



## Duval County Public Schools

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June 17, 2014, Committe Meeting, Board Workshop, & Audit Committee Meeting

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, with the exception of Ms. Cheryl Grymes, who was out of town. 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 9:03 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[1. COMMITTEE MEETING - JULY 1, 2014, DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed the July 1, 2014, Draft Agenda with the Board. Discussion included the following:

- Academics Item 1 - Focus - Board Member Hall expressed concerns with the fact that only small districts in Florida are using this software and questioned if the company was able to provide the appropriate support and sustainability a large district would need. Mr. Jim Culbert, Director of Technology, shared that while the company was small, the contract was written to where we would own the code, and part of the contract calls for them to train our Genesis staff. The Focus software will take the place of Genesis and OnCourse. Professional Development is also included in the contract.
- Academics Item 2 - Gallup - The Superintendent will share results from recent surveys with the Board.
- Academics Item 3 - Blended Schools - Board Member Juarez asked about professional development for teachers. This will be addressed.
- Academics Item 4 - Student Progression Plan - No major changes. The SPP will have to be revisited depending on the outcome of Senate Bill 850.
- Academics Item 5 - Code of Student Conduct - Will be discussed later.
- School Choice Item 8 - Chairman Couch asked if Charter schools followed our current Code of Student Conduct. Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, will follow up on this question.
- Board Member Fischer left the meeting at 9:50 a.m.
- Chairman Couch asked that language be added to all agenda items regarding approval of contracts that authorizes the Vice-Chairman to sign in the Chairman's absence.
- Board Member Wright arrived at 10:24 a.m.
- Operations Item 32 - Day Care - Board Member Juarez asked if we were working with the Early Learning Coalition. The Superintendent will follow up to see that we are.
- The Superintendent will bring forth two additional agenda items for the July meeting. One is a renewal of the contract for the Bridge and the other is with Communities In Schools. Data is in on both of these programs and he will go forward with their renewals. Chairman Couch asked that data be added for the 20 days in addition to the 15 days. Board Member Wright asked about electives. They will be offered to students at these locations.

#### Code of Student Conduct:

- Board Member Wright expressed concern about schools not being consistent in how they apply the Code to students. What one school will allow may be an offense at another school. The Superintendent will address this during the Principals meeting.
- Board Member Fischer returned at 11:02 a.m.
- Board Member Fischer would like to see language that allows a victim to defend themselves, in a reasonable manner, without fear of punishment. The Superintendent shared that the Code had been rewritten to address this concern, but that fighting cannot be condoned and there must be some consequences. The Code was changed to reflect a harsher punishment for the instigator than the victim. After extensive discussion, it was decided that 2.09, 2.10, and 2.11 would read that a behavior contract, restorative justice, and ISSP will all be used for the instigator.

- The Board broke for lunch from 12:20 p.m. to 1:08 p.m. Board Member Lee was not present when we reconvened.
- No change in language was agreed on for 2.12 which addresses the victim. The Board still has time before the July 1st meeting to recommend alternative language if they so desire.
- Chairman Couch asked that language be added to address the school systems jurisdiction at school bus stops.
- Chairman Couch suggested that we add language to Class 4's that indicates an infraction could lead to possible expulsion.
- The Superintendent will add language that transportation to an ATOSS is not provided.
- Board Member Fischer asked about 4.10 being an automatic expulsion. After discussion it was agreed that language would be added to say it would result in an expulsion hearing.
- Board Member Juarez left the meeting at 1:29 p.m.
- Dr. Vitti shared that he was looking to make Grand Park a center for the most egregious incidents and Mattie V. for the lesser incidents.
- Board Member Lee returned at 1:32 p.m.
- Board Member Wright asked about elementary students being separated from the middle and high school students. Dr. Vitti said that the current practice of administrative transfers was the best way to handle elementary students.

Wellness - The Superintendent and Ms. Teri Cicero, Director of Wellness, made a presentation to the Board:

- Chairman Couch shared that one of our physicians had recently told her that the group of student most missed was those on reduced price lunch.
- The Superintendent is looking for someone to be in charge of the full service schools.

Speakers:

Ms. Becki Couch, Board Chairman  
 Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent  
 Dr. Constance S. Hall, Board Member  
 Mr. Jim Culbert, Director, Technology  
 Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member  
 Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Member  
 Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services.  
 Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Board Member  
 Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member  
 Ms. Teri Cicero, Director of Wellness

[2. BOARD WORKSHOP - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent made a presentation to the Board. Discussion included the following:

- Chairman Couch asked if Module 3 was created by the District. The Superintendent shared that all of the modules are the Districts', and, with the exception of Track 1, are all District created. It uses a lot of the modules that already exist, that were developed in partnership with the Schultz Center, and is also building off of the professional development that is already provided to current Principals and Assistant Principals.
- Board Member Hall emphasized that the Plan should be about supporting staff and not bashing them.
- Board Member Fischer asked how many teachers we have that are considered highly qualified.
- The Superintendent will bring the Plan to the Board in August.
- Chairman Couch asked how new teachers who start in the middle of the year are ramped up. Dr. Vitti said most of it happens at the school level. Terri Brady, President of DTU, shared that they offered training on the first and third Saturday's of each month between August and May.
- Board Member Wright said that there used to be a group of teachers who formed an instructional enhancement program. They would invite speakers from around the country to come and speak. It was privately funded and was about three hours once a month. The Superintendent will look at this.

Speakers:

Ms. Becki Couch, Board Chairman  
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent  
Dr. Constance S. Hall, Board Member  
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member  
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Member  
Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member

### [3. BOARD WORKSHOP - POLICY HANDBOOK UPDATE](#)

Minutes:

Chairman Couch shared that the Committee work was progressing and as sections were finished, they would be brought to the Board for a Public Hearing and vote.

### [4. AUDIT COMMITTEE - BOARD AUDITOR EVALUATION](#)

Minutes:

This item will be addressed at the July 15, 2014, meeting.

[5. AUDIT COMMITTEE - AUDIT LITIGATION UPDATE](#)

Minutes:

This item will be addressed at the July 15, 2014, meeting.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

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Superintendent

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Chairman