



E-AGENDA MANAGER

Duval County Public Schools

October 21, 2014, Committee Meeting and Board Workshop

Ms. Becki Couch, Chairman
Ms. Cheryl Grymes, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Jason Fischer
Dr. Constance S. Hall
Ms. Ashley Smith Juarez
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee
Ms. Paula D. Wright
Dr. Nikolai Vitti, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present with the exception of Paula D. Wright. 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 9:06 a.m.

Items To Be Discussed

[1. COMMITTEE MEETING - NOVEMBER 4, 2014, DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW](#)

Minutes:

The Superintendent reviewed the November 4, 2014, Draft Agenda with the Board. Discussion included the following:

- Academic Services - Item 1 - Vitalyst Agreement- Board Member

Ashley Smith Juarez asked the Superintendent if he had an opportunity to look at questions she had emailed. Superintendent Vitti said he had not but would send them today. The Superintendent stated this item went to the Board last month but was pulled because we were still negotiating the contract. Board Member Ashley Smith Juarez asked would someone be monitoring the end user support so we do not go over. Andrew Post, Assistant Superintendent Accountability and Assessment, said IT will be handling this. Board Member Hall asked why we are outsourcing when we have the help desk. Andrew Post said the help desk will still be used as before. If the user needs technical Microsoft assistance they will have another option to receive help. The contract is for \$80,000 for the 2014-2015 year. Board Member Hall asked what happens when the contract ends? Andrew Post indicated we will look at it again, after we look at how much it was used. Board Member Hall requested information from Andrew Post as to why the district chose Vitalyst. Superintendent Vitti said we will follow up. Chairman Couch asked if we have staff that can be trained and certified? Andrew Post replied that with personnel changing it would not be cost effective. Superintendent Vitti said staff is already stretched to the limit. This is why we will need more outsourcing. The Superintendent indicated he is not opposed, but we do not have the salaries to support this. We can look into this more if the Board wishes. Superintendent Vitti is looking at other grants to provide training. Board Member Hall asked are we looking at hiring a consulting company to help us manage the system. Superintendent Vitti replied we can look into this further.

- Academic Services - Item 2 - Microsoft Corporation Superintendent Vitti spoke about the contract with Microsoft. He believes this will move the district into a new world of communication and access to data. We had a workshop earlier to show in part what the portal would look like. This is an eighteen month process to development. The agenda item will allow us to move forward to finalize and begin development. Chairman Couch asked if our partners would be able to access data. Superintendent Vitti replied that once FERPA forms are filled out a partner would be able to access the data no different than a parent. The district is flooded with requests for data. Superintendent Vitti said we have a data warehouse but we need a platform to get the information. Board Member Hall asked where the information is housed? Is it in the Cloud? Is it safe? Andrew Post replied yes and we would be able to monitor 24/7.
- Academic Services - Item 3 - Advisory Council Superintendent Vitti asked if anyone had questions about funding or the makeup of the Council. The Legislature sets aside money for school recognition and any unused dollars are given back to district. Once the money is distributed we will know what we will have. Vice - Chairman Grymes stated many of our schools are only maintaining compliance measures. What are we doing to make sure there is a impact to the school? Superintendent Vitti stated the challenge is the time line. We have dollars for Title I schools that can be used to bring in more teachers. District staff met with the schools to look at the target

areas. Board Member Smith Juarez indicated we need to find more ways to engage the public in SAC. Superintendent Vitti indicated he had attended SAC training and feels the training is good. Vice - Chairman Grymes asked if we could become more creative to bring people in? Superintendent Vitti said the problem is that the data is not available until the fall. Board Chairman Couch asked how are students elected? How do we engage students? Superintendent Vitti replied we can do this through student government. We could make the student government president part of the SAC and other officials. Board Member Hall stated it is a challenge with so much on the schools plate. Chairman Couch indicated there are a lot of changes in the handbook.

- Academic Services - Item 4 - "Now Is The Time" Project Aware Grant - Item 4 - Superintendent Vitti explained the grant will provide mental health and detection training. Training will be provided in the Raines, Ribault and Jackson feeder pattern for two years. Because of the number of two's and three's in this area we feel this will align with the full service schools. This program will also provide training on other topics. The new data will be able to track the services and intervention. Chairman Couch indicated she is concerned we are not addressing the problem by just providing the training at DTO schools. Superintendent Vitti stated the other grant will speak to training at other schools. Board Member Smith Juarez asked how are we addressing the data we have with the middle school students? Superintendent Vitti stated we will work with the staff on the data to provide support. Board Member Smith Juarez asked if you feel we will have the capacity? Superintendent Vitti stated we will have training but we can also refer students for other resources. Chairman Couch stated we need to look at the data in a deeper way, not just by using the Code of Conduct.
- Academic Services - Item 5 - Learning For Life Grant Superintendent Vitti spoke about the character education program. The program has more of a school wide focus. Chairman Couch asked that this program should be showcased at the School Choice Expo. Board Member Smith Juarez asked how do we know this program will be successful? Superintendent Vitti's response was the program has an evaluation component.
- Board Member Fischer left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.
- Academic Service - Item 6 - Strive Grant Superintendent Vitti indicated this program has been provided by the Boy Scouts in the past. We will be focusing more on the character trait of the month. The district will be focusing on DOE schools. Board Member Smith Juarez asked how are we evaluating these programs? Superintendent Vitti replied we have an evaluation component. Character Education is also provided in language arts curriculum, and he would like us to develop more ways to work with Character Education. Board Chairman Couch indicated this program needs to be highlighted at the School Choice Expo to make parents aware of what we offer.
- Academic Services - Item 7 - Florida Aware "Now Is The Time" Project Aware State Educational Agency Grant This grant will provide district wide training over five years on mental health detection. Board

Member Smith Juarez asked the Superintendent to send more information on the targets.

- Academic Services - Item 8 - School Climate Transformation Grant Superintendent Vitti indicated this grant will give us a better opportunity at 36 DOE schools. Board Chairman Couch asked when it would be going out to these schools.
- Academic Services - Item 9 - Middle Focus- Grant for 2015-2016 Superintendent Vitti indicated he is trying to set up a visit to Twin Lakes for Board Members to see the lab. We are working on recruiting Science coaches. Chairman Couch asked if we could highlight this program at the School Choice Expo. Is there a video to show more about what is to come. We should also highlight this on our website. Board Member Smith Juarez stated this gives us an opportunity to reach the target in math and science. She asked if Superintendent Vitti could send this information on the targets.
- Academic Services - Item 10 - Duval Instructional Leadership & Faculty Development Grant Superintendent Vitti said training that was provided last year was not adequate. The grant was awarded by the Florida Department. The grant will allow us to go deeper in training principals supervisors. Superintendent Vitti indicated he would like us to look at student surveys so principals can receive more feedback. Board Chairman Couch asked if this would be part of teacher evaluations? Superintendent Vitti said it would not. This will be an extension of the Principals Institute.
- Academic Services - Item 11 - Duval County Public Schools Superintendent Vitti stated we have refined this plan based on Board Member Hall's feedback. Board Member Hall would like to meet with someone to go over the plan. Superintendent Vitti will follow up. Board Member Smith Juarez requested information concerning the two pilot schools.
- Academic Services - Item 12 - Overage Elementary School Support Partnership With I'm A STAR Superintendent Vitti stated the district no longer has the STAR program. Our fifth graders are offered the opportunity to go to the Bridge or to a traditional school. Support will be provided if they choose to stay. Board Member Hall asked what support is offered to students after they left the school? Superintendent Vitti said the students will be tracked. Board Member Hall stated we need to be sure the support is provided.
- Academic Services - Item 13 - Receipt of JPEF QZAB II Matching Grant Superintendent Vitti spoke about the development of the portal system. We are working on the contract with JPEF. He will have the contract to you next week.
- School Improvement Plans - Item 14 - Superintendent Vitti took questions concerning the Charter School Improvement Plans. Board Member Couch asked Pearl Roziers, Assistant Superintendent School Choice, if there is a required format. Pearl Roziers indicated the state provides a sample and they are required to answer the nine components or they can create their own. Chairman Couch said she was very concerned when looking at the plans. Pearl Roziers said they are required to answer a lot of questions on their application and contract. Chairman Couch asked what would happen if we choose to not approve? Pearl Roziers said you can, but you do

need to give them feedback in writing as to what they need to corrected. Chairman Couch asked the Board Members to look hard at these plans. Many people do not know that charter schools are included in our district totals. Pearl Roziers stated the charter schools are required to attend the board meeting, so this will be a good time to ask questions. They will also receive feedback from this meeting. Board Member Hall asked if the charter schools had an opportunity to attend training. Pearl Roziers indicated they all attended. Board Member Smith Juarez asked how do we know if they are complying. Pearl Roziers stated we have staff that monitors the schools. If they see something that is not being done we send them a default letter. Superintendent Vitti recommended we put in writing our concerns and add any additional questions we have. This request will be sent out this week. Pearl Roziers has already requested some of the charter School revise there plans. Board Member Lee said we need to determent what our role is. Superintendent Vitti said he will be recommending an extention of River City Science Academy and Kipp. One of Superintendent Vitti's concerns is that no standards were mentioned in some of the School Improvement Plans. He will not recommend the other six. Chairman Couch said if they refuse to revise their plan we will pull them for discussion.

- Human Resource Services - Staffing- Item 15 - Board Member Ashley Smith Juarez asked Sonita Young Assistant Superintendent, Human Resource Services if an Individual Professional Develop Plan is something teachers are asked to do. Superintendent Vitti indicated they are only migrating it to another portal. Superintendent Vitti would like to let everyone know that many of our elementary schools will be completely wireless. Chairman Couch asked if the Superintendent had an update on summer school. Superintendent Vitt indicated he will provide information to the Board.

2. BOARD WORKSHOP - GOVERNANCE

Minutes:

Board Member Jason Fischer, returned to the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

- Governance- Board Chairman Becki Couch said we need to discuss Michelle Begley Executive Director, Board Internal Auditor, evaluation targets. Her evaluation was done for last July but we now need to set targets . She has set some targets but I need feedback from all of you. In November we will need to do a mid year evaluation. We also need to add a target that reflects the Schultz Center contract which states she will be the contact person. Board Member Fel Lee said he would like to have a timeline for requests. Chairman Couch stated this would be difficult with the volume of requests she receives. Also this would affect her evaluation. Target two was also discussed. Chairman Couch asked

if anyone has feedback on these targets please let Michelle Begley know by Friday. Chairman Couch asked Michelle Begley if she had the ability to add a person what would she want? Chairman Couch indicated she would ask for someone to help with research. Chairman Couch asked did she document problems she sees in the district. Michelle Begley said it depends on the department and the situation. Chairman Couch indicated we need to have some form of documentation, please keep that kind of information in the future. Board Member Hall said we need to define Michelle Begley's role more at the Board Member orientation. Michelle Begley provided information on salary comparisons in other districts. Chairman Couch, asked Sonita Young, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources, again to review the salary bands in other districts, provide analyzes and give a recommendation. We have asked for this before but received no response. Board Member Lee stated that we need to ask the Superintendent to request the information.

- Chairman Couch asked if the Board is in agreement to send the resolution on accountability to the Duval Delegation. Everyone was in agreement. Board Member Smith Juarez asked if we are able to have access to the Constituent Services System. Bonnie Cole, Board Secretary, stated that we only have access to the BMR system. Board Member Fel Lee requested we ask the Superintendent when he returns. Chief of Staff Wendy Le hockey stated she should have access to the system. She will follow up.

3. BOARD WORKSHOP - STUDENT DATA REPORT

Minutes:

- Student Data- Superintendent Vitti stated we are third in the big seven in relation to the gap between African - American students and white students in reading proficiency. This data does show we are narrowing the achievement gap. As far as data, we are only looking at the big seven. Chairman Couch replied Florida is narrowing the gap but we are lower over all. When we look at male data it seems that we need to make changes in the way we teach males. Are we taking a look at how our classrooms are set up? I would like us to look at training for this also.
- Vice Chairman Grymes arrived at 11:50 a.m.

4. BOARD WORKSHOP - EARLY WARNING RESPONSE

Minutes:

Early Warning Response - Superintendent Vitti said this is a new system that was created for student data. The first thing we did was create an Excel sheet on all 11th and 12th graders. Chad Roundtree who is part of

the Harvard Data Project, along with staff, have created this program to help us track students in multiple ways. Andrew Post, Assistant Superintendent, Accountability and Assessment, stated this data will help us affect the changes necessary for each student. We can look at attendance, track discipline along with the effectiveness. This information can also be used for our School Improvement Plans in meeting our goals. We can compare the student data at different schools. The Superintendent stated we are mainly looking at the Bridge sites right now, but this is just the beginning of the process. Board Member Smith Juarez asked the Superintendent what's next to pull all students. Chairman Couch asked when do you think this will be ready for all schools? Andrew Post replied this will be available in part at all schools in about four to six weeks. The student data will be available on the portal. The student profile will show the parent how their student is doing compared to other students.

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 3:07 p. m.

CSM

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman