



Duval County Public Schools

September 8, 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. Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, was also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 9:19 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed the PowerPoint on the Proposed Boundary Changes. The PowerPoint is attached to the minutes. Discussion included the following:

- [Timeline](#)

- In June and July the Superintendent had one-on-one meetings with the Board Members.
 - July 14, 2015, he presented the entire proposal to the Board.
 - August 18, 2015, he presented to the Board the engagement process. The Board also decided to waive the Board Policy to allow extra time for community engagement.
 - September 1, 2015, Regular Board Meeting. The Board voted to waive the Board Policy on the boundary change timeline.
 - December 8, 2015, Superintendent will present the final recommendation to the Board at a workshop. The presentation will include recommendations and reasons for each recommendation. The conversation will be led by a facilitator.
- Charter Schools
 - We now have over 30 Charter Schools in Duval County Public Schools with an enrollment of almost 12,000 students. The district is losing about 50 million dollars in revenue to our operating budget. This affects all schools.
 - Charter schools are setting up in areas of higher growth and higher social economic areas. It is difficult to grow schools in areas of higher growth when we have schools with low enrollment. Students who are high performing are choosing to attending a magnet school or KIPP Charter school.
- Facilities
 - 67% of our schools are over 50 years old and our district has the oldest school buildings of any district in Florida at an average of over 40 years. Duval County has the lowest millage rate among the big seven school districts in the state.
- School Utilization
 - The district has 17 schools that are below 50% utilization. A Charter Bill, if approved, would allow charter schools to occupy district school classrooms of schools that are below 50% underutilized. This restricts the district's growth. Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, said we must address the issue of utilization and residence.
- Financial Support
 - In some schools, funding has increased with low enrollment and low academic success because additional resources are needed. We need to increase enrollment and improve performance to see the best return on our investment.
 - Congresswoman Corrine Brown spoke at the Board Workshop. Discussion included the following:
 - The 15 days proposed by the Superintendent to engage the community. She felt this was not enough time.
 - A letter that was sent to the district concerning programs that are available at Bethel Baptist Church. If better housing were available, we would have more residents in some of these areas with low enrollment.
 - She voiced her concern with proposed boundary changes.
- Corrine Brown, Congresswoman, indicated that new schools receive resources but older schools do not.
 - Title 1 funding for Eugene Butler Young Men's and Women's

Academy. She will ask for a legal option concerning a change in a school number affecting Title 1 status.

- Chairman Cheryl Grymes spoke to the group in attendance concerning public comment. She welcomed their comments but not at this time. She said changes can be made to the proposal, nothing has been decided.
- The Superintendent discussed each school change for the proposed boundary changes with the Board. Discussion followed:
 - A list of all community members in attendance at the meeting was taken to engage them in the working groups.
 - The need to add more tracks for students at A. Phillip Randolph Academy.
 - Board Member Becki Couch requested the percentage of students that would attend Atlantic Coast High School with the proposed boundary changes. Ms. Couch requested the enrollment numbers for each school that currently have the autistic program to see the effect of moving the autistic program.
 - Board Member Paula Wright requested the number of students it would take to bring Oak Hill Elementary to full capacity.
 - The receiving school for R. L. Brown Elementary students in the proposed boundary changes would move KG-2 to Long Branch Elementary, not John Love Elementary as shown in the slide and the 3-5 would move to Matthew Gilbert if the boundaries were changed.

Board Member Scott Shine left the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

- Low Performance in our African American community is low and we need to fix it. When we look at moving students from the same neighborhoods, are we looking at the unitary status. We need to promote diversity. The people in the room today are telling us that we need to engage the community.

Board Member Scott Shine returned to the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

- Board Members Scott Shine and Jason Fischer were not in favor of extending the date to another academic school year for the boundary changes.
- It was suggested that the boundary changes be put in groups for implementation at different times. The working groups will meet and make a recommendation for when changes will be implemented.
- The Superintendent will update the data which will be discussed at the next meeting.
- The Board agreed to have DeJohn-Richter facilitate the meetings with the working groups and talk with the Board.

