



E-AGENDA MANAGER

Duval County Public Schools

September 20, 2016, Board Workshop and Committee Meeting

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Chairman
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Becki Couch
Ms. Cheryl Grymes
Dr. Constance S. Hall
Mr. Scott Shine
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present with the exception of Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez and Board Member Dr. Constance S. Hall. Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, and Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Officer of Legal Services, were also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comment

[PUBLIC COMMENT](#)

Minutes:

Public Comment was taken after the Draft Agenda review.

Items To Be Discussed

[DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW - OCTOBER 4, 2016](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed the October 4, 2016, Draft Agenda with the Board. Discussion included the following:

VyStar Academy of Business and Finance Program at Fletcher HS and Mandarin HS

- Currently the program is at Wolfson and Ribault High School and will expand to Fletcher and Mandarin High School.
- There will be a showcase event at First Coast High School on September 29, 2016. Vice-Chairman Wright encouraged any Board Members who would like to attend the event. She will be in attendance for the ribbon cutting ceremony.
- Every student who participates in the program does not end with employment at VyStar. There are three students who have been hired from Wolfson High School and four students have been hired from Ribault High School.

Learning for Life Grant

- This is a collaboration with the District and Boy Scouts of America for the implementation of Learning for Life (LFL), a Character Education Program.
- The curriculum will be embedded in the English Language Arts curriculum for grades K-2 and 3-5 throughout the District as opposed to certain schools.
- Vice-Chairman Wright believes the program should be shared and highlighted throughout the District, so constituents can see the holistic approach the District takes in terms of educating our students.

Renewal of the CSX Data Center Services Agreement

- Jim Culbert, Executive Director, Information Technology, stated the long-term plan is to combine the two data centers and remove from CSX after one year and build a data center for the District to replace the Team Center.
- Three studies have been done on the data center the District currently has, the facility at CSX and the possibility of moving to another property. Mr. Culbert will share the studies with the Board. The recommendation of the study was to move to another center in 19 months. The recommendation has been included in this year's Capital Plan.
- There are no double costs for agenda items previously approved.
- There will be a \$30,000 decrease as equipment is moved, the cost of

- cooling and power will be less and space will be reduced at CSX.
- A separate agenda item will be presented to the Board to create an infrastructure transition. Once it is presented the CSX data center will be eliminated.
- The cloud is necessary because it is housing and storing all of the databases that were once on the server.
- This item was on a part of the Technology Plan that was approved.

Charter Application for Seaside School Consortium, Inc. to Seaside Charter K-8 School

- The Superintendent's recommendation is to approve the application to expand and create another school. They are an existing Charter School and high performing with school grades of a "B" in 2014-2015 and an "A" in 2015-2016.
- The Superintendent stated some applications do not make it to the Board for approval and are denied.
- The Superintendent will send updated data on the number of applications that are submitted and denied before reaching the Board for approval.
- Pearl Roziers, Region Superintendent of School Choice, stated 12 applications were submitted last year and 5 made it to the contract process.
- Seaside is proposing to open up as a K-8. They will operate as a K-6 in year one and then add a grade each year thereafter.
- Board Member Couch expressed concerns with the diversity of the school. The school is not reflective of the district, it is majority Caucasian students, does not reflect the community of the schools in that area. Board member Couch would like more information on how they plan on avoiding segregating students. The Superintendent stated Seaside would have to address all concerns during the application process before the contract is submitted to the Board for approval.
- Board Member Couch requested Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, and Pearl Roziers follow-up with her to address the diversity of the current K-5 school and the need for a plan of diversity in this school.
- Vice-Chairman Wright expressed concerns with the number of standards not being met, with one being safety and security. Karen Chastain stated if the application is approved it will have conditions for approval.
- Applications are due by August 1, for charter schools to start the upcoming school year.
- State statute states an application can be approved with conditions prior to the approval of a contract. The district's scoring matrix is more detailed than the State. The State requires that they have a comprehensive reading plan.
- Board Member Shine stated he does not want a charter school by Mayport but he will support it if it meets the statutory requirements.
- Seaside Charter does use the Waldorf curriculum which means they are doing something different than traditional schools.

- The Board would like follow-up information on the emphasis of diversity of student population for all charter schools, income data, how are the schools advertising and targeting students, and the K-5 student diversity population at the current school.

School Improvement Plan

- All charter schools that receive a "D" or "F" school are required to submit a school improvement plan.
- The Board is able to ask the charter schools to come before the Board to answer questions regarding their School Improvement Plans.
- School improvement plans for the district schools who received a "D" or "F" are available. The other schools will have plans in November.
- Vice-Chairman Wright requested a schedule for the planned walks, so if Board Members wanted to attend the evaluation monitoring walks, they will have a schedule of the schools. The Superintendent will provide.

Public Hearing and Vote; Adopt the School District Facilities Five-Year Work Program 2016/2017-2021/2022

- The Superintendent will send additional documentation to the Board by the end of the week.

School District Facilities Five Year Capital Plan 2016/2017-2020-2021

- The Superintendent stated the only change to the plan is the \$300,000 that was allocated for the FCI study. The item was removed from the Capital Plan.
- The Superintendent will provide the Board a report based on the audit received from Council of the Great City Schools and the 21 recommendations and how they will be funded and monitored throughout the year by mid-October. The report will also include how the recommendations will impact the Capital Plan.
- The K-8 schools included in the Capital Plan are not attached to a funding source.
- The Superintendent stated during the Joint Meeting with City Council scheduled for September 21, 2016, there will be discussion on the process and identifying when to build a new school.

Board Member Grymes arrived at 10:09 a.m.

- The Superintendent will provide the five-year Capital Plan Projects to the Board by the end of week.

[PUBLIC COMMENT](#)

Attachment: [Mandates.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Elizabeth Ross.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Board Member Shine left at 10:20 a.m.

Elizabeth Ross

Ms. Ross had concerns regarding recess. She stated the policy the Board will be considering calls for two 10-minute breaks and offers no true benefit to our students or teachers.

The National Association for Sport and Physical Education states, "All elementary school children should be provided at least one daily period of recess of at least 20 minutes."

The policy submitted to the Board with the support of more than 1,000 parents and stakeholders, is supported by research. Ms. Ross presented mandates from districts across the State of Florida (see attached) showing they do not have 10 minute recess breaks. These districts do offer art, music, science, recess and their core academic subjects in their academic day.

Ms. Ross stated she will be in Tallahassee to testify at the House and Senate Education Committees concerning how Duval County Public Schools has chosen to respond to this issue.

Board Member Shine returned at 10:24 a.m.

Vice-Chairman Wright clarified the policy that was presented by Ms. Ross is a proposed policy and not a district policy.

Timothy Sloan

Mr. Sloan expressed his concerns with the current issues in the community and the district by using an example of the Jaguars being one game away from the championship and the Coach is fired to the Superintendent along with the School Board and having the same issues going on.

Mr. Sloan discussed data he had received from another Board Member but did not feel the data was anything new with subgroups. He stated the blame should not be on Superintendent Vitti on how he will close the gap, but on the Board as former educators on how did they close the gap. He stated the gap has always been there.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

NS

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman