



Duval County Public Schools

September 9, 2013, Board Workshop

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Chairman
Ms. Becki Couch, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Jacon Fischer
Ms. Cheryl Grymes
Dr. Constance S. Hall
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez
Mr. Ms. Paula D. Wright
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS WORKSHOP OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present. Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, and Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, were also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the Board Workshop to order at 1:04 p.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[1. GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

The following items were discussed:

- The new District logo was discussed. Marsha Oliver, Chief of Communication,

and Mark Sherwood, Director of Marketing, provided the Board with a design brief. Students, parents, staff, the Board, community groups, and social media, all gave input. There were 5 designs shared with the Board - a torch, bridge, letters, shapes, etc. Board Member Wright asked about the words "public schools" being included in the design. The Superintendent said that public schools do not have a positive connotation, and that is why it was not included in any of the designs. Opinions varied on the designs. After discussion, it was decided that staff would do more research and come back to the Board.

- Board Member Hall requested a succession planning meeting for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman positions. This will be discussed at the November 14, 2013, Committee meeting.
- October 28, 2013, was set for the Board Development meeting. The meeting time is 9:00 am to 2:00 p.m.
- An hour will be added to the September 12, 2013, Committee Meeting in order for the Superintendent to discuss additional budget information.
- Chairman Lee provided an update on the Jacksonville Journey. He will also e-mail the Board. The City Council meets tomorrow on this topic. The final vote will be September 24, 2013. All programs have been taken away. There is some confusion about ATOSS. Funding for early literacy, TEAM UP, and summer camps will go to the Children's Commission. DART went to the neighborhoods department. ATOSS is being restored, but not sure where it will end up. JSO took a couple of the programs, and the offender programs went to Clara White. There were some programs still left unfunded. It appears that the Journey has run its course.
- Board Member Fischer addressed a rumor that he had been involved in the decision to defund ATOSS. He wanted to make it clear that he had not been involved in anything to do with it, for or against. Another rumor going around involved the Civil Citations meetings and Angela Corey asking him to attend a pre-meeting and report back to her. While he attended the pre-meeting, he did not attend the meeting with Ms. Corey. He indicated that she did not ask him to attend either meeting and report back to her n what was said.
- Chairman Lee thanked Vice-Chairman Couch for chairing the September 3, 2013, Regular Board meeting in his absence.
- Vice-Chairman Couch addressed a comment by Board Member Fischer at the September 3, 2013, Regular Board meeting that was directed at her for not seconding a motion he had made. In order to second his motion, she would have had to pass the gavel, and there was no Vice-Chairman for the meeting to pass the gavel to. Board Member Fischer stated that Chairman Lee had said that as Chairman he would second motions so that they could be discussed. The Chairman said this was his personal philosophy and not a Board rule.
- Board Member Juarez invited other members to join her on her upcoming school visits.
- Board Member Wright asked for an update on where we are on the Sharon Sanders case. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, shared that once the time had elapsed for exceptions to be filed, the review can then be scheduled.
- Board Member Wright expressed concern over a recent Times-Union article that said that textbooks were not in schools due to the Board. This was not true. The Superintendent agreed and said it was an ongoing frustration for him also and that he has sent an e-mail to the TU. Most of the textbooks were not ordered

until July. He will do everything to make sure materials arrive for the first day of school in the future.

Speakers:

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Chairman
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent
Ms. Marsha Oliver, Chief of Communications
Mr. Mark Sherwood, Director of Marketing
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Vice-Chairman
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member
Dr. Constance S. Hall, Board Member
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Meeting

2. HEAD START

Minutes:

The Superintendent provided the Board with an update on the Head Start program. A copy of the handout is attached to the Minutes. Discussion included the following.

- The Superintendent thinks it would be too much to take on the Head Start program on our own, so we are applying for the grant in partnership with Episcopal Children's Services. Our focus ins on expanding the 4 year old program.
- If we receive the grant, Arlington, John Love, Pickett, and West Jacksonville Elementary Schools would require a boundary change, if those schools were to be run entirely by Head Start. Another option is to use the phase in approach - no Kindergarten next year, then no 1st grade the next year., etc., until students would no longer attend those schools. Board Member Hall asked about siblings. The Superintendent indicated that siblings would be allowed to attend neighboring schools with the students being phased out. Board Member Wright expressed concern that we were not allowing for community input. The Superintendent agreed, but had to identify sites in order to submit the grant. Vice-Chairman Couch asked how this would impact the FISH report, as we would have facilities on our books that would not house students. Superintendent Vitti indicated that we would need a change to the Statutes.
- We will not know until July 1, 2014, if we receive the grant.
- After discussion, the Board directed the Superintendent to go back and look at a more blended approach, where the program would be housed in existing school facilities where there was room.

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Ms. Becki Couch, Board Vice-Chairman
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member
Dr. Constance S. Hall, Board Member
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Meeting

3. THE BRIDGE - OVERAGE PROGRAM

Minutes:

The Superintendent provided the Board with an update on The Bridge and the Overage Program. A copy of the update is attached to the Minutes. Discussion included the following.

- Vice-Chairman Couch asked what was available at the elementary schools for students. The Superintendent indicated that the STAR program was still there. Ms. Couch indicated that it was not at Chaffee Trail, and students who had been on the right track for recovery were not now because the program had been cut because they were not a Title I school. The Superintendent will look into this.
- Vice-Chairman Couch asked how they were addressing electives for the students. The Superintendent shared that it depended on the school. Ms. Couch expressed concern about overcrowded electives and asked that the situation be monitored so this does not occur.
- Board Member Hall asked about the at showing 3 students who were 11 years old and in 2nd grade. She asked that those students be identified and put on a success plan.
- Board Member Wright asked about students who still did not have a schedule, and those whose schedules were changed more than once since school had started. The Superintendent explained the process.
- Board Member Wright expressed concern with the lack of Guidance Counselors, citing one counselor for 3 schools. She thought there would be at least one Counselor for each school. The Superintendent did not remember saying this, and will go back and send the formula to the Board.
- Board Member Wright talked about students being pulled out of class by The Bridge, then a parole officer would come, and other program representatives would come. This practice is taking valuable time from their core classes.
- Chairman Lee asked that the Superintendent provide more frequent information on the program to the Board, and that the Board needed more of a comfort level.
- Board Member Wright asked that the Superintendent e-mail the Board the deliverables for each organization. The Superintendent said it was contained in the PowerPoint, but he would separate out and send.

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Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Board Workshop at 4:45 p.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman