



Duval County Public Schools

October 22, 2012, Special Board Meeting

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

ATTENDANCE AT THIS SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD with Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services, Ms. Betty S. Burney, Board Chair, Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Vice Chairman and Board Members: Ms. Martha Barrett, Ms. Becki Couch, Mr. W. C. Gentry, Mr. Tommy Hazouri and Ms. Paula D. Wright, present.

Call Meeting to Order

[1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER - SPECIAL MEETING](#)

Minutes: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

[2. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 22, 2012, AGENDA](#)

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board approve the October 22, 2012, Agenda as - PASS submitted on October 19, 2012.

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Martha Barrett

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Betty Burney	- Aye
Rebecca Couch	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

3. COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

Minutes: *(No Comments from the Audience)*

Board

1. APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR DR. NIKOLAI P. VITTI

Attachment: [SUPERINTENDENT EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - 11-12-12.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Speakers:

Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member
Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member
Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member
Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member
Mr. Fred "Fel" Lee, Vice Chairman
Ms. Betty Burney, Board Chair
Ms. Karen Chastain, Chief of Legal Services

Ms. Wright said I do have a motion, if it is in order. I think we're all excited about a new Superintendent and we're looking forward to all of the great things and my statement at the time of the vote was that we're excited, moving forward, we're going to encourage and support. I'm still right there but I think that the salary based upon experience in our landscape of Duval County is to me, excessive. We certainly want Dr. Vitti to come on as our Superintendent but at a salary of \$250,000.

Ms. Chastain said I think what you mean, essentially, is that you are moving to amend the motion to amend the contract to reduce the annual base salary for Dr. Vitti to \$250,000.

Ms. Wright offered to amend the motion to amend the contract to reduce the annual base salary to \$250,000 for our candidate, Dr. Vitti.

No second; the motion *dies*.

Mr. Hazouri moved the adoption of the proposed Employment Agreement for the new Superintendent, Dr. Nikolai Vitti. Ms. Barrett seconded the motion.

Mr. Gentry asked whether these motions should be taken up our second motion and taken together since they're intertwined. I could move to amend the pending motion to include the contract involving Superintendent Pratt-Dannals so we could have a full discussion on both of these, at the same time.

So, I move to amend the motion to approve this contract and that we also approve the amendment to the contract of Superintendent Pratt-Dannals since the concept was to build in a period of time where there would be an opportunity for transitioning and collaboration. I feel it should be taken up together rather than having them done piece-meal. So, I move to amend the original motion to that affect.

Ms. Chastain said you do have two separate items but it is a proper amendment if it is seconded. If it were seconded, there would be discussion. If it is not seconded, you would move to your next agenda item.

No second; the motion *dies*.

Ms. Wright asked Ms. Chastain what motion would I make to reconsider the vote on Dr. Vitti's contract so that I can change my vote? I don't want anyone to misunderstand my vote. I'm excited about Dr. Vitti; I welcome Dr. Vitti and I will support Dr. Vitti in all of my efforts. My discontent is not with Dr. Vitti but with the amount. How do I change that?

Mr. Gentry said I would move to reconsider to permit Ms. Wright to make further comments and to vote consistent with her views.

Mr. Lee seconded the motion.

Ms. Wright said in light of the fact that we are excited - Duval County Public Schools - whatever the Board decided, we moved on it, as a Board and I would like to change my vote to "aye" for the contract for Dr. Vitti because it is important. Madam Chairperson said something that rang in my ear is to perception. I don't want anybody to misunderstand or misperceive my discontentment with the salary and the process of the salary to the fact that we're excited about having Dr. Vitti.

Motions:

That the School Board of Duval County, Florida, approve the attached Superintendent Employment Agreement

for Dr. Nikolai P. Vitti, as Superintendent of Schools, for the term of November 12, - PASS 2012, through June 30, 2016, and authorize the Chairman to execute the same on behalf of the Board, when form approved by the Chief of Legal Services.

Vote Results

Motion: Thomas Hazouri

Second: Martha Barrett

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Betty Burney	- Aye
Rebecca Couch	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Aye
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Nay

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board amend the contract to reduce the annual - base salary to \$250,000.

Vote Results

Motion: Paula Wright

Second:

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board amend the motion to include Item 2 - regarding the Amendment to Superintendent Ed Pratt-Dannals.

Vote Results

Motion: William Gentry

Second:

Motions:

That the Duval County School Board
revote on the item so that Board Member
Wright can make comments and changer - PASS
her vote on this item. This vote is to
approve Dr. Vitti's contract.

Vote Results

Motion: William Gentry

Second: Fred Lee

Martha Barrett - Aye

Betty Burney - Aye

Rebecca Couch - Aye

William Gentry - Aye

Thomas Hazouri - Aye

Fred Lee - Aye

Paula Wright - Aye

[2. APPROVAL OF FIRST AMENDMENT TO EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR W. E. PRATT-DANNALS](#)

Attachment: [EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - AMENDMENT - 10-22-12.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Speakers:

Mr. W. C. Gentry, Board Member

Mr. Tommy Hazouri, Board Member

Ms. Martha Barrett, Board Member

Ms. Paula D. Wright, Board Member

Ms. Couch asked Ms. Chastain to explain the cost savings that this proposed amendment extends out into the new year which would be a savings to the district. This was something Mr. Pratt-Dannals proposed and was agreed upon by the district.

Ms. Chastain said it's a function of a couple of things that fold into the employee's maximizing deferred compensation this year and next year and deferred compensation

in the district's Tax Deferred Retirement Plans; there are several of them. When an employee puts money (defers compensation) into those plans then both the employer (which is the district) and the employee, they don't pay the Medicare and Social Security taxes. It's avoiding that employer cost which the employee maximizes the deferred compensation that results in the savings setforth that are estimated in the agenda item (approximately \$8,500.00).

Speaker:

Ms. Becki Couch, Board Member

Motions:

That the School Board of Duval County, Florida, approve the attached First Amendment to Employment Agreement for W. E. Pratt-Dannals, and authorize the Chairman to execute the same on behalf of the Board when form approved by the Chief of Legal Services. - PASS

Vote Results

Motion: William Gentry

Second: Thomas Hazouri

Martha Barrett	- Aye
Betty Burney	- Aye
Rebecca Couch	- Aye
William Gentry	- Aye
Thomas Hazouri	- Nay
Fred Lee	- Aye
Paula Wright	- Aye

Adjournment

[ADJOURNMENT](#)

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Isd

Superintendent

Chairman