



## Duval County Public Schools

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June 28, 2011, Special Board Meeting

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 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present. Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent, and Ms. Karen Chastain, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting to Order

### [1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER - SPECIAL MEETING](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the Special Meeting to order at 10:16 a.m.

### [2. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 28, 2011, AGENDA](#)

Minutes:

There was no action on this item.

Academics

## 1. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA AND DUVAL PARTNERS, INC.

Attachment: [Duval Partners Memorandum of Understanding 6.pdf](#)

Attachment: [MOU - AS AMENDED - 06-28-11.pdf](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman explained the purpose of today's meeting was to resume discussions and vote on a proposed MOU with Duval Partners, Inc.

The Superintendent provided the Board with an update on correspondence and phone conversations with Education Commissioner Grego regarding the possibility of closing and re-opening the schools with new school numbers. Board Vice-Chairman Burney and Board Member Wright participated in the phone calls. The Commissioner indicated that there would not be enough time to go through this process at this point. The Broward plan, which was similar to this, would not have met the criteria needed to get a new school number because they did not show where they could meet the 50% new students requirement. Half of the current student population would have to be reassigned to other schools and replaced with new students in order to qualify. Hillsborough County was used as a model example. Hillsborough met this criteria by splitting the school in half and having an all male academy and an all female academy.

The following points were made:

- Board Member Hazouri:
  - Concern that this, as well as other issues, always come down to insufficient time.
- Board Vice-Chairman Burney:
  - She has concerns that the 50% student population definition was never defined this way before yesterday.
  - She stated that the Broward plan had been approved by both former Commissioner Eric Smith and the State Board of Education.
- Board Member Lee:
  - Asked about definition for significant improvement and the fact it is still not defined.
- Board Member Barrett:
  - Asked Karen Chastain, Deputy General Counsel, for her opinion. Ms. Chastain indicated that DOE has made it clear that if we do not meet one of the options they will intervene and take over the schools.
- Board Chairman Gentry:
  - Shared that he thought the close and re-open option was too risky and that DOE could have denied our request and would not have allowed us to re-open the schools.
  - He felt that the EMO route was preferred by his fellow Board members because we had rejected the Charter option.

The Chairman asked that Board members review the draft of the appeal and get their questions, comments, and concerns, to the Superintendent by June 30, 2011. The

appeal has to be filed on July 1, 2011.

Mr. Cleve Warren, Chairman of Duval Partners, Inc., shared with the Board that the group was anxious to work with the school system and provide the assistance and support that we would have them provide. The group has been meeting the past few weeks in order to be prepared should an MOU be approved for them to proceed. Duval Partners, Inc., has reviewed the prior MOU and they have no issues with the wording, or the proposed amendments being discussed today. He stated that this was not a power grab and that they stood ready to work collaboratively with the school system. Mr. Warren did ask that they be provided with latitude to do the work assigned by the District. He indicated that he was honored to be part of this group.

Board Member Hazouri and Vice-Chairman Burney asked Mr. Warren to share with the Board how he saw the roles of Duval Partners, the possible EMO group, and the proposed Director they will hire. Mr. Warren shared that Operating agreement would define those roles, however, as he sees it as this time, the Executive Director would be the organizational manager and have responsibility for community relationships and would be the liaison with the school Board; and, the professional partner (EMO) would work collaboratively with the Superintendent.

Several Board members expressed concerns with the governance structure and who would be held accountable. Other concerns included who would be responsible for meeting with the community; governance roles; management roles; and, removing the role and voice of the Board member who represent the schools.

Board Member Wright expressed concerns with the deliverables on page 2 of the MOU. She is not in agreement with these seven items. She asked that her fellow Board members not support this MOU.

Chairman Gentry stated that he understands all of the concerns expressed, and while he does not like having to take this action, he feels that the MOU is the best decision based on the options available to the District.

Vice-Chairman Burney shared her concerns with the trust factor involved and that the Board will ultimately be losing the governance, management, and authority over these schools.

Board Member Hazouri added that he sees this as another School Board district being created and will not support the MOU.

A copy of the MOU as amended is attached to the agenda item.

Speakers:

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

Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member  
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member

Motions:

Amendment No. 1

Chairman Gentry offered an amendment to the last sentence in paragraph 2 as follows:

"As such, if the ~~District is required~~ Board decides to enter into an EMO contract with Duval Partners or any other organization for any of its Intervene Schools for the 2011-2012 school year (the "EMO Option"), the Parties intend to enter into such separate lawfully required agreement in July 2011 to set forth the responsibilities and expectation of both Parties for the EMO Option." - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Martha Barrett

Second: Rebecca Couch

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Betty Burney	- Aye
Rebecca Couch	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Motions:

Amendment No. 2

Chairman Gentry offered the following amendment to the first sentence in the second paragraph of the MOU. The word "District" would also be changed to the word "Board" throughout the MOU.

"The School Board of Duval County, Florida, ~~as is~~ the governing board for Duval County Public Schools (the "~~District~~"Board"), and shall continue to be the governing entity and maintain management and operational control of the Intervene Schools during the term of this MOU. The Board is committed to taking all reasonable and appropriate measures to assure that the Intervene Schools will succeed and resume a culture of academic excellence that will not only serve the students presently attending these schools, but will attract children to attend these schools in the future."

- PASS

#### Vote Results

Motion: Martha Barrett

Second: Fred Lee

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Betty Burney	- Aye
Rebecca Couch	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

#### Motions:

Amendment No. 3:

Chairman Gentry offered the following amendment to the deliverables sections of the MOU:

"The ~~District~~ Board shall:

- Make ~~a district~~an employee available to serve as project facilitator during the MOU Term.

Duval Partners shall:

- PASS

- Identify and make available a representative to serve as the liaison between the ~~District~~Board and Duval Partners as the corresponding project facilitator.
- ~~Engage~~ Assist the Board in engaging parents, community, business and other not-for-

profit groups to provide input and human and material resources to support the activities of the Intervene Schools."

Vote Results

Motion: Martha Barrett

Second: Rebecca Couch

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Betty Burney	- Aye
Rebecca Couch	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Motions:

1. That the Duval County School Board approve the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the School Board of Duval County, Florida and Duval Partners, Inc., as thrice amended.
2. That the Duval County School Board authorize the Board Chairman and the Superintendent to execute the MOU upon approval as to form by the Office of General Counsel. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: Martha Barrett

Second: Fred Lee

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Betty Burney	- Nay
Rebecca Couch	- Aye

William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Nay
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Nay

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Special Board Meeting at 1:15 p.m.

BSC

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

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Chairman