



Duval County Public Schools

May 3, 2013, Board Development Meeting

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 BOARD DEVELOPMENT MEETING: All Board Members were present. Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, was also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the Board Development Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[GOVERNANCE TRAINING](#)

Minutes:

Ms. Nancy Broner assisted the Board by facilitating Governance training. The following topics were discussed.

- Ms. Broner recommended the Board attend CUBE (Council of Urban Boards of Education) as a team.
- Board roles and communications is the biggest issue for boards.
- Florida Statutes says that members answer to the public and the law.
- FSBA offers training and Board members should take advantage of what they have to offer.
- You need a strong, empowered Board and Superintendent, and a good Superintendent will work to empower their Board in their governance roles.
- Boards should have time together without a set agenda.
- Top reason Districts are taken over is finances.
- It is the Boards role to set targets.
- BMR (Board Member Request) system was discussed - the system and the policy was created in order to track Board member requests and ensure that all items were responded to in a timely manner. It also serves as a database for future requests and research.
- The Board needs to define their role and that of the Superintendent.
- Order book - What School Boards Can Do - by Don McAdams.
- CS (Constituent Services) System - several members would like to discuss this further.

The Superintendent joined the Board for lunch and the remainder of the meeting. Topics discussed included the following.

- Ms. Broner shared the following from the morning discussions:
 - Support and energy around Dr. Vitti being Superintendent is 100% today.
 - The Board would like to discuss their roles and working with him.
 - Some Board members need more information, while others need less.
 - The Board needs some unstructured time and more development opportunities.
 - The Board discussed the need for an annual calendar of items to be reviewed.
 - Working together as a team is continuous and should be re-visited on a routine basis.
 - Focus should be on student achievement.
 - Develop guidelines for communicating with the Board on issues happening at the schools.
- Board members expressed concern regarding communications from the Superintendent and staff when things happen at the schools. The Board asked that the Superintendent and staff let members know as soon as they are aware, with the Board member whose district the school is in being alerted first, and what actions are being taken, along with any information available at the time. This should be done with a phone call or a text message.
- The Superintendent shared that he had felt supported by the entire Board, and feels we are a team. He understands that communications is the main theme and that it is different for every individual.
- Ms. Broner shared that they had talked about the role of the Board as elected officials and their rightful role in responding to the public on what is happening in the school system.

- The Board would like for the Superintendent to share initiatives with them prior to going to the public. This is not as a deterrent, but as a courtesy, and also helps the Board support initiatives to their constituents and answer questions.
- The Superintendent shared that the budget would be sent to the Board in its entirety on May 6, 2013.
- The Board would like to see contracts added back to the agenda item sent to them for approval. The Superintendent indicated that he had always provided a copy when asked for one. The consensus of the Board was to add the contracts to the agenda item as an attachment.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Broner for generously donating her time to facilitate today's meeting.

The Chairman chaired the following wrap up items:

- The Superintendent should designate someone to work with Bonnie Susan Cole on follow up Board member requests.
- There will be a change in the communications process.
- Board Member Connie Hall will work on a calendar for Board member training.
- The Superintendent will reach out to the Board on where we are on student achievement.

The following meetings were set:

- May 8, 2013 - 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Student Achievement Data
- May 14, 2013 - 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Board Internal Auditor
- May 20, 2013 - 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Special Board Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearings

There was a consensus by the Board that all would like to attend the upcoming annual Chamber trip - September 17-19, 2013. Outside sources of funding would be sought to assist in paying for the trip.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Board Development Meeting at 2:45 p.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman