



E-AGENDA MANAGER

Duval County Public Schools

April 17, 2017, Special Board Meeting

Ms. Paula D. Wright, Chairman
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Becki Couch
Ms. Cheryl Grymes
Ms. Lori Hershey
Mr. Warren A. Jones
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 Board Member Cheryl Grymes. Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Officer of Legal Services, was also present.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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Minutes: The meeting was called to order 9:10 a.m.

Topics To Be Discussed

[PUBLIC COMMENT](#)

Minutes: No public comment was given.

[REVIEW OF DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES](#)

Minutes:

Chairman Wright called the meeting today to discuss following items:

- Suspending Board Policy 7.41, since the District is facing so many financial challenges based upon proposed legislation. This policy allows the Superintendent to approve contracts below \$75,000 without Board approval.
- Freeze hiring and firing of all administrators. We are in the midst of FSA Testing and there is some anxiety that happens. We need a sense of calmness.
- More information is needed on what contracts are pending or required by the State. This information will be needed for the next meeting. Contracts concerning IEPs should not be affected. These are usually less than \$50,000.

Karen Chastian, Chief of Legal Services, indicated that the Board can pass an emergency rule to modify or suspend Board Policy 7.41. She would suggest modifying since there are several contracts that are in the works and they do not have a cost indicated or if you suspend everything that is ready, it will just show up on the Board agenda. She suggested having another Special Board Meeting where the Board would have a proposal and it is noticed. She will work with Michelle Begley, Board Internal Auditor, and bring this back to the Board on Friday, April 21, 2017.

Michelle Begley indicated that at one time the contract limit was \$50,000. She did not agree with changing the limit at that time. Even if no cost is assigned to the contract it still can be a significant impact to operations depending on what the agreement is. The Board is provided a list of what has been completed which is not necessarily what is in the pipeline.

Board Member Couch stated there is not a running list of the totals in the quarterly report the Board receives. The language is recommended to change in Board Policy. The item will be on this month's agenda. The report we receive does not provide information from the beginning of the year. We need to look at the total amount of everything.

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez suggested the Board get direction from staff about contracts that may come up between now and the time the Board meets to discuss the emergency rule. If contracts come up between now and then, the Chairman should be notified. Chairman Wright agreed.

Board Member Jones left the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

Karen Chastain will look at the categories and the amount. She will share this information with the Board at the April 21, 2017, Special Board Meeting. The contracts that are required based on State and Federal guidelines and those that are not will be provided.

Board Member Couch stated we still have a period of time where MOUs

could occur. Is this permissible? If we are not part of the conversation, how do we resolve this? The Board does not know what was agreed on. Karen Chastain stated State Statute does state the Board shall provide incentives. In the DTU collective bargaining agreement it states the Board must provide incentives, particularly for "D" and "F" schools. It is in the DTU collective bargaining agreement under the categories of administrative actions. It was dedicated to management or the administration to carry out. She will provide more information at the Special Board Meeting on April 21, 2017, concerning MOUs.

Board Member Smith Juarez suggested the Chair draft a joint letter to be sent to the schools on behalf of the Board concerning movement of administrative staff. This will depend on the decision made by the Board to freeze hiring and firing of administrative staff.

Board Member Jones returned to the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Chairman Wright suggested in light of Florida House Bill 5105 and Florida State Senate Bill 376 that she would like to form two committees: one to take a closer look at the intervene schools and an academic and finance committee. She will meet with each Board Member to get an idea where they would like to serve. The Committees could look at scores, curriculum and what changes have been made at these schools. She is working on a commercial, making phone calls, meeting with as many people as she can, the administrative team will also be making calls concerning pending legislation. The entire district will be affected by this bill.

The academic and finance committee would consist of up to ten members -three Board Members and some community members so we can bring in some community experts. They would have access to data and they will help communicate with the community, take the lead in terms of community meetings, make sure we have a list of every PTA president so we create a Duval Connect to communicate with the public. We can use the newsletters that we will be developing to provide information. We will need to bring in some private funds to do some general commercials. These commercials can be created and sent to the Florida School Board Association (FSBA). They could share it with other counties. "The power is in the pack and we are the pack".

Vice-Chairman Smith Juarez questioned when funds have been accepted by the Board under a contract, would the amendments to those contracts then need further approval? Karen Chastain indicated it could possibly be a bring back to the Board. Board Member Smith Juarez just found out today that QEA funds were used to pay out the bonuses at Edward White High School. She is asking for a review of this contract because funds are under the purview of the Board.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

CSM

Superintendent

Chairman