Board Member Jason Fischer made the following motion:

"Under Roberts Rules of Order, I move to suspend the rules to allow public

comment at this workshop meeting and to allow each speaker 3 minutes".

Motion: Jason Fischer

Second: Becki Couch

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Jason Fischer - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Connie Hall - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Scott Shine - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

- Public Comments:

Darryl Edwards II

How do we get individuals involved in the working group who are not here today? What are the times and locations of the meetings?

- Antonia G. Bryant

How will the LPN and arts program affect Raines High School academic programs and students effort to receive a Certificate of Completion. If Raines does not reach sustainable capacity, what will happen to the school?

Bettye J. Miller

Why is it that only the Northside schools need vocational training programs? Why is it that only the black schools have so many changes?

Reverend C. L. Walker

Why are most of the changes focused on just one area? Will the changes have a direct impact on the students? Why are the inner-city schools always affected by changes due to lack of resources? What about the transportation? How will they get to school and home?

Felicia Gaines

Thanked the Board and the Superintendent for allowing input into the boundary changes. Our community is uncomfortable with these changes. We have seen many schools changed to magnet schools and the utilization has not changed.

Ken Manuel

What will the selection process be for each one of the working groups and the total number of working groups? How will the district communicate this information to the public? What will be the academic and social impact of moving students from Andrew Jackson to Raines and Ribault High Schools? What data are we using to determine that the proposed sports medicine or management at Ribault will be acceptable to parents? What will be the financial impact if the proposed magnet grant is not approved?

Board Chairman Cheryl Grymes said the questions will be answered by staff.

- The Civil Service Board - The Board received information on the candidate to serve on the Civil Service Board previously. The Board would like to develop a process to appoint a person for the Civil Service Board. Board Member Couch will find out if a vote of the Board is needed to approve the candidate.

Board Member Jason Fischer would like to receive information on the diversity of the Civil Service Board.

Speakers:

Cheryl Grymes, Board Chairman

Ashley Smith Juarez, Vice-Chairman

Becki Couch, Board Member

Jason Fischer, Board Member

Constance Hall, Board Member

Scott Shine, Board Member

Paula Wright, Board Member

Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

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

Minutes:

Presentation will be given at the September 15, 2015 Board Workshop and Committee Meeting.

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

Minutes:

Presentation will be given at the September 15, 2015 Board Workshop and Committee Meeting.

GOVERNANCE

Minutes:

Special Board Meeting on Student Expulsion Hearings - Chairman Cheryl Grymes asked the Board Members who would be attending the Special Board Meeting for the Student Expulsion Hearings. Chairman Cheryl Grymes, Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez and Board Member Jason Fischer will be attending.

Presentations - Today's presentations will be postponed to the September 15, 2015 Board Workshop and Committee Meeting.

Civil Service Board - Board Member Scott Shine asked that the Board come up with a formal process for selecting a person for the Civil Service Board. Michelle Begley, Board Internal Auditor, will check to see if the Board needs to vote on a new person for this board.

Board Member Jason Fischer would like know who is serving now to know if the Civil Service Board is diverse.

Travel Expenses - Board Member Scott Shine requested the purpose of travel and the expense.

Legislative Agenda - Board Member Scott Shine would like to add Florida Statutes 1001.365 concerning a tie vote to the Legislative Agenda.

Title 1 Status - Board Member Constance Hall requested information on the impact of a school which has changed school numbers.

Enrollment Report - Board Member Becki Couch said according to Board Policy 5.44 the Board should be receiving an enrollment report each year.

Seminole County - Board Member Jason Fischer suggested the Board adopt the same platform as Seminole County concerning testing. He will write the resolution and bring it back to the Board.

Joint Meeting with FSCJ - Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez said we will be having the Joint Meeting with FSCJ on October 20, 2015 at Englewood High School.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

CSM

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman