



Duval County Public Schools

January 17, 2013, Committee Meeting

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 COMMITTEE MEETING 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 Committee Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[1. GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

The following topics were discussed during Governance:

- Chairman Lee polled the Board regarding a date for the proposed Duval County School Board - City Council Joint Meeting. The date of March 12, 2013, from 9:00 am - 11:00 am, was agreed to. The City Council has offered to host the meeting in their Council Chambers. The Chairman will ask members for input on topics we could educate the Council on and topics we could ask for assistance with. Board Member Hall suggested we have a visual to use during the education topic, and that it use an animated character walking around the schools. The Superintendent indicated that he would have staff assist with the video. Board Member Hall asked that he use a variety of schools.
- The Chairman shared information with the Board regarding the upcoming FSBA training sessions to take place February 13-15, 2013 on personnel and finance. These two sessions are mandatory to becoming a Certified Board Member. All agreed that the training would be valuable and will attend. The February 14, 2013, Committee Meeting will be rescheduled to February 18, 2013, from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.
- The Chairman asked that those attending the March 20-22, 2013, Days in the Legislature to consider which Legislators they would like to meet with during their visit. They were asked to send their list to Bonnie within the next seven days to that we have time to make the appointments. The Superintendent will ask Mike O'Farrell to coordinate the visits. The Board asked that a handout be prepared that they can leave with the Legislators after their meeting. Board Member Hall asked if staff could also prepare a handout for their upcoming FRN trip to Washington, DC.
- The Chairman shared that he had requested information from the past five years on the Board's budget. That information was e-mailed to the Board yesterday. He would like for the Board to draft their own budget, beginning with the 2013-2014 budget cycle.
- The Chairman indicated that he had been working with Michelle Begley, Board Auditor, on a plan of work. Ms. Begley has been reviewing the Policy Handbook for those items which the Board has an obligation to review on a routine basis, and will bring this information to the Board for discussion on which items the Board wishes to review and which items they would like for Ms. Begley to review and then update the Board.
- The following meetings were scheduled to discuss the Strategic Plan, the budget, the Capital Plan, and Charter schools.
 - February 11, 2013 - 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Strategic Plan - Part 2
 - February 18, 2013 - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Strategic Plan - Part 3
 - March 6, 2013 - 8:00 am - 11:00 am - Charter Schools & Capital Plan
 - March 15, 2013 - 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Budget
- Board Member Grymes shared that she appreciated all of the updates and communications from the Superintendent, however, sometimes when a response is received, the original request is not included. Board Member Wright also shared that some concerns do not fit into the BMR or CS systems. There are times when a Board member should be able to ask staff a question, and when a constituent should be referred back to the Principal or staff member when they have not done so before contacting the Board member. The Superintendent indicated that while he understood this, it was difficult to track and make sure all are receiving a prompt response if he is not aware of the request. He also shared that he was working to establish advocacy centers throughout the county where

parents could go to ask questions. Jill Johnson is working to obtain a 1-800 number for this purpose. He does not have any issues with Board members talking to staff about questions and issues, however, he should be the only one directing staff. He would like for Board members to e-mail he and Davala, and they can go through Bonnie also. It was agreed that when receiving an e-mail that relates to another Member's district, they will share that information with the appropriate Member for handling. All agreed that the process should be consistent. Board Member Wright has a log she uses for constituent issues and one for Board member requests. She will share the log format with the Board. It was agreed that issues would be sent to the Superintendent. For Board member requests, all will receive the request, along with the response. Vice-Chairman Couch asked for clarification on length of time for a response. The Superintendent indicated that it should be within two working days of his receipt of the issue. Board Member Fischer asked about the web-based version of the systems and when it would be available for members to access. The web-based version is ready for a final review before launch.

- Board Member Hall will send out the SWOT from last year's development meeting as an FYI for members to review. She will also share information from CRSS on those areas of training they offer.
- Board Member Wright asked about the capital project at John E. Ford which was on last month's agenda. The Superintendent explained that the item was to let them know that the project had been completed. Board Member Wright asked how the changes increase or decrease the student count at the school, and how will it impact the school if the Magnet changes are not approved. The Superintendent is reaching out to Board members to discuss Magnet issues with them in the next couple of days.
- Board Member Fischer received an e-mail regarding Magnet school transportation. He is in support of restoring the Magnet transportation cuts which were made in previous years. He cited the case of a family who could not afford to pay for transportation, and did not have a way to transport their child to the Magnet school. They were bumped to the end of the list as a result. Dr. Vitti indicated that parents have raised this issue during his community meetings and that he has looked into the cost to reinstate the Magnet transportation. It would cost between \$4 and \$5 million. To restore the after school activity buses would be an additional \$1 million. He believes that through duplications in Professional Development and staffing that we can fund for the coming year. Vice-Chairman Couch shared that while she supports the move, we need to use caution. There are other items which were cut that would impact far more children, such as art, music, physical education. The Board was told that students time in these areas would not be cut, however, that has not been the case. There is also the issue of the students impacted by our decision regarding the 1 1/2 mile to 2 mile transportation cuts. In addition there was the cut to the length of the school day. Board member Wright asked that we make a list of those areas cut and discuss during our budget discussions. Board Member Fischer asked what was the determining factor for those Magnet schools who had their transportation. Vice-Chairman Couch shared that staff made the recommendations based on the schools with the highest waiting list.
- Superintendent Vitti shared that he had not traveled since coming on board and for the most part had not approved travel for staff. He celebrates and recognizes

the need for professional development opportunities, but will not allow travel with vendors and to vendor driven conferences. He has purposely not met with vendors also.

Speakers:

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

[2. FEBRUARY 5, 2013, DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent shared that there would be an agenda item added to either the February 5, 2013, Agenda, or the March 5, 2013, Agenda, regarding radios for schools. The purpose of the radios is to enhance security communications with the District and would have links to JSO. The radios will be delivered to Principals this week.

Vice-Chairman Couch shared that she would be placing the Pre-Qualification agenda item on Discussion in order to abstain. She will also place the Out-Of-Field Teachers agenda item on Consent with Comment, and requested that the Superintendent share with the public information on the ESOL requirements and how it impacts our teachers.

Speakers:

Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Chairman
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Vice-Chairman

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Committee meeting at 11:33 a.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman