



E-AGENDA MANAGER

# Duval County Public Schools

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May 10, 2016, Board Workshop

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Chairman  
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Vice-Chairman  
Ms. Becki Couch  
Mr. Jason Fischer  
Ms. Cheryl Grymes  
Dr. Constance S. Hall  
Mr. Scott Shine  
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 Officer of Legal Services, were also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 10:29 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[GOVERNANCE](#)

Minutes:

The following Governance topics were discussed:

Dr. Mike Moses, Executive Coach

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, stated he would like to continue his Executive

Coaching with Dr. Moses. The Board agreed to continue the Executive Coaching. Dr. Moses will meet with Board Members on August 4, 2016, in room 639. Board Members would like to receive feedback from the Superintendent and Dr. Moses concerning the Executive Coaching.

Vice-Chairman Wright arrived at 10:41 a.m.

#### Joint Meeting with City Council and The School Board

The Board Office is working with City Counsel on a date for this meeting. Board Member Grymes will be working to create the agenda. The suggested topics were Independent General Counsel for the Board and New and Established Growth and Development. The Board agreed to have Jason Gabriel, General Counsel, speak to the Board before the Joint Meeting with City Council and the School Board. Board Member Couch requested the Board be more involved in evaluating the Office of General Counsel (OGC).

#### Discover Duval

The schools which will be highlighted at the Regular Board Meeting will be aligned with the Discover Duval tours. The Discover Duval tours will be scheduled before the Regular Board Meetings takes place. All Board Members must select schools for the 2016-2017 school year in order to plan the school tours and other internal organization tours for the next school year.

#### Board Workshop - Superintendent's Evaluation Targets

The Board agreed to have a Board Workshop on June 2, 2016, from 12:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. on the Superintendent's Evaluation Targets.

#### Video Taping of Meetings in Room 613

The consensus of the Board was to have all Workshops, Agenda Review and Subcommittee meetings video recorded in room 613.

#### District Advisory Council (DAC)

Board Member Couch requested a Board Member attend the (DAC) meeting on June 27, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in her place. Vice-Chairman Wright agreed to attend.

#### Board Member Request (BMR)

Board Member Couch voiced her concern about a BMR response that was not complete. She received the salary for teachers as requested but did not receive the total salaries of all employees including all raises and performance pay broken out by teachers. The BMR was not entered into the BMR Tracking System. The Superintendent will provide the additional information. She would also like to receive a response concerning receipt of BMR's also. The Superintendent's office will send responses to Board Members in the future to indicate they have been received and additional requested information for the BMR will be sent to Board Member Couch.

#### Replacement of Officer Anthony Ewest

Officer Willie Cummings is our new police officer in the Administration

Building. Ms. Couch stated the Board should have been notified that Officer Ewest was being replaced. The Superintendent stated the Board is welcome to view the report concerning why Officer Ewest was moved to a school. This was related to the incident with the video concerning Dr. Hall. Moving of employees is under the Superintendent purview. The Superintendent indicated that he spoke with the Chair at their one-on-one meeting concerning Officer Ewest this week.

Board Member Fischer stated we need to go ahead and talk about the video. There is no reason to wait. Lets address the concerns over the video. How do we resolve all of this? Discussion followed.

Video Tape concerning Board Member Hall being followed

The following was Board Member Hall's account of the incident: On the evening of November 3, 2016, Board Member Hall stated she was followed. This was also the day Dr. Hall brought forward a letter of concern for the Superintendent's communication with the Board. The next day Board Member Hall sent a statement to Chief Edwards and copied Cathy Maycott, Administrative Assistant. Board Member Hall called Chief Edwards the morning of the night after and shared with him the limited information she had available at that time. She told Chief Edwards when she receives more information she will get back in touch with him. She did not receive a response to her email. She requested a copy of the video from Officer Ewest. The video showed what was described in her descriptive narrative (statement to Chief Edwards), of her being followed. What was unusual about it was the SUV was parked at the end of the parking lot and waited for about twenty minutes until Board Members exited the School Board Building. Board Member Hall spoke with the Jacksonville Sheriffs Office (JSO) and her personal attorney concerning the incident. She felt she had no support. There was no further investigation. For about three months after this incident School Board Police made sure Dr. Hall got to her car safely after the Regular Board Meetings.

Dr. Vitti indicated that Chief Edwards did not feel there was substance to the video so Chief Edwards felt no investigation was needed. Board Members Fischer, Shine and Grymes have not seen the video. Dr. Vitti stated his wife was at the Board Meeting. The video was cut to show his wife left and got into her car. Ms. Le hockey, Chief of Staff, left the Regular Board meeting early to talk to Mrs. Vitti who was upset over the meeting. Ms. Le hockey drove Mrs. Vitti home because she did not want to drive in the rain. Dr. Vitti left the Board Meeting driving Ms. Le hockey's car and drove home. The next day we had a Chamber trip and he left in Ms. Le hockey's car. Ms. Le hockey and Mrs. Vitti stayed in the car and continued to talk through the night. Dr. Vitti indicated that the video tape shows Mrs. Vitti and Ms. Le hockey could have possibly moved Mrs. Vitti's car to the back of the parking lot the night of the Board Meeting.

Board Member Couch questioned why the District did not follow through. She went to Officer Ewest's office to see the video. There was no splicing of the video that she viewed. She viewed different angles from the parking lot cameras on his computer. She stated what she viewed was

Ms. LeHockey getting into her car. They came around where the lights were on our cars and she was dropped off at a car. Then the SUV sits and waits. Other people left and then the SUV whipped around behind Dr. Hall and follows her out of the parking lot.

Dr. Vitti stated the video he viewed was not long and was spliced in order to offer a perspective on who was leaving and who wasn't.

Board Member Fischer indicated that he thought Chief Edwards would be here today. He would like to have Chief Edwards explain why he did not move forward with an investigation and why. Chairman Smith Juarez asked that Chief Edwards come to the meeting.

Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, explained that the video was not released because of the Attorney General's opinion which cited Florida Statute Chapter 119 and Chapter 281 that related to confidential information. Ms. Chastain stated she followed up in writing with the Board why the video could not be released.

Vice-Chairman Wright was very concerned that Chief Edwards did not respond to Dr. Hall's email or phone call. She felt the Board should view the video and live with the issue that this is more than about Chief Edwards. This is about the Superintendent's control over his employees.

The Superintendent indicated that when the Florida Times Union requested the video he did not direct Ms. Chastain or anyone else to not release the video. His conversation with staff was if the video was not released it will be perceived that we have something to hide. Now we have additional security at the Board Meetings and we have an officer at the Board Office as an extra step in security.

Board Member Hall indicated that before she came to the Main Street Bridge she noticed the same SUV from the parking lot was behind her. She made many different turns to see if the SUV was following. Dr. Hall took the first exit off the Main Street Bridge and then she made a left toward the Main Street Bridge and the SUV was still following. Next she pulled over just past Ocean Street under a light to take a picture of the license plate, but the SUV took a right immediately onto Ocean Street.

Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, stated for the record that his wife would need to cross the Main Street Bridge to get home. He also stated that Ms. LeHockey was sitting right behind him and that she was in the vehicle that night.

Wendy LeHockey, Chief of Staff, stated she left the Board Meeting a few minutes early because Mrs. Vitti was upset about some of the things going on. We have known each other for many many years. Mrs. Vitti picked me up in the front of the School Board building since it was raining. She indicated that from the moment she got into Mrs. Vitti's car underneath the overhang in front of the building until she got to Dr. Vitti's house she never got out of the car. We did switch drivers by climbing over each other in the car because it was raining. Dr. Vitti drove

Ms. Lehockey's car back to his house. Ms. Lehockey went to Dr. Vitti's house and switched cars before the Chamber trip the next morning. Ms. Lehockey stated she did not know if it was Dr. Hall in front of her because of the pouring rain. Ms. Lehockey stated she always takes the first exit, she never goes over the Main Street Bridge. The route she took to Dr. Vitti's house that night was different because of the pouring rain. She took a right on Ocean Street which is not her usual route.

Board Member Fischer requested training be offered to all Board Members as a whole or individually concerning what Board Members should look for in these situations. He would also like the Board to look into what their authority is to carry a hand gun.

#### Board and Superintendent Relationships

The Board discussed an email exchange between Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, and Michelle Begley, Internal Board Auditor. Ms. Begley was asked if she had a copy of the video relating to the incident with Dr. Hall. She stated she does not have a copy nor has she asked for one. The email exchange was shared with all of the Board Members. When things are lost in communication, a phone call should be made.

Chief Micheal Edwards arrived at 11:50 a.m.

Chief Micheal Edwards stated in early November a video was provided to him concerning the incident with Dr. Hall. He viewed two vehicles leaving the parking lot and once the vehicles left there was no other video footage. He did not feel a formal investigation was needed because he could not determine that a crime was committed. When Chief Edwards was asked why he did not respond to Board Member Hall's email, his response was that he did provide her with security for the next few months at the Regular Board Meeting which showed his concern. In the future, the Board asked for a response to be given.

#### School Visits

The Board discussed protocol for attending school visits in another Board Member's district. Chairman Smith Juarez suggested the Board Office or Board Member contact the principal to find appropriate times and days for school visits. She suggested the Board Member for that district be notified about times and dates before setting up the school visit with the school. Consensus of the Board is they are open to school visits from Board Members outside of there district at anytime. Board Member Grymes would like to be notified before a school visit takes place in her district.

Board Members voiced concern about the Board's relationship with each other and the Superintendent. Board Member Couch stated Board Member Hall has shared with us since November that she felt threatened and scared. The reaction from this Board concerning Dr. Hall being followed was not one of concern. There has been no discussion or follow-up on the video. When Board Members Hall, Couch and Wright receive emails that are snippy or BMR's that are not answered, no one is concerned. We are a 4-3 Board and it is not getting better. A year ago Dr. Hall asked for Board Development concerning inappropriate responses

from the Superintendent and Board Members and it never happened. Board Members do not feel respected by each other or that Board Members have each others back.

Chairman Smith Juarez asked if the Board had topics or work that we can do together to mending where we are. Board Member Grymes felt the last Board Development was not valuable.

#### Resolution for Jerry Holland, Property Appraiser

Board Member Shine would like to recognize Jerry Holland and his staff at the June Regular Board Meeting for his work in identifying \$1,900,000 in fraudulent homestead exemptions.

#### Invocation at the Regular Board Meeting

Board Member Shine suggested the Board post a public notice to make people aware that this is not partisan and that we allow a moment of silence. We should consider whether we want to continue with invocations. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, will have a recommendation from Office of General Counsel on invocations at Regular Board Meetings soon.

Meeting recessed at 12:55 p.m. for lunch.

#### Speakers

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Chairman  
Ms. Paula Wright, Vice-Chairman  
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member  
Mr. Jason Fischer, Board Member  
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member  
Dr. Constance Hall, Board Member  
Mr. Scott Shine, Board Member  
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent  
Ms. Wendy Le hockey, Chief of Staff  
Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services  
Mr. Micheal Edwards, Chief of Police

## BUDGET

Minutes: The Budget will be discussed at the May 23, 2016, Board Workshop and Committee Meeting.

## TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Minutes:

The meeting reconvened at 1:29 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Paula Wright, Board Members Becki Couch and Constance Hall were not in attendance for this discussion.

Jim Culbert, Executive Director of Technology, presented the OneView Construction Plan to the Board. The PowerPoint is attached to the minutes. Discussion included the following:

Board Member Jason Fischer returned to the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

- OneView Construction Plan.
  - The data warehouse pulls in data from 25 different resources.
  - Next year, every one of our classrooms will have high density wireless and we will be able to support 50 devices per classroom.
  - All of our students will have five free copies of Office 2016. We have Office 2013 but will have 2016 this summer.
  - Single sign-on - gives users permission to enter one name and password in order to access multiple applications
  - Increased Bandwidth- this year we are operating at 10 gigs for students and 2 gigs for adults. This year during testing, we used 4.6 gigs of bandwidth. We can now test 800 to 1000 students at one time.
  - Single Pane of Glass - brings information together from different sources and displays them on a single web page for students.
  - In 2013, five different student focus groups were put together and 42 students were interviewed. They came up with some of the best ideas for 4th graders.
  - Met with parent focus groups who came up with ideas that they wanted to see in OneView. Teachers, Administrators and principals all have the opportunities to meet together with Microsoft. After Microsoft was finished, they went back to the same focus groups for them to sign-off on the modules that were created for them.

Board Member Shine requested information on the cost of spending per student on technology. The Superintendent stated he can provide very precise information over the last three years but beyond this it would be difficult.

Board Member Fischer left the meeting at 1:49 p.m.

Speakers

Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Chairman  
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Board Member  
Mr. Scott Shine, Board Member  
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

CSM

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Superintendent

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Chairman