



E-AGENDA MANAGER

Duval County Public Schools

September 15, 2015, Board Workshop and 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 Constance Hall. Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, was also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m.

[PUBLIC COMMENT](#)

Minutes:

Bradford Hall

Mr. Hall thanked the Board and the Chairman regarding how the previous meeting on boundary changes was conducted. He indicated that the public that attended the meeting on proposed boundary changes felt the process was very inclusive.

Items To Be Discussed

[DRAFT AGENDA- OCTOBER 6, 2015](#)

Minutes:

- Public Hearing and Vote: Revisions To Chapter 4 Board Policy - This item, if approved, would not allow students who receive a Certificate of Completion (COC) to walk at graduation with the exception of Exceptional Student Education students (ESE) or students with a 504 plan.
 - Students with a Certificate of Completion are not eligible to join the military.
 - Students with a Certificate of Completion cannot earn a college degree without completing all high school requirements.
 - The Superintendent indicates that he believes 99% of the students can pass one of the required tests to graduate.
 - Students receive up to six chances to retake the ACT and SAT tests.
 - Over 60% of counselors and principals said they do not feel students understand the ramifications of receiving a Certificate of Completion.
 - 94% of principals and about half of counselors agree students should not be able to walk at graduation with a COC.
 - 98% of 10th graders are not receiving a high school diploma but are receiving the COC because they cannot pass the FCAT reading test or receive a concordance score.
 - 98% of English Language Learning (ELL) students at every school failed the FCAT reading test.
 - Last year 585 students received a Certificate of Completion.

Board Member Couch voiced her concern over students who have done everything possible to graduate. They have the grade point average and the credits to graduate but are not able to pass the required tests. She is not opposed to revisiting this item.

The Superintendent indicated that the broader issue is the brand. The outside community is not sure what a high school diploma means anymore. He said this hurts what students are achieving.

Vice-Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez indicated that one year ago she came to the Superintendent and asked for this policy to be reviewed. The

recommendation of the Policy Handbook Review subcommittee at that time was not to remove these students from walking at graduation because of the efforts that many students made. Ms. Smith Juarez requested the following information:

- o Were students asked what would motivate them?
- o Do we know how many students who earned a COC come back to receive a traditional high school diploma for the last three years?

The Superintendent indicated that the District has not asked students what would motivate them. He will try to survey as many 11th and 12th graders who have not passed to ask about the motivation factor. The Superintendent will also try to get in touch with as many students who graduated with a COC as possible to see what would motivate them.

- Check Point Security Software Upgrade And Renewal- Vice-Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez requested the following language be added to the GAP Analysis “an amount not to exceed”.
- Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) 2015- The district is required to review systems with the Department of Education (DOE) which are linked to new categories and requirements. The agenda item speaks to the two areas we need to improve on.
- Duval Instructional Leadership & Faculty Development Grant - This is a grant that comes from the Department of Education (DOE). The focus is on the New Teacher Project which provides for training of our Regional Superintendents. Board Member Couch questioned the many typos in the agenda item.
- Extension of Dates For School Attendance Boundaries To Waive School Board Policy 5.44 - This agenda item will create a June deadline for the boundary changes. Board Member Couch asked the Superintendent to include a timeline in the item. The Superintendent will add the timeline to the item and state it will be subject to change.
- QZAB II-Group 4-B High Density Wireless At Englewood High School No. 90/DCSB Project No. QZAB-15-E99960-3090: Construction Contract Award - Board Member Shine asked about the practices around the life of the technology and the infrastructure verses the life of the debt. Do we have a policy or rule we need to follow? Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, will work with Board Member Shine concerning the current debt policy. The Superintendent indicated that we will present on the topic at a future meeting.
- Public Hearing and Vote: Adopt the School District Facilities Five-Year Work Program 2015/2016 – 2020/2021- Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez asked if the projected utilization included portables at the school site. Paul Soares, Assistant Superintendent, Operations explained that portables are included in the utilization numbers and the plan also accounts for maintenance and up-keep of the portables. The projected utilization does not account for any future changes in boundaries.

Board Member Fischer requested information on how old the portables are at Mandarin High School. The Superintendent will provide the information on the age and the investment for covered walkways verses another building to house the students at schools that are over- utilized.

- Duval County Public Schools Annual Professional Development Plan - The plan identifies what is working and what is not. What is working is the change in our leadership program for principals and assistant principals. Last year all of our principals were trained as instructional coaches. Our weakness is identifying what excellent instruction looks like and how to move staff to work at a higher level.
 - The district has four specialists to work with new and struggling teachers. Many teachers are not willing to become a coach because of the pay and accountability.
 - We are one of the few districts providing training for our Regional Superintendents.
 - Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, indicated that the survey data collected from the surveys after teachers attend the Teacher Academy and after the coaches meeting has been very valuable.

Board Member Couch asked if we have any way for teachers to post for a mentor. She suggested the Regional Superintendent recruit some seasoned teachers after visiting their classrooms at some of our schools who would be willing to mentor. The Superintendent indicated that Blackboard is one way teachers can post lesson plans to help other teachers. He will add information to the plan concerning the technology piece of the plan.

- Quality Education For All Plan For Duval Transformation Office - This plan builds off the QEA plan from last year. This plan provides an overview of data points related to initiatives.
 - The 2014-15 Value Added Model (VAM) data will be released around December.
 - The percentage of highest performing reading teachers rose from 8% in 2013-14 to 27% in 2014-15.
 - The percentage of lowest performing reading teachers declined from 19% in 2013-14 to 9% in 2014-15.
 - Percentage of highest performing math teachers rose from 14% in 2013-14 to 35% 2014-15.
 - Percentage of lowest performing math teachers declined from 25% in 2013-14 to 11% in 2015-15.
 - Percentage of schools fully staffed on the opening day rose from 78% in 2013-14 to 92% in 2014-15 and declined in 2015-16 to 89%.
 - Percentage of teachers from Teach For America that were retained for the third year rose from 25% in 2013-14 to 39% in 2014-15.
 - Over \$40 million has been budgeted and invested.

Board Member Shine requested the Superintendent provide information on QEA teachers who have left the district and how classes were affected. Dr.

Vitti, Superintendent, does not have all the data at this point.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez asked the Superintendent how the district is recruiting teachers from outside of Duval County. The Superintendent stated we have not had a lot of success related to the incentive.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez requested information on the non-core teachers that were eligible for incentives as far as who stayed and what amount of incentives were distributed. She would also like to have student achievement measures added to the plan.

The Superintendent stated after a three-year period we need to look at applying incentives to schools other than Duval Transformation Office (DTO) schools.

- Boundary Changes – The Superintendent will engage the community and working groups. The guidelines will be given to all principals who will give recommendations for the working groups.
 - All schools involved in the proposed boundary change will have a maximum of eight person's on the working groups.
 - At the first meeting the Superintendent will present all the changes and then he will hire a facilitator to work through some general questions.
 - The working groups will begin in November and may go through the middle of December, if not longer.

[PRESENTATION - NATIONAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATING BLACK CHILDREN](#)

Minutes:

No presentation was given on the National Council On Educating Black Children.

[PRESENTATION - COUNCIL OF GREAT CITY SCHOOLS](#)

Minutes:

- Board Member Paula Wright provided a overview of the benefits and services provided by the Council of the Great City Schools. The Council of the Great City Schools provides the following benefits:
 - Duval County staff members accessed the Council's Key Performance Indicators System 78 times between July 1, 2014

- and June 30, 2015.
- o Posted Duval County job announcement on the Council's web site.
 - o The Council carried various stories concerning the Duval County system.
 - o They helped shape legislation to strengthen the quality of schooling for the nation's urban children.
 - o They provided a wealth of resources from predicting trends, reforms, practices on student performance and Grade-level Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool-Quality Review (GIMET-QR) to help member districts assess the quality and alignment of commercially-produced instructional materials with Common Core or similar college and career standards.

Board Member Wright provided a calendar to all Board Members that brings attention to African-American students.

Board Member Wright left the meeting at 1:49 p.m. She did not return.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

CSM

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman