



Duval County Public Schools

August 9, 2011, Board Workshop

Ms. W. C. Gentry, Chairman
Ms. Betty Burney, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Martha Barrett
Ms. Ms. Becki Couch
Ms. Mr. Tommy Hazouri
Mr. Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee
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. Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent, and Ms. Karen Chastain, Deputy General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the Board Workshop to order at 10:00 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[1. SUPERINTENDENT'S SELF APPRAISAL](#)

Minutes:

Superintendent Pratt-Dannals shared his self appraisal with the Board. A copy of the document is attached to the Minutes. Areas covered were:

- Primary Goals for 2011-12
- Reading Performance
- Turnaround/Intervene Schools
- Organizational Effectiveness and Fiscal Priorities
- Development of Human Capital
- Strategic Partnerships
- Key Strategic Plan - Goals Not Accomplished
- Key Strategic Plan - Accomplishments
- Other Accomplishments

After his presentation, Board Members asked questions, however, due to time constraints, only section 1 on Reading Performance was addressed at the Workshop. Board Members were encouraged to get with the Superintendent regarding comments or questions for the remainder of the document. The following points were made.

- Betty Burney:
 - How do you plan to improve reading scores?
- Becki Couch:
 - Asked how Benchmark scores are being used - Benchmark and FCAT scores are totally different.
 - Students are not taking the tests seriously.
 - What are we doing to make sure the tests are seen as valid?
- Martha Barrett:
 - Requested update on who is volunteering at the schools and what they are doing. How ready are they to go with the August 22, 2011, school start date.
 - Staff should ask individual Board members to assist in making contacts with various City, civic, and community groups, as well as with individuals in the community who could be partners and support our schools.
- Fred "Fel" Lee:
 - Asked Superintendent what he considered to be his goals for the coming year.
 - Asked that we clarify the informal mid-year assessment process.
 - Requested that the Superintendent link his goals with the strategic plan - provide a yes or no on if they were accomplished, along with any circumstances that should be taken into account.
- Tommy Hazouri:
 - Share "The Way Forward" book with the Board again.
 - How do we catch students up who are behind grade level in reading?
- W. C. Gentry:
 - We are not making progress, so something is wrong.
 - He and Board Member Couch have requested that the District identify all tests and prescriptive requirements that the District requires and those that the State requires, which teachers have to respond to. Add this to the Workshop schedule.
 - Talk to Mayor and City Council to obtain support on VPK
- Paula D. Wright:

- o Explain how we are going to increase reading performance.
- o How do we view benchmark tests?
- o What value to benchmark tests have?
- o Make sure parents are aware of what tests mean and what their children need.

Speakers:

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

2. CLASS SIZE REDUCTION LAWSUIT

Minutes:

Chairman Gentry shared that the consensus so far from the Board had been to participate in this lawsuit. All agreed. Due to time constraints today, this topic will be discussed at a future workshop.

Speakers:

Mr. W. G. Gentry, Board Chairman
 Mr. Ed Pratt Dannals, Superintendent
 Ms. Karen Chastain, Deputy General Counsel
 Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member

3. SCHOOL GRADE RESULTS & LEARNING GAIN TARGETS

Minutes:

The Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent, along with staff, shared information with the Board regarding school grade results and learning gain targets. Presentation materials are attached to the Minutes. The following points were made:

- Chairman Gentry requested an update on the Data Dashboard. The Superintendent indicated this would be coming to the Board in September 2011.
- Chairman Gentry requested school performance data by Cluster Chiefs, Executive Directors, and Coaches.
- Board Member Hazouri asked that staff take the Opportunity Scholarship students

into account and provide updated data.

- Vice-Chairman Burney asked that the Board be provided with how information will be shared with parents and the community with regards to what changes to expect with FCAT, prior to the start of school. She would like to see the communications plan.
- Board Member Wright requested that the Board be provided with the school targets for this past school year.
- Board Member Barrett would like to hear about schools who have successes and why we cannot use these strategies for other schools. She mentioned Pinedale Elementary School as an example.
- Vice-Chairman Burney asked about the lack of planning to engage the parents and community and promote the schools.
- Chairman Gentry indicated that when questioned on what teachers need, the theme seemed to be lack of coaches and professional development.
- Board Member Wright talked about the lack of support and training for Cluster Chiefs and Executive Directors.
- Board Members questioned the lack of changes in the organizational structure and what are we doing differently for the Intervene schools.
- Board Member Couch requested that the Board be provided with the targets for each school and for District staff and Principals, along with the specific plans for the Intervene schools.
- Chairman Gentry requested that the Superintendent set goals and what he would say is proficient.

Speakers:

Mr. W. C. Gentry, Chairman
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent
Ms. Pat Willis, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Tim Ballentine, Director, Research and Evaluation
Ms. Betty Burney, Board Vice-Chairman
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member
Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Member
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member

Staff reviewed the proposed contract with Educational Directions, LLC. There will be a Special Meeting to approve this contract today. Points made during the discussion include the following.

- Board Member Hazouri asked about the future role of Duval Partners, Inc. The Superintendent will meet with the group and discuss this matter and provide the Board with an update.
- Board Member Wright expressed concerns with Educational Directions, LLC, working directly with community organizations. This should come through the Board for coordination.
- Mr. Frank DeSensi, Educational Directions, LLC, shared the proposed staffing plans with the Board. There will be a lead coach in each school, supported by a

data team, an instructional support team for reading, math, and science, Special Education, and ESOL staff, and a twilight school program.

Speakers:

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

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Board Workshop at 4:14 p.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman