



E-AGENDA MANAGER

Duval County Public Schools

May 10, 2016, Special Board Meeting - Boundary Changes

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Chairman
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Becki Couch
Mr. Jason Fischer
Ms. Cheryl Grymes
Dr. Constance S. Hall
Mr. Scott Shine
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present. Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, and Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Officer of Legal Services, were also present.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

[PUBLIC COMMENT](#)

Minutes: There was no public comment.

[APPROVAL OF THE MAY 10, 2016 AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School

Board approve the May 10,
2016 agenda as submitted on
May 6, 2016. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Scott Shine

Second: Paula Wright

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Not Present

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Scott Shine - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

Topics To Be Discussed

[PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGE FOR SMART POPE LIVINGSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #149 AND SUSIE E. TOLBERT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #128.](#)

Minutes:

Board Member Cheryl Grymes arrived at 9:06 a.m.

Board Member Shine noted for the record that although he will support the item on the floor, he has decided not to support any new initiatives for academic magnets in urban areas until a comprehensive plan is in place to address the issue of underutilization in schools. He anticipates that would include some school closures.

Vice-Chairman Wright opposes the item on the floor due to it not providing a clear path for dealing with underutilization. She feels the item on the floor will add to the area's decline. She reminded the Board that each member is to be an advocate for all students, not just the ones within their own district. She feels the underutilization is due to desegregation. She noted that the Board voted to change Andrew Jackson's boundary when told by the Superintendent it would be a D or F school. In reality, it ended up being graded as a C school. She feels for the teachers and students who worked hard to attain that C.

Board Member Fischer opined that when a school is a D or an F for 13 of the last 15 years, the district has failed them. This change is about customization of a child's education.

Board Member Hall asked what has been done to deal with the multiple sets of railroad tracks. Dr. Vitti explained they have added a bus stop as well as a monitor at the tracks 45 minutes before and after school. There will also be a parent liaison at each school to assist families whose children are split between two schools. Board Member Hall noted to her fellow Board Members that the entire program of boundary changes had been very laborious due to missing information and much of the hardships created by these changes are being overlooked. Changes in one community may not have a hardship impact that those same changes have in other communities. At one point in time, West Jacksonville Elementary was an A school. The Board and District need to ask what happened to cause that decline. Board Member Hall noted at the time of the decline that principals making an A at schools were viewed as qualifying for promotions. When will it be recognized that the principal could be the very reason why that school is scoring an A? Shuffling students from school to school won't improve performance. Board Member Hall understands the need for K-2 strength, but also feels there are quite a few missing pieces to the boundary changes.

After Dr. Vitti reassured Board Member Couch that the most a student would walk with this boundary change is one mile, Board Member Couch noted parents concerns about their students losing access to the Boys and Girls Club they've been accustomed to attend after school and that it is an example of yet another set of information that has not been discussed at any of their meetings. Dr. Vitti said the children can attend the after school programs once they return to their neighborhoods. Board Member Couch opined that we need to provide them direct transportation if they are going anywhere other than straight home. She was happy to hear Board Member Shine ask for a plan she's requested since the boundary changes began. She is hopeful they will get it now that four Board Members are asking for it. She would like to see the Board discuss what to do with all schools that have low utilization, not just the ones in the urban core.

Board Member Grymes wanted to note for the record that the item on the floor is not harming students; to the contrary, there are benefits for the students. Such benefits include:

- Head Start
- Title I Pre-K program
- K-2 program to problem solve
- University of Florida Lasinger Center to provide ongoing professional development
- Any Given Child will teach through art
- An intergenerational component
- Parent liaison
- Interventionist at each grade

- BOLD after school program
- PITSCO lab
- Full-time nurse

Board Member Grymes doesn't feel there is any information that is missing from the item and it has been getting discussed for a long time. Revisions are made whenever they are suggested and it is time to move on. Vice-Chairman Wright disagreed.

Dr. Vitti assured Board Member Couch he would commit to providing an after school activity bus for the students.

Chairman Smith Juarez clarified that this item will not create any additional magnet schools. S.P. Livingston Elementary has been a part of the boundary change discussions since July; the other schools were added in just the past few months. Any changes that are made are bound to create some sort of hardships but the district does what it can to ease those hardships. Since the schools will be able to offer something they didn't have before, she sees the possibility that people may move into the area.

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the proposed boundary changes for the Kindergarten through second grade students that are currently zoned for Susie Tolbert Elementary School #128 to S. P. Livingston School #149 and the third through fifth grade students currently zoned for S. P. Livingston Elementary School #149 to Susie Tolbert Elementary School #128. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Scott Shine

Rebecca Couch	- Nay
Jason Fischer	- Aye
Cheryl Grymes	- Aye
Connie Hall	- Nay
Ashley Juarez	- Aye
Scott Shine	- Aye

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

LBL

Superintendent

Chairman