



E-AGENDA MANAGER

## Duval County Public Schools

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March 27, 2015, Committee Meeting and Board Workshop

Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Chairman  
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Vice-Chairman  
Ms. Becki Couch  
Mr. Jason Fischer  
Dr. Constance S. Hall  
Mr. Scott Shine  
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 meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Topics To Be Discussed

[APRIL 7, 2015 - DRAFT AGENDA](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed the April 7, 2015, Draft Agenda with the Board. Discussion included the following:

- AGREEMENT BETWEEN DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND BLACKBOARD, INC.

- o This is the vehicle to which teachers sign up for professional development.
- o Altina Fenelon, Specialist, Professional Development, sets up most of the courses and the management of the work.
- o This is a compliance tool.
- o We are seeing an increase in usage.

Board Member Becki Couch asked how many employees are trained in Blackboard. The Superintendent will get back with Board Member Couch.

Board Member Constance Hall would like to know course offerings, usage by category and a demonstration. The Superintendent will follow up.

Board Member Paula Wright asked about the cost savings related to doing in- house professional development compared to using the Schultz Center. The Superintendent will follow up.

Vice- Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez requested information on the gap analysis. Dr. Vitti will sent a follow up to her question.

- AGREEMENT WITH PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENT RESOURCE, LLC, FOR RECRUITING SERVICES FOR THERAPISTS AND SPECIAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS
  - o Contract for recruitment of teaching positions.
  - o The biggest need is for Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Pathologists and Physical Therapists.
  - o The maximum amount of the contract would be \$259,000 dollars. The implementation fee is \$5,500.00 dollars up front for year one only. A \$4,000.00 dollar fee each month after that. Each time someone is recruited we pay \$9000.00 for that employee. If they stay the next year the district pays \$5000.00 dollars to PPR. This would be funded through Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA).
  - o A staffing supervisor has been added to the Human Resource Department.
  - o This is a year to year renewal.

Vice - Chairman Smith Juarez asked why are we using an outside contractor instead of using our Human Resource staff. The Superintendent stated this is just an enhancement. He will sent more data as a follow up.

- CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT FOR RENAISSANCE CHARTER SCHOOL, INC. D/B/A DUVAL CHARTER SCHOOL AT FLAGLER CENTER
  - o Renaissance Charter is asking for a five- year contract. The Superintendent is recommending a four - year contract.

Vice - Chairman Smith Juarez expressed her concern over the gap analysis not being listed in the item. She has asked for this information many times to no avail. She suggested we have a third party do an analysis of the charter schools.

Board Member Wright requested a dashboard with information on how many students left a charter and how many returned.

- APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT (CHARTER) - SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC. (ELEMENTARY EAGLE CAMPUS)
  - The recommendation of the Superintendent is a five - year contract renewal which was requested by the charter school.
- APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT (CHARTER) - RIVER CITY EDUCATION SERVICES, INC. (RIVER CITY SCIENCE ACADEMY ELEMENTARY)
  - The recommendation of the Superintendent is a 15 - year contract which was requested by the charter school.
- APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT (CHARTER) KIPP JACKSONVILLE INC. (IMPACT MIDDLE SCHOOL)
  - The recommendation of the Superintendent is a five - year contract renewal. KIPP requested a fifteen year renewal.
- APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT (CHARTER) - SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC. (MIDDLE SCHOOL)
  - The Superintendent's recommendation is a five - year contract renewal which was requested by the charter school.
  - This school will be moving to another location in Arlington. They are currently located at Impact Church.
- APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT (CHARTER) - S.O.C.K. OUTSTANDING STUDENTS (S.O.S.) ACADEMY, INC.
  - The Superintendent is recommending a two - year contract renewal. S.O.S. requested a five- year contract.
  - They have raised their grade to a C.
- APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT (CHARTER) - FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL OR ACCELERATED LEARNING - JACKSONVILLE CAMPUS, INC. (LONE START HIGH SCHOOL)
  - This item addresses the double session problem with this school and others with this operator.
  - The recommendation of the Superintendent is for a three - year contract. The charter school requested a five year contract.
  - The graduation rate has improved.
  - They have adopted better standards.

Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez requested information on the graduation rate at Lone Star High School.

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, said he will provide information on these charter schools before the April 7, 2015 Regular Board Meeting.

Board Member Becki Couch requested the graduation rate for Bridge to Success. Andrew Post, Assistant Superintendent, Accountability and Assessment replied 14.1%. If they do not increase by 4% per year, the contract will be looked at again.

Board Member Paula Wright said she visited Bridge to Success. She was

very pleased with what she saw on the tour.

- APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL BASED ADMINISTRATOR ASSESSMENT SYSTEM
  - This is a change to the school - based evaluator tool. Some language changes were required. We also used this opportunity to change the principal's evaluation tool to align with the four pillars we define as instructional leadership.
  - The changes have been approved by the Florida Department Of Education and now need to be voted on by the Board.
  - The delay in bringing this to the Board is because state approval was needed first. This is for the current school year.

Board Member Hall expressed concern that this item should have been workshopped earlier so we can understand how it fits into the big picture. This way we can be more efficient. Superintendent Vitti did not agree with Board Member Hall. He feels it has to do with the distance between meetings.

Board Chairman Cheryl Grymes asked the Board how she would know what needs to be workshopped.

Board Member Hall stated the greater part of leadership is having the vision to know what is coming. When we have a lot of questions that is a key we need more information. If we had an electronic notebook that we could refer back to, it would be helpful.

Board Members Couch and Hall would both like to see documents saved in a share drive or share point page so they are more accessible.

- ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS February 28, 2015

Vice - Chairman Smith Juarez asked the Superintendent why there was no gap analysis or expected outcome in the item. Superintendent Vitti will get the staff to see how those sections can be completed.

- PREQUALIFICATION OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

Board Member Wright questioned the process. Paul Soares, Assistant Superintendent, Operations, will provide more information on this item.

- DECLARE NORMANDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 204 UNNECESSARY FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES
  - Possibly selling the building and the property.
  - Normandy closed in 2004. After the closure it was leased to the Urban League for a dollar.
  - The school is surrounded by 12 acres.

Vice - Chairman Smith Juarez requested the utilization of the surrounding schools. Paul Soares, Assistant Superintendent, Operations, provided the

following information. The utilization of the surrounding schools are: Normandy Village 73%, Hyde Grove 73%, Ramona 82% Crystal Springs 70%. Mr. Soares is also doing an appraisal of the school. He said it would take about \$500,000 to bring the building to code.

- APPROVAL OF SUMMER CAMP SITE USE AGREEMENT
  - Duncan Fletcher Middle is used by students from many counties.
  - The agreement covers all costs of using the building.
  - A staff member must stay at school during the summer camp.
- FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DISTRICT - CHARTER COLLABORATIVE COMPACT GRANT
  - This is a recommendation to approve 3.8 million dollars in grant funding for a collaborative impact grant with KIPP Charter School.
  - The grant was approved by the Florida Department of Education.
  - KIPP Charter was selected because the grant requires us to work with an existing turnaround operator where the area has low performing schools and is located in the urban core. KIPP was the only one that met the profile.
  - The grant outlines several areas which are in alignment with the district.
  - Grant funds will be used to hire a director that would report to Pearl Roziers, Region Chief, School Choice/Pupil Assignment. This would help to streamline compliance with charter schools.
  - Includes strengthening the pipeline of teachers primarily at the elementary level at hard - to - staff schools. The district would issue an RFP to a University to develop the pipeline.
  - We are required to share best practices analyzed by a third party so other charter schools can learn from this.
  - The grant gives charter schools access to the Teacher Depot.
  - The DOE has given charter schools flexibility to fill gaps in our district.

Board Member Couch asked the Superintendent to bring the item back if it is amended.

Board Member Wright requested the Superintendent involve parents, community and the Board before making a commitment in the future.

- RENEWAL OF THE CATAPULT ACADEMY CONTRACT
  - The recommendation is a one - year renewal.

The Chairman gave the following update for meeting dates.

- April 14, 2015 - Board Workshop - New Teacher Project and Audit Committee Meeting
- April 16, 2015 - Student Expulsion Hearings
- April 21, 2015 - Committee Meeting - May Agenda and Budget
- April 23, 2015 - Committee Meeting - Grievance
- April 23, 2015 - Hester Hearing

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

Minutes:

The Board Budget will be discussed at the April 14, 2015 Committee Meeting.

## GOVERNANCE

Minutes:

- Board Member Paula Wright expressed her concern over a person in Communications being paid out of the Board budget without the Board's approval. We have not had the budget discussion yet.
- Chairman Cheryl Grymes asked the Superintendent to have someone in Communications to assist her with a website for her district.
- Board Member Constance Hall handed out a book entitled Maze of Mistrust. She asked everyone to please read it. Dr. Hall will also send out a YouTube video which was viewed at a stakeholders meeting.
- Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez asked Michelle Begley, Board Internal Auditor, to review the Title I agreement.
- Board Member Constance Hall requested information on Summer School sites. The Superintendent will follow up.
- Board Member Becki Couch asked the Chairman to send out the statement on the Superintendent Evaluation. The statement should have been given to the media after Board approval. It is too late to give it to the media now.
- Board Member Jason Fischer requested that we come up with a solution to discuss having public comment at meetings.
- Vice Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez said the Policy Handbook Review Committee will discuss having public discussion at meetings. She would also like the Board to work on the Superintendent's professional development plan soon. The Chairman will contact Dr. Cathy Minberg, President and CEO, CRSS (Center for Reform of School Systems) to assist the Board with developing a professional development plan for the Superintendent.
- Board Member Scott Shine discussed having public comment at meetings, limited time for everyone to speak not just the public, using another location for meetings, videotaping the meetings, public access to information and getting something accomplished. No consensus was reached.
- Board Member Couch expressed her concern about the following:
  - Board policy. She feels everyone should read and know the policy.
  - The Board is supposed to have quarterly updates by department.

- We are not doing this.
- o Not managing the process
  - o Always playing catch up.
  - o We should have goals and objectives.
  - o The policies should not be used to penalize the Superintendent.
  - o The Chairman needs to look over the agenda items with the Superintendent to determine what needs to be workshopped.
  - o Michelle Begley, Board Internal Auditor, will work on updating the Share Point page,

Board Chairman Cheryl Grymes expressed her appreciation to the Board Members and welcomes suggestions.

Adjournment

[Adjournment](#)

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

CSM

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Superintendent

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Chairman