



Duval County Public Schools

March 29, 2012, Board Workshop

Ms. Betty Burney, Chairman
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Martha Barrett
Ms. Ms. Becki Couch
Mr. W. C. Gentry
Ms. Mr. Tommy Hazouri
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 Deputy 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 10:08 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[1. BOARD-SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

The following items were discussed:

- The Chairman provided an updated on the Board Goals.
- The Superintendent Evaluation Form revision is not complete and Vice-Chairman Lee will meet with Karen Chastain, General Counsel's Office, regarding revision of the current Board Policy.
- The Acceleration programs are on track.
- Board members and the Superintendent are attending team building workshops to strengthen the Board-Superintendent relationship.
- We have added a page on our website for the Superintendent Search to assist with transparency during the search process.
- Staff is working on a teacher survey and a group is being formed to address morale issues. The Board would like to have a press conference when finished.
- The Superintendent shared an update on Succession Planning.
- The meeting with the Times-Union Editorial Board which will occur later in today's Workshop was discussed. The Board will share a PowerPoint with their goals; the Superintendent will share information on Succession Planning; the Board will talk about the Superintendent Search; Michelle Begley will talk about the fund balance; and, the floor will be opened for questions.
- The Superintendent shared information from the recent meeting with the State Board of Education. He indicated that they seemed impressed with our progress, especially our FAIR reading data. DOE is projecting the majority of our intervene schools will exit this status designation for the coming school year.

At the end of the Workshop the Superintendent asked those still present for a consensus regarding Pay to Play. Board Chairman Burney, Vice-Chairman Lee, and Members Barrett, and Hazouri, all agreed to hold at this time. The Superintendent will poll those not present for their opinion - Board Members Gentry, Wright, and Couch.

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Seabrook Burney, Board Chairman
 Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent
 Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
 Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member
 Ms. Kathy LeRoy, Chief Academic Officer
 Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Vice-Chairman
 Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member
 Ms. Pat Willis, Deputy Superintendent
 Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member
 Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member

[2. ECONOMIC UPDATE - JIM ZINGALE](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Jim Zingale, who provided the Board with an update on the economic forecast. A copy of his presentation is attached to the Minutes. Discussion included the following:

- At this point the budget is still tentative for the coming year.
- This is the worst recession since the Great Depression, especially in terms of length. It was officially over 2 years and 9 months ago, however, the impact is still being felt. Florida was impacted differently than other states in terms of growth. The latest Census shows that people did not leave the state. Families were combining homes; foreclosures were up; and, unemployment rose.
- The current budget situation was discussed.
- Florida should recover faster than most states. Forecast is another 18-20 months.
- Expected sales tax revenue growth was discussed.

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Seabrook Burney, Board Chairman
 Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent
 Mr. Jim Zingale, Consultant
 Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
 Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member
 Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Vice-Chairman
 Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member
 Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member
 Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member

[3. BUDGET 2012-13](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent announced that Mike Perrone, Chief Financial Officer, had accepted a position as CFO in DeKalb County, Georgia. Staff will brief the Board on the budget in his absence. Discussion included the following:

- The \$52 million in carryover was discussed. It is used to reduce the deficit. We are holding on to the 3% in question for employee retirement contributions. It could be two years before final determination is made.
- The fund balance was discussed.
- The Board requested a breakdown on fixed costs.
- Contracts with negotiated step increases would amount to \$8 million.
- The Board requested information on what it would cost to run the school system the way we would like to.
- Chairman Burney shared a Strategic Abandonment tool from Ector County, Texas. The Superintendent will ask staff to prepare a similar document for Duval using this format, which he will share with the Board.
- David Ford will prepare a document for the Board on insurance showing our current reserve.

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Seabrook Burney, Board Chairman

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

4. TIMES-UNION EDITORIAL BOARD FORUM

Minutes:

The Board welcomed the Times-Union Editorial Board members who were present:

- Mr. Mike Clark
- Mr. Frank Denton
- Mr. Jeff Reese
- Mr. Wayne Ezell

Discussion included the following:

- The Chairman shared information on the Board's goals, Superintendent search, the budget, communications, employee morale, and Succession Planning.
- The Superintendent shared information on the budget also.
- Discussed what a World Class system means.

The Editorial Board members made the following comments:

- They were impressed with our Superintendent search plans and community input plans.
- They will assist the Board with articles on the Opinion pages, and would like to invite our students to write for them. He invited the Board members to write opinion columns.
- They asked about our Broad training and Succession Planning. They offered to help with the Superintendent search by providing space on their website.
- Editorials will be written stating how we are going beyond the Sunshine Law requirements for the Superintendent search, and will notice.
- Requested that we provide them with a list of unfunded mandates.

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Seabrook Burney, Board Chairman
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent
Mr. Mike Clark, T-U
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member

Mr. Frank Denton, T-U
Mr. Jeff Reese, T-U
Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Vice-Chairman
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member
Mr. Wayne Ezell, T-U
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member
Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member

5. STAFF ALLOCATION MODEL

Minutes:

The Superintendent provided the Board with an update on the Staff Allocation Model. Discussion included the following:

- For elementary in K-3 the plan calls for 1 teacher per 19 students. Class size is 1 per 18 students. Staff shared that other items impacted this number.
- The plan is a good idea, especially if we had enough money, but one size does not fit all and some schools will suffer. Some Magnet programs may be negatively impacted by this plan also.
- All Board members thanked staff for their work on this plan.
- A suggestion was made to pilot the plan, however, the Superintendent indicated a pilot would not work for this model.
- The plan is not favorable for K-6 and K-8 schools.
- The shortage of Guidance Counselors was discussed.
- Consensus was to hold off on this program for now and do more review.

Speakers:

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

6. STRATEGIC PLAN MIDYEAR REVIEW - PHASE I

Minutes:

This item was not discussed.

7. INTERVENE SCHOOL UPDATE

Minutes:

Mr. Frank DeSensi, Educational Directors, LLC, provided the Board with an update on the intervene schools. This is a critical time for the schools and the coaches have been focusing on test prep planning. Staff shared that students have become more engaged than every before and they are seeing growth in reading. Teachers are motivated and there are rewards for both students and teachers. Business partners and alumni are also becoming more involved with the schools.

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Seabrook Burney, Board Chairman
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent
Mr. Frank DeSensi, Educational Directions, LLC
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member
Mr. Tony Bellamy, Cluster 3 Chief
Ms. Jackie Byrd, Cluster 1 Chief
Mr. Steve Hite, Educational Directions, LLC
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Vice-Chairman
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member
Ms. Pat Willis, Deputy Superintendent
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member
Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member

8. DISTRICT APPEAL ON DECISION OF FLORIDA VIRTUAL

Minutes:

Ms. Karen Chastain, Assistant Deputy General Counsel, shared information with the Board on Florida Virtual Charter School application. To date they have failed 12 of the 19 categories. Three of the major categories are governance and oversight, curriculum and education, and, finance and budget. The appeals commission voted in favor of the District and that recommendation was provided to the State Board of Education, who reversed the decision. The order, however, does not state why they reversed the decision of the appeals commission. Seminole County's decision was also reversed, and they are appealing. It was pointed out that State BOE member Gary Chartrand excused himself from the vote, which was 3-1.

The consensus was to appeal the State BOE decision.

Speakers:

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

9. RFP - SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH FIRM

Minutes:

Ms. Karen Chastain, Assistant Deputy General Counsel, provided the Board with a draft of the Superintendent search firm RFP. Dates for the RFP timeline were discussed. The Board will hire a facilitator/project manager for the Envisioning Committee meetings and the staff input meetings, along with any other services needed. The facilitator/project manager will hire a PR person/firm, if necessary.

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Seabrook Burney, Board Chairman
Ms. Karen Chastain, Assistant Deputy General Counsel
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member
Ms. Kathy LeRoy, Chief Academic Officer
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Vice-Chairman
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member
Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member

10. SOS ACADEMY HEARING REQUEST

Minutes:

Ms. Karen Chastain, Assistant Deputy General Counsel, shared with the Board that she had sent a non-renewal notice to SOS Academy. They had 14 days to request a hearing, and have done so. We will not proceed under Chapter 120 of the Administrative Procedures Act. The consensus was to let DOAH handle the hearing.

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Seabrook Burney, Board Chairman
Ms. Karen Chastain, Assistant Deputy General Counsel

Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Board Vice-Chairman
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member
Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The workshop adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

bsc

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman