



## Duval County Public Schools

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March 26, 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. Jason Fischer. 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 Vice-Chairman called the Workshop to order at 8:33 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[1. ESE](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent made a presentation to the Board on upcoming ESE changes. A copy of the presentation is attached to the Minutes.

Chairman Couch arrived at 8:43 a.m.

Discussion included the following:

- The Superintendent is recommending separate principals for the EBD units in the schools which will house this program.
- Board Member Hall asked that staff look at the number of students in each EBD unit and how far they have to travel, and consider adding more sites.
- Vice-Chairman Grymes asked if staff had looked at the process on the length of time it takes to staff a student. The Board has received many complaints in this area. Dr. Vitti indicated that they have addressed this concern and that staff had made some progress in handling IEP issues.
- Changes in the scoring for Gifted students was discussed.
- Slide 4 contains an inaccurate number on the cost savings. This dollar amount will be corrected. The correct amount is \$750,000.

Speakers:

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

[2. ACE TRANSPORTATION PROCESS](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent made a presentation to the Board, and the slides for this are also included in the ESE PowerPoint, attached to the Minutes. Discussion included the following:

- Board Member Wright asked Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, about the K-6 proposal and the ACE policy. Ms. Chastain will look at the policy as it relates to this change.
- Board Member Wright asked the Superintendent if there was a plan in place to address the impact on middle schools losing the 6th grade. While she fully supports K-6, 7-9, and 10-12, she is concerned with the impact on the middle and high schools, and suggested that we consider piloting the above through the entire feeder pattern, and not just at the elementary level.
- Board Member Juarez asked that the Superintendent share the data from Long Beach and Miami on this issue. She also asked how the schools in the pilot program were identified. The Superintendent shared that some volunteered.
- Board Member Juarez asked if there was a plan to help students in the K-6 model

transition to 7th grade.

- Board Member Hall shared that as we move forward, we need to look at research and best practices for middle school reform, and that changes need to be strategic.
- Chairman Couch asked about Policy 8.51 - ACE process - and how it has been used in the past. Mr. Paul Soares, Chief of Operations, shared some instances, which included, transportation changes, school closures, and boundary changes. Chairman Couch asked that Ms. Chastain how we should implement this policy and should we pick and choose when the policy should be implemented. She will make this a BMR for response. Board Member Hall suggested we implement a protocol for the policy. The Chairman will e-mail the policy to the Board members and this will be added to an upcoming Workshop.

#### Speakers:

Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Vice-Chairman  
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent  
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member  
Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services  
Dr. Constance S. Hall, Board Member  
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Chairman  
Mr. Paul Soares, Chief of Operations  
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Member  
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Member

### 3. CURRICULUM MATERIALS

#### Minutes:

The Superintendent discussed the testing calendar for the coming year. Slides on this are contained in the ESE PowerPoint, which is attached to the Minutes. Discussion included the following:

- CGA 3 will be used for end of course exams.
- Writing prompts are being eliminated.
- Vice-Chairman Grymes suggested that we provide parents with information on the testing schedule at the beginning of the year. Dr. Vitti said they would look at adding this information to the packets parents receive at the start of the year.
- Board Member Wright expressed concerns about Kindergarten students taking assessments on line and requested additional information on this process.
- Board Member Wright suggested putting the testing schedule on magnets and hand out to parents.
- The Superintendent shared that we would no longer be using IOWA. Board Members Hall and Wright expressed concerns regarding the amount of money, a little over \$1 million, that was spent on this program last year, and now staff is recommending we move to Achieve 3000 and Performance Matters. Board Member Wright asked if these types of programs are being fully vetted before

implementation.

- Chairman Couch also suggested that we provide parents with a list of those tests which are required by the State.

The Superintendent also shared information on Curriculum changes for the coming year. Slides on this topic are also included in the ESE PowerPoint. Discussion included the following:

- The Superintendent shared that the only big change is iReady and Achieve 3000, and doing away with IOWA, which was discussed above.
- Chairman Couch asked about middle school and suggestions from teachers that Carnegie should be flipped, and that it would be more beneficial in standard classrooms.
- Chairman Couch asked that information on the financial impact be included in the agenda items for May.

Board Members Juarez and Grymes left the Workshop at 11:30 a.m.

Board Member Wright brought up one item for Governance. She indicated that fellow Board Member Fischer had requested individual meetings with members to discuss Governance, and she wanted to clarify that she felt governance related items should be discussed as a group of the whole, but she was open to individual meetings on other topics.

Speakers:

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

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Workshop at 11:43 a.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

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Superintendent

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Chairman