



Duval County Public Schools

October 13, 2011, Duval County School Board - Duval Delegation Meeting

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 MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present, with the exception of Martha Barrett, Becki Couch, and Fel Lee, who were out of town. Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent, was also present.

Call Meeting To Order

[CALL MEETING TO ORDER](#)

Minutes:

Chairman Gentry called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., and welcomed those present. He asked that those present at the table introduce themselves. He thanked the members of the Duval Delegation for attending the meeting and encouraged all of them to visit as many of our public schools as possible.

Senator Thrasher also welcomed everyone and thanked the school system staff for arranging the meeting. The Legislative Session starts early this year and meetings like this are helpful for the Delegation members. He also encouraged the Board and staff to come to Tallahassee during Session and meet with them on the issues. He also encouraged Delegation members to visit the public schools.

Present at the meeting were:

Duval County School Board:

Mr. W. C. Gentry, Chairman
Ms. Betty Burney, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Paula D. Wright, Member
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Member

Mr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, Superintendent
Ms. Pat Willis, Deputy Superintendent
Ms. Kathy LeRoy, Chief Academic Officer
Mr. Doug Ayars, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Mike Perrone, Chief Financial Officer

Duval Delegation:

Senator John Thrasher, District 8
Representative Dan Davis, District 13
Representative Reggie Fullwood, District 15
Representative Mia Jones, District 14
Representative Charles McBurney, District 16
Representative Lake Ray, District 17
Representative Mike Weinstein, District 19

Comments Shared:

Representative McBurney shared that the meeting last year was very helpful and that we should hold these discussions more often.

Representative Fullwood would like to hear more creative and out of the box ideas, especially for our challenged schools.

Representative Weinstein feels that it is important that the Board and staff keep pushing our Legislative needs and not to relent.

Representative Jones indicated that she was committed to our intervene schools and will do everything in her power to help those schools. She is working with the Mayor's office and will assist us in any way possible.

Representative Davis shared that he had recently visited a school in his district with Board Member Couch. He was very impressed and did not expect to be so impressed with what was happening in the school. He encouraged his fellow Delegation members to visit schools in their districts as well.

Superintendent Pratt-Dannals thanked the Delegation members for taking the time to meet with the Board and staff today. He also mentioned that Representative Davis' visit to a school was very important. The Superintendent shared information about the \$91 million we had to cut from our budget last year and the impact it had on the education system in Duval County. He shared his concerns with the lack of sufficient Guidance Counselors for our students. He also talked about his concerns with the projected \$61 million reduction for the coming school year.

Senator Thrasher shared information about an upcoming bill this year that would create a consortium of Districts for health care.

Items To Be Discussed

DISCUSSION

Minutes:

Staff shared information with the Delegation members regarding our Legislative priorities for the coming year. A copy of the information is attached to the Minutes.

Topics covered were:

- Class Size - Chief Financial Officer Mike Perrone
- Instructional Materials - Chief Academic Officer Kathy LeRoy
- Opportunity Scholarship Program - Chief Operating Officer Doug Ayars
- Differentiated Accountability - Deputy Superintendent Pat Willis

The presentations were followed by a Question and Answer session.

- Vice-Chairman Burney talked about the need for additional Counselors
- Representative Weinstein asked what State and Federal legislation had a negative impact on preparing students for the future. The Superintendent shared that some parts of the No Child Left Behind laws were too prescriptive. He stated that it would be more helpful for the State to set standards and the District decide how to get there. There are different levels of needs in each District.
- Senator Thrasher complimented staff on the presentation. For the first time we have the rationale, arguments, and actual suggested wording to correct the issue. He will set a meeting with Senator Simmons, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and invite the Chairman and Superintendent to attend. He also made a commitment to visit Lee High School with Board Member Hazouri.
- Representative McBurney concurred that we have laid out our issues in an understandable manner and indicated that he would set a meeting with the House Appropriation Chairman, Representative Proctor, and invite the Chairman and Superintendent.
- Representative Ray also committed to meeting with the Board to work on needed changes.
- Representative Fullwood indicated that he would support most of these requests and he was ready to support us in any way possible, especially with our turnaround schools.
- Representative Jones talked about the impact that Opportunity Scholarships have on our intervene schools.
- Board Member Hazouri talked about PECO dollars and the impact on the District.
- Senator Thrasher shared that there was talk of a bill coming from the Miami-Dade

are regarding the DCD and we should be prepared.

Chairman Gentry again thanked everyone for taking time from their busy schedules to meet with the Board and staff.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

BSC

We Agree on this

Superintendent

Chairman