



E-AGENDA MANAGER

Duval County Public Schools

November 20, 2014, Committee 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 : All Board Members were present with the exception of Board Member Jason Fischer. Superintendent Dr. Nikolai Vitti and Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, was also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[Call Meeting To Order](#)

Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW](#)

Minutes:

Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent reviewed the December agenda items with staff. Discussion included the following:

SAS Annual Software License Renewal

- Board Member Constance Hall expressed her concern over approving all the contracts at once based on funding. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, explained we have a funding clause where if we do not have the funding the contract ends. Dr Vitti said we will have a separate workshop on technology.

PITSCO Education Agreement

- This contract will provide training for district science teachers.

School Improvement Plans for San Jose Academy and San Jose Preparatory Charter High Schools.

- School Improvement Plans for San Jose Academy Charter and San Jose Preparatory Charter High Schools. Pearl Roziers, Region Superintendent, School Choice/Pupil Assignment, has worked with the schools to make the necessary changes.

Summary Audit Report - Internal Auditing

- Dr. Vitti said the district has hired new staff and feel the reports will be better. Lone Star, Biscayne and Murray Hill Charter Schools were audited by staff. Board Member Becki Couch inquired as to how they were paid. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, said the district is still working through this. Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez asked if we have scope of work and contract for the Chartrand Receipt? Dr. Vitti stated the contract and the position were approved at an earlier meeting. Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez said she would also like to know what the scope of work would include.

Project Aware

- Board Member Paula Wright asked if the focus will be on Department Of Education (DOE) schools. Dr.Vitti explained the focus will be on full service schools.

Sale of Surplus Real Estate Property

- The district is currently spending \$15,000 a year on surplus properties. We have partnered with Metro Diner which is located next to Hendricks Avenue Elementary to rent part of the property for parking. Metro Diner will pay \$400.00 a month for the use of the land. A fence will be added for safety. The money that is received will be deposited in the school's Internal Accounts fund.

Sibling Preference for Military Personnel

- Currently military receive priority to the school of their choice if they have lived in Duval County for less than a year. We have had a request to change this. Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez requested we look at a changing the word "sibling" to legal guardian

to receive priority. This change would need a Board vote.

Middle School Reform - Discussion included the following:

- The challenge for middle school students is identity. Leadership is also inconsistent. We are moving our good middle school principals to the high schools. Mason Davis, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction, and Anthony Anderson, Region Superintendent, Middle Schools, stated they are both meeting with teachers and principals to help with instruction. Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, explained that the district is marketing new programs at middle schools through Discover Duval, School Choice Expo, School Based tours, Podcasts and local media interviews. Board Member Paula Wright asked Mason Davis if the board members could visit the homes of students. Mr. Davis said we could have the district social workers do this. He will look into this further.
- Board Member Scott Shine asked about school playgrounds being more accessible to the community. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, stated that liability and safety is a problem.
- Board Member Becki Couch asked what the district is doing to provide above grade level classes at middle schools. Dr. Vitti, Superintendent stated we do have at least one class at each school for above grade level students. We do need to strengthen the classes at middle schools. The district is currently looking at a pilot program at 9 of our middle schools. Middle school teachers will train with our high school teachers. This will be available through Dual Enrollment classes.
- Big Brothers and Sisters will be working with the district to provide more mentors. There will be no cost involved. District staff are also working through Junior Achievement to provide mentors. The program is five lessons. Currently all administrators are required to work with a school. Board Member Becki Couch stated she does not think it should be required. Can we provide an incentive? I feel with the reduction of staff it is even more difficult to complete work each day. Superintendent Vitti said that he would reiterate with supervisors that they should be supportive of employees while they participate in the Junior Achievement initiative. Board Chairman Cheryl Grymes, said we should be doing our part since our corporations provide mentors.

Board Member Constance Hall had the following questions:

- How many principals participated in the training?
- We need to see a list of themes.
- Will the students have adult mentors?
- If they are working in teams do they have planning time?
- Are master schedules flexible?
- How do they ensure the delivery of mental and social services?
- Do students have the opportunity for before and after school programs?
- How many schools have Team Up?

- We also need to focus on transitioning students from 6th, 7th and 8th.
- We need first time college students that can get students interested in going to college.
- Classes on test taking.

Board Member Paula Wright suggested we have the same uniforms for our feeder patterns. Can we put a dollar amount to the amount of time spent on mentoring?

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, discussed 18 million dollars that was in surplus from the 2011-2012 school year. I would like to recommend 6 million dollars be used on Safety to Life projects. We also have school cameras that are broken, white boards are needed for high schools and audio carts that could be purchased. I am looking for direction from the Board. Board Member Scott Shine asked if we had projects that were not completed. Ron Fagan, Executive Director, Budget Services, will look into it. Michelle Begley, Executive Director, Board Internal Auditor, and Latrell Edwards, Chief Financial Officer, will check on projects that may or may not have been completed.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

CSM

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman