



E-AGENDA MANAGER

## Duval County Public Schools

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May 4, 2017, Special Board Meeting

Ms. Paula D. Wright, Chairman  
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez, Vice-Chairman  
Ms. Becki Couch  
Ms. Cheryl Grymes  
Ms. Lori Hershey  
Mr. Warren A. Jones  
Mr. Scott Shine  
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present. Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief Officer of Legal Services, was also present.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes: The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m.

Topics To Be Discussed

[APPROVAL OF THE MAY 4, 2017, AGENDA](#)

Minutes:

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board  
Approve the May 4, 2017, Agenda As - PASS  
Submitted On April 28, 2017.

## Vote Results

Motion: Cheryl Grymes

Second: Rebecca Couch

Rebecca Couch - Aye

Cheryl Grymes - Aye

Lori Hershey - Aye

Warren Jones - Aye

Ashley Juarez - Aye

Scott Shine - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Minutes: Darryl Willie, Executive Director, Teach For America

Mr. Willie would like the Board to reconsider their recommendation to not renew the contract for Teach For America next year. They have made many changes and are a valued partner. They go too hard to staff areas. Principals are calling with concerns about not having Teach For America members. They have 180 teachers in the program. Forty of their corps members have been Teacher of the Year. Our veteran teachers want to work alongside Teach For America members.

## NEXT STEPS

Minutes:

The discussion concerning Next Steps followed:

- The Board should move ahead when the Superintendent negotiates his contact with the Detroit School District.
- Need to appoint an Interim Superintendent. Suggestions were to appoint someone who currently works for the District, someone who is retired or conduct a national search. Florida School Board Association (FSBA) maintains a list of people who they have confidence in to serve as interim.
- Type of leader the Board would like to see.
- How to engage the community.

Chairman Wright said it is important to move forward but not faster than

the contract. She will call a meeting within 48 hours once the Superintendent knows when he is leaving. We must be prepared to make decisions and move forward. She has reached out to FSBA, Council of Great City Schools and the Office of General Counsel. The Center for Reform of School Systems also has information to guide the Board.

Board Member Shine suggested bringing previous Board Members back to discuss what worked and what did not during previous Superintendent searches.

Board Member Shine left the meeting at 1:54 p.m. He returned at 1:58 p.m.

Chairman Wright addressed two news articles that were aired. The first news article was aired on May 2, 2017, on CBS 47 and FOX 30 entitled "Duval School Board Member Pushes to Lift Restrictions on Using Local Parks." She wants the public to understand the role of the Board. The Florida Legislators and the Florida Department of Education regulates how funds are spent. We are not permitted to use funds for city recreational facilities. The article suggested the Duval County School District funds maybe used for this purpose. Board Member Shine stated that what was reported was not his position.

The second news article is regarding the teacher shortage. The Superintendent indicated to Chairman Wright the District would be short 50 teachers for the next school year. He said the District can recruit 50 teachers. Board Member Shine stated that Teach For America brings in 50 teachers every year and every year we are short with no plan for the shortage. This was his point. He supports Teach For America and does not feel the information he communicated was inaccurate.

Chairman Wright stated she is committed to meet with the press after each meeting to provide data and make sure the information they receive is factual. We can disagree on an issue as long as we make sure the public is receiving the correct information.

Adjournment

#### ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

CSM

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Superintendent

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Chairman