



E-AGENDA MANAGER

Duval County Public Schools

October 13, 2015, Board 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 with the exception of Chairman Cheryl Grymes and Board Member Jason Fischer. Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, was also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

Vice-Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez requested for a consensus to have Chairman Cheryl Grymes participate via phone. Board Members agreed.

9:03 a.m. Chairman Cheryl Grymes participated via phone.

Public Comment

Items To Be Discussed

[MARKETING PLAN](#)

Minutes:

This topic was not discussed.

GOVERNANCE

Minutes:

Boundary Changes

Board Member Hall requested specific dates regarding the timeline for the boundary changes. Dr. Vitti provided handouts on the timeline and also suggested having the Board vote no later than February and give feedback by November 30.

Board Member Wright expressed concern regarding the third party directing working group meetings and wanted to make sure information was given objectively. Dr. Vitti stated he will present overall information, so the community can hear it from him directly, working groups will then break off separately.

Board Member Wright expressed concern regarding Dr. Vitti presenting and could not recall the Superintendent presenting in the past and wants to make sure the community receives the information objectively. She suggested staff present all information objectively. Vice-Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez asked for more information regarding the scope of the consultant role.

Board Member Shine arrived at 9:06 a.m.

Dr. Vitti stated working groups will present with the third party. Opening session working groups will be with Ed White and Stilwell. He will present and ask Stilwell for questions and each working group will meet separately. The third party will consist of University of North Florida (UNF) communication majors. There will be 4 – 5 working groups and it would be impossible for one person to be at all groups. Staff will be there to answer technical questions. November 20, before Thanksgiving, is the date for the decision to approve, modify or reject the recommendation and then present to the Board by November 30. Dr. Vitti may change his recommendation once information is received from the working groups. He discussed various dates regarding community meetings, notice changes, and the first meeting of the working groups. The Ed White Group will decide when they will meet and at what location.

Board Member Hall felt as though the Board needed to decide if the Superintendent should present the information to the community. She does not want the public to feel as though this has already been decided coming from the Superintendent.

Dr. Vitti has concerns regarding him not presenting to the public. No recommendation is final until December 31 when the public hearing notice is published.

Board Member Shine left the meeting at 9:18 a.m.

Board Member Hall stated as Board Members they need to have a conversation to decide how they should move forward with the Superintendent presenting.

Board Member Wright felt as though the opinion of the Board does not matter, the community feels as though this has been decided, and the Board should make sure this is objective.

Board Member Becki Couch indicated that, historically the Superintendent has done the kickoff. The Superintendent should outline the process and each working group should be presented with their own changes. She does not see a problem with the Superintendent doing a kick off and the community does need to have an understanding. Board Member Couch expressed concerns regarding the posting of the working groups in high schools which are not affected by the boundary changes. Dr. Vitti stated the schools can decide where they want to have the meeting, at their discretion.

Board Member Shine returned at 9:30 a.m.

Board Member Couch feels what is creating the concern is the volume of schools being affected at one time and the lack of time given for the community to participate. There is a lot to accomplish in a short amount of time and the community is feeling it is intentional. Had she realized there would be so many, she would have suggested to slow down the process. Dr. Vitti says he sees the bigger picture as is related to the School Expo and he is fine with either time frame.

Chairman Grymes voiced concerns about the conversation and the vote at the last meeting relevant to the Superintendent and what he is charged to do. He is following policy put into place by the Board. She noted two issues, one regarding whether the Superintendent should present and the second, continuing sticking points about the decisions. She remembers agreeing the Superintendent will present so everyone will have the same information and it is his recommendation and not a selling job. He will then hand it over to the working groups.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez communicated dates presented may not be feasible. In reference to the dates for proposals and workshops, November 30 is the Monday following Thanksgiving and that will be difficult. The December community meetings will be limited. There will be a FSBA meeting and the possibility of moving the Regular Board meeting date.

Board Member Hall inquired if the Superintendent has considered

changing/revamping any of the recommendations. Dr. Vitti stated he is, pulling Matthew Gilbert as a grade 3-8 but would like to hear from the working groups. That is the only one. Dr. Vitti feels all recommendations are worthy of conversation and rely on the working - groups to determine whether 2016-2017 or 2017-2018 implementation is the right year.

Board Member Wright wanted clarification regarding the working groups determining the 2016-2017 or 2017-2018 implementation. Dr. Vitti stated he would be sensitive to the 2016-2017 or 2017-2018 implementation. The Board has to recognize among the working groups that there will not be a consensus. There could be a majority but not a consensus.

Both Board Member Wright and Dr. Vitti shared a difference of opinion regarding the presentation and timeline for the boundary changes. Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez expressed her concern to Dr. Vitti with hopes he would listen to the thoughts of the Board and bring integrity to the situation. Dr. Vitti stated it's extremely disheartening, frustrating and disappointing that the Board would not want their CEO to present and he will ask for legal opinion.

Chairman Grymes expressed her concerns as to why the Superintendent would not be given the opportunity to present the facts to the community. Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez clarified the Dr. Vitti will present because it is not prohibited in policy. Board Member Hall showed concern regarding Dr. Vitti's attitude and felt this is beyond policy and not a Board decision, but a conversation regarding the process. Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez restated the Superintendent will present on the process and the list of boundary changes to the full working groups and he will not participate after it is handed over to the facilitators.

Board Member Hall left the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Community Meetings and Dates

The Regular Board meeting on December 1 will be moved to December 7 due to Board Members traveling and attending the FSBA Conference December 1-4. There will be a meeting on December 8 to discuss the working groups and community meetings will follow. The Superintendent will prepare two sets of community meetings, December 10 and December 15. He would like to meet with the Board after the community meetings on December 17 and may change final recommendations by December 30.

Board Member Wright expressed concern with the dates and if the Board Members will be attending the community meetings. Board Member Wright stated as a Board/Team there should be some sensitivity to the need for information and to make decisions. She referred to Board Member Fischer requesting more information to make a decision and every constituent should have that same opportunity. Her district will be most affected by the majority of the changes and due to the holidays and school closing, the community starts to shut down after December 15. The dates presented are rushed and do not allow enough time to present to

the constituents.

Board Member Hall returned at 10:20 a.m.
Board Member Hall left the meeting at 10:21 a.m.
Board Member Couch left the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

Chairman Grymes agreed and would like to go back to look at the timeline and put the recommendation up for discussion. Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez agreed this would give the Superintendent and community clarity.

Board Member Couch returned at 10:22 a.m.

Board Member Couch wanted clarity if the recommendation would have to come from Board Members Fischer or Shine. The recommendation may require a 28 day notice as a new agenda item and will not be able to add to the November Regular Board meeting but could add to a special meeting.

Board Member Shine understands due to the boundary changes timeline there will be added stress with the Christmas holiday but there will be 56 days for public comment. The process should proceed and the Superintendent should be given the opportunity to make it work and if the process fails, then reset the timeline. Dr. Vitti stated he is open to another waiver and realizes the Board will need 5 votes to approve the recommendation.

Board Member Shine left the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez is in favor of extending the timeline. Chairman Grymes will make the recommendation. Board Member Couch and Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez will support the recommendation. Dr. Vitti will continue with the working group process and everything will be on hold to give the Board time to present the waiver. Board Member Wright thanked the Board for hearing and implementing a policy. A meeting will follow to discuss the process of the recommendation.

Governance

- Organizational meeting - will be held on November 17 at 5:00 p.m. and following the meeting will be the Leasing Corporation meeting.
- Policy Review – all have been reviewed with the exception of the ones the full Board will do together and an oversight calendar has been set up. The Board will need to decide if a review committee will continue reviewing one chapter every other month. This will put the review process on a two-year cycle.
- E-agenda system – has been narrowed down to 3 systems, looking for feedback, needs and questions for Board staff.
- Superintendent Evaluation – information for the evaluation needs to be complete within the next 30 days and does not need to be

recorded or documented but has to be done according to policy.

- Chat with the Superintendent – Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez attended and took notes, which she will forward to the Board.
- Office Staff – resolution and clarity for staff, moving constituent services back to the Board office. Discussion will be revisited at the November Governance.
- Board Member Request – Board Member Couch would like the request for Stilwell information be resent.

Curriculum

Board Member Couch had concerns with curriculum during school visits. She had the impression students would receive information in a binder on heavy paper but this is not what was seen in the classroom. Teachers were complaining they had to do a lot of copying. Board Member Couch also expressed the frustration amongst parents with the math and reading. Are there materials available for parents to understand the concept of the new materials? She would like to see resources on the website to include videos, tutorials and make it easier to locate the curriculum on the website.

Dr. Vitti stated teachers are wanting to print additional materials and schools would be receiving additional dollars for printing. The binder was implemented once Board Member Hall indicated it was flimsy and would not hold up over time. Videos and links are being built on the website and will be passed on to the Board. Dr. Vitti knows a better job can be done and will be done in regards to getting materials to parents so they can access at home. The schools are having more sessions with parents as a resource, more districts are moving to EngageNY and companies are starting to bind the curriculum which will help.

Board Member Couch expressed concerns regarding the pace being off. It is difficult to keep the bottom quartile moving forward when average and above average students are moving forward. Is there someone to assist substitutes with access to materials? Dr. Vitti stated pacing is always an issue and teachers do not have to be at a certain point by a certain date. Conversation needs to be on why the pace is behind, teachers are just understanding the material, some instructional time is wasted with printing, and not being comfortable moving on because students are not ready. Dr. Vitti has been pleased with the progress from 3-5 Language Arts but there are issues that need to be refined and addressed.

Chairman Grymes disconnected via phone at 11:10 a.m.

Board Member Couch stated Regional Superintendents are giving a different impression with pace and teachers feel restricted with innovation in the classroom. K-2 did not receive copies. Will the copies be made at the school or out sourced? Ms. Michelle Begley, Internal Auditor, verified funding had not been added to schools for printing. Dr. Vitti stated funds

had been added within the last two weeks.

Board Member Couch inquired if teachers can make changes to curriculum and what happens if the data comes back and this curriculum did not move the needle. Dr. Vitti stated data will not be known until the end of the 2015-2016 school year and concerns will be raised with any curriculum.

Board Member Couch wanted to know the status of the printing budget to see if there is a way to take the burden off the teachers with printing and are they able to use Bulls Bay. Dr. Vitti stated teachers have always printed and there are legitimate needs for printing for K-2. Bulls Bay may not be able to produce at the level needed. The Superintendent is aware of the challenges which is why additional dollars have been given.

Board Member Wright wanted to know how is the determination being made regarding the need for additional materials being printed and how do you monitor what is being said by the Regional Superintendents. Dr. Vitti stated Principals are making the determination but it is not coming from every school. Regional Superintendents produce a report/log, a weekly meeting is held, and there are visits to the school by Dr. Vitti.

Board Member Wright wanted to follow up on a Board Member Request (BMR) made at the board meeting regarding Teach for America (TFA). Dr. Vitti stated it would be sent by the end of the day.

Board Member Wright had concerns regarding Quality Education for All (QEA), Summer Principals Academy (SPA), The New Teacher Project (TNTP), Teach for America (TFA) & City Year, with determining strategically which is best. Are we getting everyone on the same page and what determines this, and how do you see them connecting or interconnecting to help move the needle academically for our students? Which program is more effective TNTP versus SPA and how do you know if the program is helping?

Vice-Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez left the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

Dr. Vitti explained the differences with the programs. SPA is a leadership development program building future AP's and Principals. TNTP is focused more with building capacity of Regional Superintendents. The program is not developing new leaders but needs to be added to develop new leaders and working with current leaders. TFA is the teacher level, recruiting and developing. City Year is focused on children who are low in reading and math. At the end of the 2015-2016 school year he will have the data and be able to do a comparison with Jacksonville Teacher Residency (JTR). If the JTR program grows enough, there may not be a need for some of the other programs. They will have learning gains but not Value Added Model (VAM). He added that the district was one of four to receive grant dollars from JTR.

Board Member Wright will forward conversations with the District of Columbia and the Cleveland Schools and their programs.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

NS

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman