



# Duval County Public Schools

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November 19, 2014, Board Development Meeting

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: Board Chairman Cheryl Grymes, Vice-Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Members Becki Couch, Constance Hall, Scott Shine, Paula Wright and Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent were also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[Call Meeting to Order](#)

Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m.

Discussion Items

## [CORE VALUES AND TARGETS](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Cathy Mincberg, President and CEO, CRSS (Center for Reform School Systems) led the Board and Superintendent in a training session to develop Core Beliefs.

- Core Belief #1: We believe all students can perform at or above

grade level

- Core Belief #2: We believe all schools should have a culture that is safe, student centered, nurturing, rigorous, and actively engaging. Commitment: We are committed to creating middle schools that have a culture that is safe, student centered, nurturing, rigorous, and actively engaging. Metric: Student survey, Middle School enrollment number's, parent surveys
- Core Belief #3: We believe that highly effective teachers are essential to student success. Commitment: Defining highly effective teacher, hiring, retaining, supporting, developing. Metric: number of teachers rated highly effective on principal evaluation and value-added with cut scores, teacher surveys, teacher turnover by campus and district-wide.
- Public Education is a value to the entire community
- Teacher quality vital, critical, talent development, retaining the highest performers, fully staffed, length of vacancies, individualized, developmentally appropriate, and relevant, safe/secure,
- Relevance in education - reflect a diversity in education - relevant experiences - creativity
- We believe that middle schools need a special focus (loss in confidence, poorer performance, discipline concerns) - need to tell our own story - K-6. 7-9. 10-12 option - teaming - create a transition experience - develop a strategic approach to Middle School.
- We believe that middle schools should purposely transition students in a nurturing and developmentally appropriate way.
- K- 6 pilot program at Pickett and Rutledge Pearson - principal commitment

## [STRATEGIC PLAN DRAFT](#)

Minutes:

- Superintendent Nikolai Vitti, reviewed the Strategic Plan Draft with Board members. Board Member Constance Hall said in the future the Board needs to receive more information along with the power point. Board Member Hall asked if teachers would be able to run reports on student achievement. Superintendent Vitti said the teacher will be able to see how the student is performing but will not be able to detect if they are on grade level. Board Member Becki

Couch asked how long it would take to reach the state average. Superintendent Vitti stated that we are only setting a base line at this time. Statewide we are looking at a 1% increase. We are one of only a few districts that are setting targets with this transition. The cut scores will be determined after the state receives the data. We will be able to track our progress around Thanksgiving. Board Member Constance Hall asked why it takes so long to get the data. Superintendent Vitti said because of summer school and IB exams. Board Member Hall asked if the charter schools are included in our average. Superintendent Vitti said they are included and he feels if they were not included our graduation rate would be 80%.

- Board Member Paula Wright asked the Superintendent when they would be able to hear from staff instead of having him speak for staff. The Superintendent said he was not sure what she had in mind. We had staff at a previous meeting to present information. Board Member Wright said she wants to hear from the people doing the work. This will also take some of the work load off of you. Board Member Constance Hall stated we are a team and we all need to learn how to present information. Board Member Wright said we all need to understand the role of the staff. We have not seen Addison Davis and he is Chief of Schools. Superintendent Vitti stated that staff is very busy and he tries to free them up to work with schools. I want to have Addison Davis at schools more, not in the district office.

### Discussion Items

Minutes:

The Board discussed the Community Meetings on proposed boundary changes. Superintendent Nikolai Vitti gave the meeting dates. When he receives feedback from the community meetings he will inform the Board. Mason Davis, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, Pearl Roziers, Region Superintendent, School Choice/Pupil Assignment, and Paul Soares, Assistant Superintendent, Operations, will be attending these meetings. Board Member Paula Wright asked if R. L. Brown Elementary would be included in the working groups. Board Member Constance Hall asked if the working groups will be given other proposals if they do not agree on proposed boundary change. Superintendent Vitti's reply was if the working groups have another proposal he will bring it back to the board.

Board Chairman Cheryl Grymes and Board Member Constance Hall

requested a map of their districts.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

CSM

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Superintendent

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Chairman