



## Duval County Public Schools

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May 21, 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 8:09 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

### [1. GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

There were no Governance items for this meeting.

### [2. BUDGET](#)

Minutes:

Discussion included the following:

- The Superintendent reviewed a one page budget handout with the Board. Background materials are will be provided later in the meeting. He asked that Board members submit their questions to him or Michelle Begley and he can provide responses prior to the May 30, 2013, budget meeting.
- The Superintendent would like a budget where we would not have to make any Capital transfers. He would also like to be aggressive in getting students back into the system and away from Charter schools and use of McKay scholarships. He does not want to budget the \$57 million. The Superintendent would also like to eliminate the burn rate.
- The Chairman asked for an explanation of the following:
  - The 3% that is now \$26 million - does it account for an increase in revenue; response was yes
  - The \$11 million - is it additional money for savings; response was yes
  - The \$11 million - is it non-restricted; response - combination
  - The \$14 million - it is restricted or non-restricted; response is that it is restricted with certain limitations
- Board Member Fischer indicated that today's information looked different that the information provided at the last Workshop. His understanding from the last meeting was that we would spend down restricted funding and set aside unrestricted funds with examples for 3%, 6%, etc.
- The Superintendent shared that a reserve higher than 3% would mean more cuts and changes, and then explain to the community we will have a \$52 - \$80 million dollar reserve. We would have to scale back programs and he is uncomfortable with that large amount in savings.
- The Chairman pointed out that if the reserve falls below the 3%, you start getting letters from the State, and if it goes below 2.5%, people come in and tell us how to run the budget. We have to explain that to the community. We need a buffer if there is a mistake made in the budget or if something happens.
- The Chairman asked the Superintendent to provide the Board with a list of all the school districts in Florida and how many had been engaged because of budget deficits in the last 3 years.
- Board Member Juarez addressed the comment on a higher reserve and budget cuts, and that we need to make it clear to the public that it is a cut from the proposed budget and not current services. The Superintendent agreed.

The Board broke at this point so that the Superintendent could speak before the DOE Board, who were meeting in the 1st Floor Board Room.

The budget discussion continued with the following:

- Board Member Fischer asked about the burn rate and the expected expenditures for the coming year. Chief of Staff, Wendy LeHockey, indicated the total would

be \$789,943,429. The Chairman asked that we hear from the Chief Financial Officer, LaTrell Edwards. She confirmed the above number. Board Member Fischer asked for further clarification on the numbers presented to the Board, specifically in relation to the burn rate. The Chairman asked that the Superintendent provide the Board with all of the information defined as the burn rate.

- Board Member Wright asked about the reserve totals requested at the last Workshop. The Superintendent was asked to bring options for the 3% plus 4%, 5%. and 6%, with non-restricted funds only.
- The Superintendent shared that he would have to abandon staff allocation and class size if we go with a higher reserve.
- Board Member Hall asked that the Board be provided the whole picture for the budget. The Board has not seen the division budgets; projections for charter school enrollment for the coming year - same with McKay; initiatives and priorities for the coming year. She would like to see specifics for the May 30, 2013, budget meeting, along with actual or projected amounts; and information on staff being cut and/or surplussed.
- Vice-Chairman Couch asked that we set a Collective Bargaining Shade meeting regarding health insurance.
- The Superintendent will provide information and responses to the budget questions by 7:00 am on May 27th.
- The Vice-Chairman asked that we discuss in Workshop the impact of this budget on Capital. We also need to discuss technology, transportation, etc.
- The Chairman would like to see a 3 year Capital plan.
- The Superintendent indicated that he would share the Minor and Major Maintenance list with the Board today, based on the 5 year Capital plan.
- The Chairman asked that the Superintendent provide figures for a reserve based on 3%, 4%, and 5%, in addition to the current 3%.

Speakers:

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

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Board Workshop at 11:00 a.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

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Superintendent

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Chairman