



E-AGENDA MANAGER

Duval County Public Schools

May 19, 2015, Board Committee Meeting and Workshop

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

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING 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 meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[JUNE 8, 2015, DRAFT AGENDA](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed the June 8, 2015, Draft Agenda with the Board. Discussion included the following:

- CONTINUATION OF FLORIDA DIAGNOSTIC AND LEARNING RESOURCES GRANT (FDLRS) - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- At-risk students are identified by the Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS).
 - FDLRS visits, Head Start, and Early Steps Centers are used to identify students.
- RENEWAL OF GAGGLE
 - This is our e-mail system which is used for secondary students.
 - It is used to communicate with students and teachers.
 - The cost of \$230,000 will remain the same as last year.
- AGREEMENTS BETWEEN DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND EACH OF THE COMPANIES LISTED ON EXHIBIT A FOR CONTRACTED SPECIAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS
 - Provides contracted speech language pathologists, physical, occupational therapist, and audiologist
- DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY PLAN
 - A breakdown of student to equipment ratio.
 - Revised plan based on implementation of QZAB II.
- SECURE EMAIL GATEWAY
 - Increase in SPAM - Upgrades to Office 365.
 - This will reduce the amount of SPAM.
 - Five-year service contract with a potential renewal.
- CERTIFIED INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP COACHING
 - The district partnered with the Lastinger Center to focus on training our Assistant Principals at the secondary level for 2015-2016.
 - Feedback is documented and was very positive regarding the quality of the training.
 - Teaches principals how to give feedback to teachers on improving instruction.
 - The Superintendent indicated that he will provide an overall data impact to the Board.
 - Board Member Paula Wright asked how the training is being monitored. Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, indicated that the Region Superintendents participated in the training with principals.
- CITY YEAR PARTNERSHIP 2015-2016
 - City Year is working with eight schools currently.
 - The program will expand to ten schools including Highlands Elementary and S. P. Livingston Elementary.
 - The overall vision is to create a feeder pattern approach.
 - Students that are supported by City Year are doing better than students in other areas.
 - The program is designed to work with Tier 1 and Tier 2 students.
 - This is our third year with City Year.
 - The focus is to graduate students in four years.

The Superintendent recommended the program expand to Highlands Elementary and George Washington Carver Elementary.

Board Member Constance Hall suggested S. P. Livingston Elementary since the school feeds into Eugene Butler which has the program. The

consensus was to have the program at S. P. Livingston Elementary versus George Washington Carver.

Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez asked how the schools were selected.

Dr. Vitti indicated that the schools were selected based on attendance and behavior.

Board Member Becki Couch requested a comparison of schools using City Year versus non-City Year. The Superintendent will add a chart for attendance and referrals.

- APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS PLAN
 - The amendment is to change the Materials Plan to the adoption of math from K-5 for 2016-2017 to K-5 for 2015-2016.
 - This item does not require us to name the curriculum.

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, stated that he felt it was appropriate to move forward with EngageNY based on the previous meeting discussion. Ms. Chastain has posted the notice concerning the curriculum.

The Superintendent stated the adoption of the curriculum will be voted on at the July Regular Board meeting.

Board Member Paula Wright voiced her concerns with EngageNY since her questions have not been answered. She has sent questions to the Superintendent.

Dr. Vitti will be answering questions sent to him on the curriculum in an e-mail to all Board Members.

- CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTS

Board Member Becki Couch requested the Board receive a financial report about the charter schools each month and also the annual audit report.

Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, suggested the report be included in the Business Services financial report. This will be added to the agenda for September or October.

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, requested the Policy Handbook Review Committee update the policy to add this report.

- ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS APRIL 30, 2015

Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez asked Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, if he has reviewed the updated budget resolutions. It was not in the packet provided to the Board. No response was given to her question.

- CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT CONTINUING SERVICES SELECTION AND CONTRACT AWARD/OFDC-ITB-015
 - Bids are sealed.
 - Board Member Becki Couch asked how the district prevents construction managers from awarding contracts to family members or business interests. Are there cost incentives for cost effectiveness or to finish early?
 - Paul Soares, Assistant Superintendent, Operations, said "We require our prime contractors (CM) to put all work out for bids and get awarded to the lowest bidder. So we check for the low bidders to ensure we are receiving the best price. We do not have privity (i.e., a connection) to how subcontractors or suppliers of CMs award their work, so we cannot check for how that work gets awarded. As long as we receive the most competitive price, then we would not necessarily check for who the work was awarded to. But, if we become aware of an improper relationship or of collusion between contractors to fix prices, then we would involve school police to investigate the concern" "based on the contract."

- AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES WITH THE GALLUP ORGANIZATION, INC.
 - The results of the survey will be out in about a week.
 - Board Member Scott Shine asked if there would be an opportunity to make changes in the survey instrument.
 - Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, indicated that the Insight climate survey will allow us to add additional questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m. for the Board Members to attend the PTA President and Principals Luncheon and resumed at 12:52 p.m.

- PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Board Member Constance Hall asked the Superintendent to encourage more diversity in the Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

- THE DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY PLAN -The Superintendent reviewed the attached PowerPoint with the Board.
 - The plan is similar to how it was structured last year but revised based on the way of work going into the 2015-2016 school year and other things the Board asked for regarding technology. Discussion included the following:
 - Collaboration with Curriculum and Instruction.
 - Software is congruent with the system so that we will not have problems with devices.
 - Proactive with technical support.
 - Increase in technology staff by about \$300,000 to give support to schools.
 - Standardization of what computers we purchase.
 - All schools will be fully wireless by the end of next year.
 - Student to device ratio will be 1.51:1 at the end of next year.

- The challenge is the higher performing and higher socioeconomic schools because there is not a revenue stream to address the device deployment. Those schools will be behind in devices because there are no additional funds coming from grants.
- STRATEGIES
 - We are on schedule to complete the infrastructure in wireless for QZAB II schools.
 - Interactive whiteboards.
 - They is an opportunity for a QZAB III Bond. The Superintendent is not ready to give a recommendation to the Board concerning a bond.

Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez indicated that she would not be in favor of using a long- term bond for short- term items.

The Superintendent indicated that the district would need to budget for replacement of devices in the future.

- MEASUREABLE OUTCOMES
 - Customer Support Survey Results.
 - Computer to Student Ratio.
 - Percent of Schools with High Density Wireless.
 - Number of Days to Close a Ticket.
 - Departmental Climate Survey Results.

Chairman Cheryl Grymes asked the Superintendent if the district offered keyboarding skills to students. The Superintendent indicated that we have keyboarding classes more at the middle school level. The elementary level has lessons that linked to keyboarding skills for 2nd through 4th grade.

BUDGET

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed the PowerPoint on Budget with the Board. A copy is attached to the minutes. Discussion included the following:

- Pending Issues
 - Anticipated difference between the governor's budget and the House/Senate budget is about \$5 million dollars.
 - Cost of the Lowest 300 pending lobbying efforts.
 - Increase in charter school enrollment. Loss of District enrollment is 7.4 %. The percentage is lower than previously provided based on Acclaim Charter School closure.

Superintendents in the big seven school districts drafted a letter concerning the findings for charter schools, the Lowest 300, capital outlay and other issues. The letter will be signed and sent to the House and Senate.

Board Member Scott Shine indicated that we should discuss raising revenue and consolidating before this comes up as an agenda item.

The Superintendent suggested the Board have a Board workshop to broadly discuss initiating the Academic and Community Excellence (ACE) process for the 2016-2017 school year implementation. This would give us a full year to engage the community on possible programmatic changes.

Dr. Vitti indicated that we are probably looking at \$5 million dollars less than the governor's budget for Duval County. We could reduce the reserve from 5% to 4.2% and refund it if the roll for this year is higher. The previous consensus of the Board was to not reduce the reserve. He can continue to reduce Specialists which he has already done. Dr. Vitti's recommendation is wait and see what happens in Tallahassee.

Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez asked to see a one pager that incorporates Charter School Impact, Lowest 300 and the projected impact with the new agreement with the teachers. This will give us an "if then" scenario.

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, indicated that the one pager that was provided to the Board has the most up - to-date reality. We are balanced if we deal with the \$7.4 million dollar issue and the Lowest 300 requirement does not come in without an unfunded mandate. The Superintendent said the only other way he can balance the \$7.4 million is with the three bulleted items on the handout which is cutting staff. Without prior years funding and the Lowest 300 funding he cannot balance the budget without cutting staff.

Vice-Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez asked about the cost of the 8- period day. Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, indicated that the cost would be the same if you kept the 8 period day intact. If we did not have the 8-period day, we would have the skinny class which is not effective. We would then need to reduce the number of elective classes and teachers. This would cause problems with the bus schedule because of the timing for middle and high schools with some being on an 8-period day and some on a 7-period day. He will calculate the cost savings and do an analysis for the Board.

Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez asked what has been budgeted for cabinet add - ons. The Superintendent said 15 positions have been added mainly linked to coaches. The cost would be less than \$7 million and most are the hold harmless positions. Right now they are funded through anticipated revenue.

Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez stated that the Board is asked to

make decisions on significant services that could or could not be provided to students yet there is some delta of anticipated revenue or unnecessary expenditures.

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, said "This is the process we have created over the last two years to be very transparent about all of our dollars but most districts figure this out. What worries me is how to deal with this politically in order to balance the budget". If we do not fund these positions we cannot make class - size even when we look at school average and we cannot maintain programs at certain schools that are funded through individual teachers.

Board Member Paula Wright asked the Superintendent why we have not looked at these programs before instead of increasing the amount or adjusting down or keeping them at the same level as last year.

Superintendent Vitti indicated that when you look at what these programs offer he does not think this transforms the budget.

Board Member Becki Couch asked the Superintendent to come up with other ways to balance the budget for the next meeting.

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent said we can continue to look at instructional coaches since it is a \$9.6 million investment and there is a way to absorb those positions.

GOVERNANCE

Minutes:

This topic was not discussed.

Adjournment

Adjournment

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

CSM

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman