



## Duval County Public Schools

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August 21, 2012, Board Workshop

Ms. Betty Burney, Chairman  
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Vice-Chairman  
Ms. Martha Barrett  
Ms. Ms. Becki Couch  
Mr. W. C. Gentry  
Ms. Mr. Tommy Hazouri  
Mr. Ms. Paula D. Wright  
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS WORKSHOP OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present, with the exception of Ms. Martha Barrett and Mr. W. C. Gentry. Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent, and Ms. Karen Chastain, Assistant Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting To Order

### [CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the Board Workshop to order at 10:10 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

### [1. BOARD-SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

The following items were discussed:

#### Superintendent's Items:

- Staff is working on information regarding Capital funding and a list of contracts under \$100,000. The information will be sent to the Board shortly.
- The FCAT Resolution was discussed. Mr. Gentry is not present today and the consensus was to discuss when he and Ms. Barrett were present.
- The Superintendent shared information on administrative salaries, which had been requested by Board Member Wright. The Board discussed hiring an outside agency to conduct a salary review. This item will be discussed at a future meeting.
- The Superintendent shared that he had received a second letter from Head Start stating how much money they had put into their current facilities.
- The Florida Virtual School appeal is still in the works.
- The proposed visit by the Commissioner of Education has been postponed until a new Commission has been selected.
- The policy review items will be discussed at the September 11, 2012, Board Workshop.
- The final budget will be voted on September 18, 2012, and will be discussed at the September 11, 2012, Board Workshop.
- Adding the Capital funding issue to the Legislative agenda was discussed. This is an important item to all districts. The Legislature will consider a bill in the upcoming session to give part of our Capital funding to Charter schools. We need to make sure Legislators have full information on how this will impact the districts.

#### Board's Items:

- Board Member Hazouri talked about the Superintendent's State of the Schools address. The true budget issues should be the number one issue to get the word out.
- Board Member Wright would like to have a conference room equipped with technology (computer connections, projector, DVD, etc.) for Board members to use for meetings during the day. Other Board members thought this was a good idea also.
- Board Member Wright asked about the definition of Flawless Opening and how we determine if a school is ready for day one. A number of her schools are not ready from a technology standpoint. Their computers are so old they still use floppy discs. She recently visited some of her schools with Doug Ayars and he was able to see and hear for himself some of the issues.
- Chairman Burney was also concerned about Flawless Opening and would like to see a report. She is concerned about what schools are doing - used distribution of textbooks as an example - some schools received their textbooks for the first day of school and some did not. She is also concerned with the technology piece. One school had some vandalism and did not have enough equipment when school opened.
- Chairman Burney indicated that Jill Johnson, Director of Communications, had asked about having the Board Workshops in the first floor Board Room. The consensus was to keep the meetings in Room 613 at this time.
- Chairman Burney thanked Bonnie Susan Cole, Board Secretary, and Jill Johnson,

Director of Communications, for their assistance with the Superintendent search.

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Burney, Board Chairman  
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent  
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member  
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member  
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member

2. RESOLUTION

Minutes:

This item will be discussed at a future Workshop.

3. LEGAL SERVICES

Minutes:

The Superintendent updated the Board on this topic and reviewed some background information. We have discussed hiring an in-house attorney for several years. JAA recently worked out a similar plan with the Office of General Counsel. Current General Counsel Cindy Laquidara, supports this move. A job description is being prepared for approval by the Board. Information was provided on the projected cost savings over the years. Board Member Gentry has worked with staff on this topic. The in-house attorney would handle all of the routine items and we would be able to use General Counsel for litigation and other items on an as needed basis. The Superintendent has asked Karen Chastain, currently with the Office of General Counsel, to take this position. The Policy and Compliance Office would report to her.

The general consensus was to go forward with this position. However, Board Member Hazouri expressed concerns that this would violate the spirit of Consolidation. He also did not think we should add or fill any positions until the new Superintendent is on board.

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Burney, Board Chairman  
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent  
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member  
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member  
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member

#### 4. SEPTEMBER 4, 2012, DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW

Minutes:

Staff reviewed the September 4, 2012, Draft Agenda with the Board. Points made included the following:

- Provide Board with an update on Challenge Day
- Provide Board with an updates list of school vacancies

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Burney, Board Chairman  
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent  
Ms. Kathy LeRoy, Chief of Academic Services  
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member  
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member  
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member  
Mr. Doug Ayars, Chief Operating Officer  
Mr. Andy Eckert, Director, Facilities Planning

#### 5. HR PROCEDURES

Minutes:

The Superintendent shared information with the Board on HRS disciplinary procedures. A copy of the report is attached to the Minutes. Areas discussed included the following:

- Cases where suspension would come first, then termination after an investigation, along with the process for requesting a DOAH hearing.
- Clarification on how often employees receive refreshers on this information, along with quality assurance. It is not optional - every employee must take training.
- Recommendations will take effect over the next six months.
- The process of self-reporting was discussed, along with consequences if they do not follow this practice.
- Monitoring of out-of-state infractions.

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Burney, Board Chairman  
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent  
Ms. Sonita Young, Chief, Human Resource Services  
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member  
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Board Workshop at 2:55 p.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

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Superintendent

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Chairman