



Duval County Public Schools

March 14, 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, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the Board Workshop to order at 10:14 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[1. BOARD - SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

The following items were discussed.

- Vice-Chairman Burney asked about unfunded mandates and where we are with the lobbyist. The Duval Delegation had stated they understood this and would help us, but we also need to help ourselves and push this topic and help the public understand. We need Communications to help us get the word out and our lobbyist should be working on this also. The Superintendent shared that there was a bill filed to reduce the class size penalty to \$1,000 per school, and if passed, this should help. There is also a plan to move from printed to electronic textbooks over the next five years. He shared that FADSS is using our list to get support from other school districts in the area of unfunded mandates. Board members requested the list be reduced to bullet points for ease of use when speaking to legislators.
- Board Member Barrett asked about the budget community meetings. She understands the dates have been changed. The Superintendent indicated that two of the original dates were changed because they were scheduled for a time when he and the Board would have been out of town.
- Board Member Barrett shared that she attended a meeting where Governor Scott spoke. He loves charter schools and did not mention public schools at all.
- Board Member Couch spoke about the article in the paper regarding cutting district athletics. This is a topic the Board has not taken a vote on to date. It would be good to remember to say "one of the proposals will be, or I think" when individual Board members are speaking to the media. She mentioned that she had received twice as many e-mails regarding athletics as she did on cuts to core curriculum.
- Board Member Lee spoke about the unfunded mandates and the need to get the word out to the community. He was also disheartened that he received more e-mails on sports than on any of the other proposed cuts. He urged the Superintendent to make time on his calendar to have round table discussions with staff regarding the budget.
- Board Member Hazouri was also concerned about the budget cuts and the impact on the students.
- Chairman Gentry shared that with the FCAT looming it was not a good time to discuss budget cuts, but there was no option but to address this issue now. Other districts will face the same decisions, we have just started our process first. He also suggested we consider joining the class size lawsuit with other districts around the State.
- Board Member Wright shared that she had previously suggested that the Superintendent make sure internal staff is aware of the budget shortfall we are facing. She had also sent an e-mail suggesting we go on the radio to tell our story.
- Board Member Couch suggested a video be placed on the website for the public and employees to access which would explain the budget issues we are facing.
- Board Member Lee indicated that he was worried about morale, and that when you involve the employees in the decision making process, morale will change.

[2. INTERVENE STATUS REPORT](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent shared a letter from Commissioner Scott that indicates our plan does not meet the requirements. Ms. Karen Chastain, Deputy General Counsel, reviewed the letter with the Board.

Speakers:

Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Chairman
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent
Ms. Karen Chastain, Deputy General Counsel
Ms. Betty Burney, Board Vice-Chairman
Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member

[3. APRIL 5, 2011, DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW](#)

Minutes:

The Board and staff reviewed the April 5, 2011, Draft Agenda. Items discussed included the following:

- Academics Item 6 - Schultz Center - remove from agenda for now and work to resolve concerns with Amendment.
- HRS Item 1 - Supervisors Association Agreement - discuss during Collective Bargaining Shade Meeting.
- HRS Item 1 - Suspensions - provide Board with information on how we decide punishment - provide information prior to Board meeting.

Chairman Gentry asked Karen Chastain to check on the Rhona Silver pending issue of attorney's fees and get back with him to schedule a hearing.

Speakers:

Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Chairman
Ms. Betty Burney, Board Vice-Chairman
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Member
Ms. Pat Willis, Deputy Superintendent
Mr. Walter Carr, Director, Human Resource Services
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member
Mr. Paul Soares, Chief of Operations
Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member

4. BUDGET 2011-2012/COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Minutes:

The Board and staff reviewed an updated budget scenario worksheet. A copy of the document is attached to the Minutes. The points made during the discussion included the following.

- Moving toward video streaming and distance learning for professional development. Over time this will mean less time out of the classroom.
- Board Member Wright will share some ideas for cutting about \$100 million from the budget with the Superintendent. She will e-mail him her list which includes areas such as staffing, and the STAR program.
- C101 - Need to beef up this item.
- TS01 - Consensus was to keep this and remove it from the list. Staff will look for sponsorships for Real Schools, School Matters, and Board meetings.
- FM05 - Vice-Chairman Burney again reminded the group of the commitment made to these employees by a prior Board. The consensus was to take this item off of the list for now and staff will continue to work with the Union to see if there is an agreeable solution. Staff will report back to the Board before any action is taken on this topic.
- FM08.5 - Consensus was to leave on list.
- FS01-FS06 - Internal items.
- PM04 - Consensus was to leave on list.
- PM05 - No comments.
- PM06 - Make sure employees know not to use cars for personal errands.
- SF01 - No comments.
- ST01 - Why single this field trip out from others taken during school year? Response was that others are school funded and this one is District supported. Consensus was to monitor this item and make sure the field trip continues.
- ST02 - Shifting cost to ESE dollars will not impact services and support to the ESE program. Consensus was to leave on this list.
- ST03 - No comments.
- FM06.5 - No comments.
- FS03 - No comments.
- MG02 - No comments.
- ST04 - This area was also reduced last year.
- TE02 - No cost and will pass for now.
- IT13 - Vice-Chairman Burney talked about a recent trip to Loretto Elementary School and the wonderful things Principal Chris Begley is doing with IT at his school. She suggested that staff get him to share his ideas with the District for implementation at other schools.
- ST07 - Will come back to Board on this item before we vote.
- DA04 - Staff will review and provide breakdown for high schools and middle schools.
- DA05 - Consensus was to leave on list.

- EE08 - Consensus was to remove this item from the list for now. The fund should be renamed and re-identified for what it really is. This will be included in the funding formula and schools will be able to decide where to use the funds.
- IR01 - The Superintendent will ask Community Engagement to look at obtaining grants for this item. Consensus was to leave on the list for now.
- SE03 - No comments.
- MP01 - No comments.
- EE02 - No comments.
- IR06 - Talk to City to see if we can get a cost break or reduced cost for use of City facilities for graduation ceremonies. Consensus was to remove this item from the list.
- HP07 - Staff is negotiating with colleges now and will provide Board with an update. Now the cost is falling to the students and parents.
- EE01 - Deferred - this will not impact the coming school year and we will discuss this item at a later date.

The Board and staff talked about the big ticket budget items. Some of the items are subject to negotiation. Discussed column A only.

- Item 4 - Will discuss this item in the Collective Bargaining Shade Meeting.
- Item 5 - Rework figures to include stops at A. P. Randolph and Peterson. Discussed doing away with transportation for the seven most over-subscribed magnets and keeping some magnet and after school transportation - reduce but not totally eliminate. The \$2.8 million is just the seven most over-subscribed and does not include all dedicated magnets.
- All agreed that furloughs would be the last thing to do on their list.
- All agreed that maintaining some art, music, and physical education would be the next priority over other items.

Individual Board Member comments included the following items.

- Board Member Couch - We are in the business of education students, so could support cutting the Schultz Center.
- Board Member Lee - His order on the list provided would be items 1-4, 8, 5, 7, 6, and 9.
- Chairman Gentry - Could support some cuts in art, music, and physical education, but not eliminating them entirely; agreed that furloughs would be the last thing we should do; does not agree on cutting reading initiatives and believes we need to go forward with this item; we should look at 4-day school weeks; eliminate some magnet transportation but need to provide for equity; also has concerns about Cluster Chief title.
- Board Member Hazouri - Would do Item 5 on magnets; likes the Schultz idea; prefers a 4-day school week over elimination of sports; supports reading initiatives but not \$4.5 million extra for this year; look into options for early retirement.

- Board Member Barrett - Is still considering her priority; likes idea of Regional Superintendents.
- Vice-Chairman Burney - Talked about unfunded mandates; asked what District targets and plan is to get parents involved - do not rely solely on Save Our Schools; how much per child to educate a child; eliminate programs that do not show improvement; continue to pursue funds that JEA should be providing to the schools; look at selling vacant schools; look at Normandy and Head Start; look at central office and what can be redesigned; no new programs for the coming year; look at consultants; if STARS is not working look at reducing or eliminating; review magnet transportation; furlough days would be last item to consider.
- Board Member Wright - She will discuss some of her suggestions directly with the Superintendent; redesign the way we do business as a District; go back to regional districts like before - elementary, middle, and high; we have too many people in the Cluster offices; feeder patterns for continuity; review titles and change responsibilities; no new programs; do away with Schools for the Future; eliminate \$1 million from the Schultz Center; need more coaches in the schools; eliminate STAR except for four sites and focus on students extremely overage for grade; go back to 7 period days; eliminate magnet transportation; do less with Compass Odyssey; look at consultants; review supplemental materials; too many programs in each school; look at Success Maker - every school that has used it shows tremendous gains; review all programs and limit the number that can be purchased; look at Cluster Chief title and come up with one that makes sense.

Speakers:

Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Chairman
 Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent
 Mr. Doug Ayars, Chief Operating Officer
 Mr. Mike Perrone, Chief Financial Officer
 Ms. Betty Burney, Board Vice-Chairman
 Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member
 Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member
 Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member
 Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
 Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Member

5. REVIEW STRATEGIC PLAN ON OVERAGE FOR GRADE STUDENTS

Minutes:

This item was not discussed.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Board Workshop at 4:22 p.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman