



Duval County Public Schools

January 22, 2014, Committee Meeting & Board Workshop

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

ATTENDANCE AT THIS 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 meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[1. FEBRUARY 4, 2014, DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed the February 4, 2014, Draft Agenda with the Board. Discussion included the following:

- Academics Item 3 - Hope Haven Contract - Staff will send out a parent survey to see if the parents would be willing to move their children to a new location. Board Member Hall asked that we use the same process with the Overage Academy. Board Member Juarez expressed concern with the mixed results at each site. The Superintendent is conducting a national search for the person who will lead this effort. The Superintendent will provide feedback to the Board. Board Member Juarez asked that he also provide numbers outside of the attendance zone.
- HRS Item 6 - HRS Transactions - Provide Board with a report on exit interviews at the end of each year.
- Administration and Business Services Item 10 - Budget Resolutions - Chairman Couch asked if K-8 schools received funding for band instruments.
- Operations Item 14 - Metro Diner - Provide Board with information on liability for the restaurants use of property for additional parking for their restaurant.
- Operations Item 15 - Coke Contract - Add the topic of healthy choices for students in food in drink to a future workshop.
- Operations - Added Item - iReady Contract - Make sure these programs can be accessed from iPads and phones. The Superintendent is also reviewing the homework policy and will address technology issues in the review.

Speakers:

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

2. GOVERNANCE

Minutes:

Chairman Couch brought up the subject of taking public comment during our Workshops. Mike Clark from the Times-Union had contacted her about this and is working on a story on this topic. Discussion included the following:

Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, explained our current policy and that the question of taking public comment during meetings came to light because of a special taxing district in Florida that did not allow public input when making changes to policy that impacted the public. She shared that the City Council did have some interaction during some of their Committee meetings, however, unlike the School Board, Council members take votes during their Committee Meetings.

Suggestions included:

- Only take comments at Committee meetings where the agenda is discussed.
- Take comments at all meetings.
- Limit to topics on the agenda for that meeting.
- Let speakers address any topic.
- Time limit should be same as for Board meetings - 3 minutes for speakers and accept cards for 20 minutes.
- Consider whether to have speakers at beginning or end of meetings.
- Do we include Development meetings in this process.
- Meetings would all be held in the Board Room.
- Consider time impact on meetings.

Ms. Chastain will look at what other Districts are doing and bring forth a process to the Board for consideration.

Vice-Chairman Grymes brought up the topic of visits to Tallahassee during the Legislative session. She thinks it would be good to go as a group to make more of an impact on our legislators. Chairman Couch shared that it was effective to visit Chairs of the various committees and sponsors of legislation. Board member Hall has a CD from NSBA that contains good information on approaching legislators and is willing to share with her fellow Board members. Board Member Wright suggested that we work with our Legislative Liaison to make appointments. The Superintendent will have his secretary provide the Board secretary with dates for future visits. There is also the March FSBA Days in the Legislature that some of the Board will be attending.

Board Member Wright shared that she had met with Representative Adkins on her bill for student early warning systems. It is not that different from what we are already doing for students in Duval, however, it is an unfunded mandate.

Board Member Fischer provided the Board with a report out of his recent meeting with Mark Sherwood in the Communications office regarding the new website. He offered to gather feedback from the Board and share with Mr. Sherwood. Chairman Couch stated that it was hard to navigate the website from the phone. Board Member Lee would like to see more robust information on our site and suggested that we survey parents to see what they would like to see most. He mentioned athletics as a top priority for parents. This suggestion is mainly for school websites.

Board Member Fischer asked about Board members speaking at graduations, and having everyone in attendance - including administration - wear caps and gowns, stating that it would make the ceremony more formal. Board members had varying opinions on this and it was decided that it would be appropriate to leave those decisions up to the individual schools.

Speakers:

Ms. Becki Couch, Board Chairman
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member

Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Vice-Chairman
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Member
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Member
Dr. Constance S. Hall, Board Member
Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services

3. MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT CALENDAR

Minutes:

Chairman Couch shared a copy of the Management Oversight calendar with the Board which was broken down by month. She had asked that the Board Secretary take the MO calendar prepared by the Board Auditor and list the policies and follow up items by due date. The list includes a section for each month, as well as one section of items which would be due every month; items that are only brought to the Board when necessary; items that the Board would need to decide when due; and, a schedule for Board Audit Committee meetings. A copy of the document is attached to the Minutes. The Chairman asked that Board members review the document and provide her with feedback. It was also decided that future agenda items should include information on what generated the item - i.e. - a needs assessment; expected outcomes; and, what really happened.

The Chairman indicated that there was an interest in conducting a complete policy review. Process was discussed and it was decided that a committee composed of Board Members Juarez, Hall, Wright, and Chairman Couch, would be formed. Staff will review their various sections of the Policy Handbook and the Superintendent will let the committee know when staff is ready to begin the review. Revisions will be in the format of underlining of new language and striking through language recommended for removal. Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, will review each section for compliance with current laws. The Superintendent will ask Ms. Dana Kriznar, Chief of Strategic Partnerships, to lead the review with the various department heads.

Board Member Hall asked for feedback on our last Development meeting. It was agreed that the last session was beneficial and that we would continue with CRSS. After discussion, it was decided that the Board secretary would work with Dr. Hall for our next date and topic.

Speakers:

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

4. FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

Minutes:

The Superintendent shared information with the Board that had been developed by JPEF (Jacksonville Public Education Fund) regarding financial transparency. A copy is attached to the Minutes. Board Member Fischer liked the format and thinks it would be helpful. Chairman Couch suggested that it might be helpful if members could talk to JPEF about what we would like to see information wise. Dr. Hall asked who would be responsible for maintaining the information. The Superintendent indicated that JPEF would be responsible, however, he would like to use grant money to fund a full or part time employee to do the data collection. Board Member Juarez would like for it to be interactive and searchable, and have definitions and explanations of terminology. Chairman Couch asked how we would continue when the grant runs out. Trey Csar, JPEF, shared that the idea was to tie this into our current system. The Superintendent said that the MOU would state that we would have access to own it down the road and to update and refine. Mr. Csar said that if JPEF were to go out of business, that it would be turned over to the school system at that time. Consensus was to move forward with this project.

Speakers:

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

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman