



## Duval County Public Schools

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November 15, 2011, Board Workshop

Ms. W. C. Gentry, Chairman  
Ms. Betty Burney, Vice-Chairman  
Ms. Martha Barrett  
Ms. Ms. Becki Couch  
Ms. Mr. Tommy Hazouri  
Mr. Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee  
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, was also present.

Call Meeting To Order

### [CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

The Chairman called the Board Workshop to order at 1:11 p.m.

Items To Be Discussed

### [1. CITY YEAR - MICHAEL WARD](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Michael Ward, CSX, made a presentation to the Board about City Year, a program whose participants provide tutoring, mentoring, and serving as role models to help children and schools succeed. CSX is a national sponsor, and Mr. Ward has taken this

program on as part of his personal foundation, The Michael & Kim Ward Foundation. They would like to bring the program into our school system, starting with 2 schools the first year and expanding to 6 schools the following year. Funding is provided on a national, as well as a local, basis. The school system would also contribute around \$600,000 a year.

The Board expressed an interest and would like to have more discussion on this program. Staff will look at how this program fits in with existing programs, such as Communities and Schools, United Way, etc., and come back to the Board for further discussion and decision.

Speakers:

Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Chairman  
Mr. Michael Ward, CSX  
Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent  
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member  
Ms. Betty Burney, Board Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Paula D. Wright, Board Member  
Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member

2. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes:

This topic was not discussed.

The Board did discuss the following:

- Chairman Gentry shared that Cindy Edelman was the new Chairman of the JPEF Board. Ms. Edelman is a strong supporter of public education and would like to have a closer working relationship with the Board.
- Board Member Couch attended the DOE Board meeting today and shared a handout on proposed cut scores proposed by member John Padgett. Vice-Chairman Burney indicated that the Board and Superintendent needs to look at the cut score proposal and the impact it will have on students and teachers.
- Vice-Chairman Burney felt that the ERS presentation to the DOE Board should have only been on what ERS provides for districts and not the Duval study. She did not feel comfortable with him presenting on our District, since he is not from our system, he would not have the information in order to respond to questions, and the study his company performed only included 18 of our schools. In addition, our contract with ERS states that we own the information. It is appropriate for the Superintendent to share this information with groups after discussion by the Board and staff.
- Board Member Wright also attended the meeting and shared that Mr. Joe Pickens reported from a college perspective, and he feels that the FCAT scores are too low.

- Chairman Gentry requested that we make sure contracts of this type address sharing of information without Board consent. Vice-Chairman Burney shared that there was such a clause in the ERS agreement.
- Chairman Gentry shared that the two major associations for public relations in the City have expressed an interest in working collectively with the school system and would volunteer their services.
- Board Member Lee attended the DOE meetings and reception and said that we had some good conversations with some of their new members. He will continue to dialog with them to build a relationship.
- Board Member Wright said that she spent time for DOE Board Member Martinez at Raines High School.
- Board Member Wright also shared an update on the Intervene Meeting from last night, indicating that the third meeting will be tweaked to draw in more community engagement.

Speakers:

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

3. ERS REVIEW

Minutes:

Mr. Jonathan Travers, ERS, was present to answer questions regarding their recent study of 18 of our schools. Our system was compared to other districts from around the country. Areas discussed were:

- Staffing - report indicated that we had a higher rate of administrative and clerical staff at our schools compared to others around the country. Points raised were that our system may have duties performed at the school level, while other counties perform those same duties at a district level. Board members would like to have an apple to apple comparison. It was asked if ERS used actual or composite numbers, however, Mr. Travers was not sure, and indicated that the next step for our county would be to review what the employees are doing. The Superintendent pointed out that the ERS study used 2009-2010 information, and that we have since had two years of budget reductions, so this number would more than likely be lower now. Several Board members indicated that it would have been more helpful to compare our district to others in Florida, and not just other states.
- Teacher Effectiveness - Would like to see information comparing a standard school day - time in class teaching, planning time, etc - and not including before

and/or after school hours - to that of other districts. It was requested this information be provided for elementary, middle, and high school level classes. Board members would also like to see teacher reaction to this information.

- Consolidation of Schools - Mr. Travers explained how this information was arrived at in his study. Board members asked about how the 500 student count number was determined; how the consolidation recommendation came about since they only reviewed 18 schools; and, if ERS had made similar recommendations in other counties, and if that recommendation led to those counties closing smaller schools. Mr. Travers indicated that while they do make this recommendation, it is up to the individual school systems to decide what to do. Board members requested how many of the small schools were Title I schools.
- Allocations Per Student - Allocated is what is budgeted vs. what is actually spent. The Superintendent will provide additional information on this section.

The Chairman shared that some concerns had been expressed regarding the consultant for ERS, Mr. Travers, making presentations of our data to other groups. He asked Mr. Travers if he had any plans to do this. Mr. Travers indicated his intention was to be supportive of the district and that while they would use our comparative metrics when working with other districts, it was not his intention to make presentations on our report unless we ask him to do so. The Superintendent indicated that since JPEF had provided some of the funding, that Mr. Travers was presenting to their Board.

#### Speakers:

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

#### Adjournment

#### ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the Board Workshop at 4:34 p.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

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Superintendent

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Chairman