information on the budget with the public. Board Members asked that the information provided for vetting the budget with the public be user friendly and understandable. The Board will come up with a plan on their role. Vice-Chairman Couch shared that before the Board and Superintendent went out to the community as a team and presented when we had to make cuts. There was a PowerPoint and handouts used in the past. Vice-Chairman Couch indicated that she has asked in the past that we need a booklet like Orange County uses for parents and the general public. All agreed that they should work as a team on vetting the budget with the public.

The Superintendent asked the Board about reinstating the Magnet routes that were cut two years ago. Discussion included the following:

- Decision needs to be made soon in order for companies to order buses. Mr. Doug Ayars, Chief Operating Officer, shared that a decision needs to be made in the next week. They will have to order about 100 buses.
- The cost to restore would be about \$4 million.
- There will be hubs.
- Chairman Lee indicated that he was not opposed, but expressed concern about picking things out of the budget as we go along.
- The Superintendent indicated we would have a surplus of \$100 million.
- Board Member Wright would like to see the 2 miles reduced at least back to the 1 1/2 mile, and further for those at the elementary level who have to walk through dangerous areas.
- Vice-Chairman Couch requested information on how they arrived at the cost - how many buses for how many students and locations.
- Board Member Hall would like to see numbers included on each item in the budget presentation.
- The Superintendent shared that to reinstate the Magnet routes, provide after school activity buses, and move back to the 1 1/2 miles, it would cost about \$5.8 million.
- Concern was expressed about having to make a decision on a short timeline. The Superintendent felt it was more appropriate to discuss during budget review.
- The Superintendent will bring back the budget packet with numbers tied to each area and this topic will be discussed at the next Workshop.

Speakers:

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Chairman
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

Ms. Becki Couch, Board Vice-Chairman
Mr. Doug Ayars, Chief Operating Officer
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
Dr. Constance S. Hall, Board Member
Ms. Latrell Edwards, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Member
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member

3. FUTURE MEETING DATES

Minutes:

The following meeting dates were agreed upon.

- April 18, 2013 - Budget - extend meeting to 1:30 pm
- May 9, 2013 - Budget - 9:00 am - 11:00 am
- May 21, 2013 - Budget - 9:00 am - 11:00 am
- June 18, 2013 - Budget - 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Speakers:

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

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Board Workshop at 4:44 p.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman