



# Duval County Public Schools

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May 12, 2015, Board Workshop Meeting

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 in present. Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent, and 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 9:10 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[ASSESSMENT CALENDAR](#)

Minutes:

- Dr. Vitti will hold a press conference on May 14, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. to announce his recommendation to do away with Curriculum Guide Assessments (CGA's) for next year. There will be a mid -year comprehensive district test on the state assessment areas. A full test will be given before the students go on winter break. We will

still have a baseline assessment for the purposes of the growth model for none of the state tested subject areas. This test is linked to the teachers evaluation score of 33 percent.

- The Superintendent said there will be a bank of items teachers can use on their own if they want to do additional assessments. They will not be district-mandated assessments.
- CHANGES TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM - The Superintendent explained the update for the conference room. Three options were discussed.
  - Option 1 - Keep structure of the room the same and purchase new chairs, carpet, table, whiteboard and updated technology.
  - Option 2- Expand the room with a new configuration. New carpet and interactive whiteboard.
  - Option 3- Expand the room with new configuration to create more space for chairs.
- The consensus of the Board was to go with option 1.
- Board Member Becki Couch suggested a student art gallery be placed outside the Cline Auditorium.

#### EVALUATION CHANGES

Minutes: This topic was not discussed.

#### CURRICULUM CHANGES

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed the PowerPoint on Curriculum and Assessment Changes for 2015-2016. Discussion included the following:

- Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, explained why he has changed his recommendation to purchase EngageNY curriculum instead of Houghton Mifflin's curriculum for reading and math.
  - EngageNY is aligned to the standards at a higher level than Houghton Mifflin.
  - Lessons from EngageNY are more explicit.
  - Focus groups of teachers prefer EngageNY.
  - Cost effective.
  - Teachers are using the curriculum now as a supplement.
  - The Core Knowledge curriculum was superior and yielded greater scores than the use of other curriculum.
- Board Member Constance Hall asked if the district has made any verbal agreement. How does this leave our relationship with Houghton Mifflin? The Superintendent said our relationship will be strained. We have not processed a purchase order for materials at

this time.

- Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez asked the Superintendent to explain the adoption process. The Superintendent explained the process:
  - Solicited bids.
  - Narrowed it down to three vendors.
  - The three vendors were presented to teachers, district staff, parents and principals.
  - Looked at pros and cons.
- Dr. Vitti said once Houghton Mifflin was decided a upon he learned about the curriculum EngageNY through The New Teacher Project. He will submit an agenda item and work with Family and Community Engagement so parents will be aware of the change. The district will print the materials needed from the on-line curriculum.
- Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez requested the Superintendent come back to the Board when staff is finished with the review of the curriculum. She would like to know what the analysis was and what supplemental materials were used with students who need special help like English Learners, Black and Hispanic groups.
- Board Member Paula Wright requested a legal opinion from Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, concerning a commitment to Houghton Mifflin. Ms. Chastain said this is not a contract it is a service. She is not aware of any commitment.
- Board Member Paul Wright asked the Superintendent if the company would be able to provide professional development. Dr. Vitti said he has not engaged them as far as professional development.

#### [RESPONSE TO JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDITING COMMITTEE LETTER](#)

Minutes:

- Michelle Begley, Board Internal Auditor, discussed the Schultz Center fees. Discussion included the following:
  - Provided six bulleted areas in the audit findings to the Schultz staff in writing.
  - The Board set guidelines for the dining fees.
  - Majority of the fees are for dining.
  - There is \$200,000 that the state feels need to be reimbursed by the Schultz Center.
  - Additional documentation is needed.
  - Management fee was previously 3 percent and not a part of the contract. It is now part of the contract at 4.5 percent.
- Michelle Begley has received some of the documentation needed to resolve the audit findings but additional information is needed. Once the information is received, reviewed and deemed adequate to resolve the findings, she should not need anything else.
- Chairman Cheryl Grymes asked to have a deadline set to resolve the

issue. The consensus was June 1, 2015. Michelle Begley will notify the Schultz staff today of the deadline.

## GOVERNANCE

Minutes:

### Workshop on Quasi- Judicial Proceedings and Board Self -Evaluation

- Board Member Scott Shine discussed the following items:
  - Quasi-Judicial Proceedings- He recommended we bring in Jason Gabriel from the Office of General Counsel to provide some instruction as to how these hearings should be conducted.
  - Asked the Board do a self - evaluation.
  - Suggested a task force to review the City Charter. The task force would put together a set of recommendations that would best service the Board with input from stakeholders. The Board agreed Board Member Scott Shine would head up the task force.
  - Vice- Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez suggested creating a subcommittee to give some scope and structure to the Task Force on the City Charter review. She also asked that this subcommittee come up with a charge for the Task Force.
  - Board Member Paula Wright said before we pull in other people we need to have an understanding of our role so we can guide the Task Force. She asked that the Board bring in someone to discuss the City Charter and how it relates to the Board.
  - Board Member Scott Shine suggested the Board speak with Jason Gabriel from the Office of General Counsel when he provides training on the Quasi- Judicial Proceedings.

### Presentation on Texting and Driving and the National Council On Educating Black Children

- Board Member Paula Wright requested we invite Wayne Hogan, Personal Injury Attorney & Trial Specialist, to do a presentation on Texting and Driving for the Board. Also she would like to present information to the Board from her trip to Indiana.

### Read It Forward

- Board Member Constance Hall will be attending Read It Forward along with Mason Davis, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction. He will be representing the Superintendent.

### Workshop on Employee Discipline and Due process

- Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez requested a Board workshop on employee discipline, due process and recommendations. She made requests regarding Human Resource cumulative data.

The request includes the average time a position is open, turnover, timing and retention of new hires.

- Dr. Vitti, Superintendent, said this information will be available as part of the Human Resources staffing plan at the July Board Meeting.

#### Request for Ombudsman and Public Comment Decision

- Vice - Chairman Ashley Smith Juarez asked about an ombudsman for teachers as a neutral sounding board. At the next Policy Handbook Review Committee Meeting on May 27, 2015, we will be discussing public comment. She hopes to bring this information to the next meeting.

#### Request for information on Acclaim Academy Charter School

- Board Member Becki Couch requested information on Acclaim Academy. The Superintendent said most of the students have been placed. He will send a report to the Board by the end of the day today. She would like to see a plan concerning charter schools as far as how we recapture students and how we adjust for future budgets. The Superintendent suggested we have a workshop during the summer concerning charter schools.

#### Adjournment

[Adjournment](#)

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

CSM

We Agree on this

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Superintendent

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Chairman