



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

February 2, 2021, Regular Board Meeting

Ms. Elizabeth Andersen, Chairman
Mr. Darryl Willie, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Kelly Coker
Ms. Lori Hershey
Mr. Warren A. Jones
Ms. Charlotte D. Joyce
Ms. Cindy Pearson
Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present. Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent, and Ms. Karen Chastain, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation or Thought of the Day

The Chair called for a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognitions/Presentations of Awards

Board Members

ALFRED I. DUPONT MIDDLE SCHOOL

A video was played during the meeting that showcased the programming offered to students at Dupont Middle School. Board Member Pearson commented about how fun it was for her to watch the video since she attended the school back when it was a junior high school. She enjoyed learning about the changes that have taken place over time and see how the school is still serving the community.

Communications

RECOGNITION OF TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS & TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The following were recognized as the Finalists for this year's Teacher of the Year:

- Nadine Ebri - Southside Middle School
- Kenneth Ford - Carter G. Woodson Elementary
- Jameea Jackson-Gaines - Richard Lewis Brown Gifted and Academically Talented Academy
- Kimberly Parker – Lake Lucina Elementary

The winner of this year's Teacher of the Year Award is 27-year veteran teacher Jim Schmitt, a History teacher at Mandarin High School.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

As part of National School Counseling Week, Principal Kristi Kincaid from R. L. Brown Gifted and Talented Academy, was the recipient of the Laurel Kaden Anderson Administrator Award which recognizes administrators who support their school counselors.

Josh Nelson, School Counselor at R.L. Brown Gifted and Talented Academy, received the Lucille Crysell School Counselor Award.

RECOGNITION OF PARENT ACADEMY PARENT LEADERS

The following three parents were recognized for being the newest Parent Leaders as well as advocates from the Parent Leadership Academy:

- Monika Gupta
- April Lloyd
- Amy Boyle

Approval of Agenda

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 2, 2021 AGENDA

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the February 2, 2021 agenda as submitted on January 26, 2021.

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte Joyce

Second: Darryl Willie

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey
Warren A. Jones
Charlotte Joyce
Elizabeth Andersen
Darryl Willie
Kelly Coker
Cindy Pearson

Nay:
None

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson's report

Elizabeth Andersen, Chair
Duval County School Board

Chair Andersen noted the third annual joint meeting between our Duval County School Board and the Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF) Board this past month to move our students forward academically. She also thanked them for hosting the annual EDDY Awards. Ms. Rachael Tutwiler Fortune, President of JPEF, gave a PowerPoint presentation (see attached in agenda) that outlined the initiatives and theories of action they have planned.

Using a PowerPoint presentation (see attached in agenda) Ms. Andersen explained that she plans to showcase the wonderful work being done with partners such as JPEF and plans to invite more of them in to share what some of those things are. She also gave a brief update on what has been going on in Tallahassee since the legislative session is underway. The governor has put out his budget and she hopes there will be adequate support for education. She asked everyone to follow SB #48 which is an education savings account program. She supports choice for parents but wants those parents to be fully informed in making their choice. SB #52 would reimburse post-secondary institutions that participate in dual enrollment. Considering the increase in COVID-19 cases during January, Chair Andersen reminded parents that the Commissioner put out Executive Order #7 at the end of November last year directing school districts to keep schools open.

Superintendent's Reports

Superintendent's report

Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent
Duval County Public Schools

Through a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Greene gave an update on the COVID-19 case activity within the District, the Teacher of the Year awards, and events planned during Black History Month.

Department Reports

Academic Services

Paula Renfro, Chief Academic Officer
Academic Services

Through a PowerPoint Presentation (see attached in agenda), Ms. Renfro explained how the curriculum in the agenda item was selected for adoption and what the steps are in the adoption process. She also discussed the anticipated adoption outcomes and what curricula are anticipated on the horizon.

Health Education and Wellness

Heather Albritton, Director
Health & Physical Education

Through a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Albritton explained that when it came to our administration's attention that student suicide attempts were climbing, the department was asked to put together a marketing campaign to counteract the trend. She explained what was involved in executing the campaign and a video being shown to students was also shown.

Public Comment

Ginger Peacock Preston

Ms. Preston gave many accolades to Ms. Tia Leathers, Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement, for her hard work with the Parents Who Lead project. Her vision, leadership and expertise show in this project with her insistence on keeping the standards high.

Timothy L. Sloan

Mr. Sloan encouraged the Board to suspend the process of renaming schools. He is not opposed to renaming schools but questions the wisdom of the District spending money to change the names of schools that could more wisely be spent on educating our students.

Comments from Parent Organizations

There were no reports.

Comments from District Student Government Association

Alexandra Cordoba, Senior
Fletcher High School
Jacksonville Association of Governing Students (JAGS)

Before I begin, I would like to thank Mr. Simmons and JAGS for providing me with the opportunity to speak tonight. I am a senior at Fletcher High School and will be attending the University of Pennsylvania this Fall. I

have attended Duval County Public Schools from Kindergarten through 12th grade. I am currently #1 in my class, and am also involved in many extracurricular activities, including student government, Model UN, band, cross country, and track.

I am grateful for the education and opportunities that I have received as a student in the public school system- especially over the past year when so many schools across the country were unable to teach on-campus. Over the years, I have had the privilege of interacting with peers who demonstrated excellence along all lines. I have also had some outstanding teachers who rose above and beyond to not only teach us, but to inspire us to achieve our best.

However, sadly enough, the excellence that I (and select teachers) have observed by students in our District has not always been recognized within the broader school community. Excellence (outside of sports) seems to happen in a vacuum. Moreover, meeting the needs of these achievers tends to take a back seat to other priorities.

As we all know, excellence doesn't just happen, it is cultivated through years of hard work, dedication, and sacrifice - not only by the individual student, but also by the teachers, parents, and mentors who supported them. It is my humble request that the School Board considers ways in which excellence - across all lines - can be recognized, cultivated, and rewarded. This extends to the students who demonstrate excellence, as well as to the teachers who provide them with the opportunities and support them in their quest to achieve their goals.

Schools are already recognizing such excellence in student athletes and their coaches. For example, take a stroll through the Fletcher High School front office and you will see that the overwhelming majority of signage and plaques are for athletic achievements. Though sport events are well publicized and attended by administrators, the same cannot be said for Band competitions, Model United Nations conferences, or other non-sport events. In addition, though student athletes are regularly recognized, top academic achievers are not.

Every year, there are banquets and award ceremonies for sports and arts; however, there is not a similar end of year award banquet for recognition of high-performing academic students. Top students are lumped in with the A-B Honor Roll or National Honor Society that extends to the entire school.

This is not fair and does not adequately recognize the hard work, sacrifice, and dedication that many of us are making in accelerated high school programs (AICE, IB, AP Capstone, etc.). If other student constituencies are recognized yearly, why not do the same for high academic achievers? I have several suggestions for ways to recognize and support excellence in all areas.

First, awards from band, choir, theater, and other non-sport events, should be prominently displayed in the front office.

Second, each school should have an annual awards ceremony for high performing students in the high school accelerated program. This could include, at a minimum, recognition of AICE scholars, as well as top awards in respective subject areas.

Third, schools should offer college application and scholarship guidance for high performing academic achievers. Although this is done in part by the guidance counselors, they carry too many responsibilities to be able to meet the needs of the students effectively.

Fourth, and this is a challenging one as I recognize how stretched thin our administrators are - especially during these trying times - I would love to see attendance by administrators at non-sport competitions and events.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, there should be some sort of recognition for the teachers or staff-members who go above and beyond in supporting high performing students. There are teachers taking the time to mentor students, review their college essays, and write recommendation letters. This is done in their “free time” and with no formal recognition of the time they are investing and the positive impact they are making in their students’ lives. I would like to give formal recognition and a special thank you to my calculus teacher, Mrs. Andrews. She has truly gone “above and beyond” for her students.

Once again, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak here today. I appreciate all that you do to support students, teachers, staff, and parents in the Duval County school community. You are transforming lives and creating opportunities for excellence, one student at a time.

Derrell Johnson II
Junior, Lee High School
Jacksonville Association of Governing Students (JAGS)

I am here to discuss a serious matter - the importance of more culture-based history courses and the timing of them. Cultured history can help educate, erase, and equip students and in turn create more conscience, sensitive and productive citizens. Stereotypes, pre-conceived notions, hurtful comments, and ignorance towards someone who does not look like, sound like, believe like, raised where or like you comes from a lack - LACK of acquired knowledge of or how to embrace and respect differences.

Currently African American History is a half year course offered alongside the Holocaust or Vietnam War in public high schools in Duval County. It is optional in some schools and crams 5000 years of culture, technological advances, creativity, triumph, and history of significant people to our Worlds advances and accomplishments. The same timeframe equals what is allocated to teach the history of a 19 yearlong war. I have been offered only 1 cultured class for half of year throughout all grades 1st - 11th. Students should have these classes at an early age to help educate, erase, and equip students. Currently we are victims of the depiction on TV and/ or social media, self-taught primarily through negative experiences or instilled negatively or positively through the views of our parents or loved ones.

This is not to place blame on the school systems for past, current, or evolving situations, but it can easily be a vital resource, moving forward, in decreasing and hopefully stopping prejudice & discrimination for everyone. The responsibility of our schools is to relentlessly educate us - which means to prepare mentally, socially, emotionally, and physically to become productive citizens.

As a solution – if adding culture courses is not an option than at least add culture to the required World History class. This course only scratches the surface for a chapter, but we want to dive in and learn more about each other, each contribution, each struggle and not just that of European countries. This class should be a true world history class that looks at advances across the world and across cultures during different periods in time. Show us how the entire world changed and developed over time - by choice and often by force for many of our ancestors.

Cultured based history classes are so important in helping students dismiss ideas, open minds to unfamiliar cultures and open eyes and hearts to how alike we are in most cases. I hope you accept this challenge. It must begin with you - if it is to end with us.

Comments from Employee Organizations

Terrie Brady, President
Duval Teachers United (DTU)

Ms. Brady was somewhat disappointed in the budget the governor recently put out showing \$550 million for education. \$500 million of it is needed to simply sustain education. A portion of the remaining \$50 million must be subtracted for charter schools, leaving very little for the public-school districts. DTU sent a survey to all teachers. Some of the results from the high school teachers and employees are below:

- 98% would like to return to block scheduling.
- 70% of teachers have been asked to cover classes during their planning period, which is a violation of their contract. They still need their planning period to get work done.

She also made it known that although the contact tracing that should be getting done by the Center for Disease Control is not coming close to keeping up with positive cases and has only gotten worse since she spoke to the Board about it last month. While they all realize it is not the job of the school districts to do the contact tracing, she asks that the District be able to make a more accurate reflection on the dashboard of the situation, so people have the tools they need to make more informed decisions. The wearing of masks and social distancing are not being enforced. Classrooms are not being cleaned between groups. She learned earlier in the day that a memo has gone out to all principals telling them to stop the practice of pulling teachers from their planning periods. DTU has sent a request to the governor and delegation members to use test results for diagnostics only.

Approval of Minutes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following Board minutes:

- **November 10, 2020, Special Board Meeting**
- **November 10, 2020, Board Workshop**
- **November 18, 2020, Policy Review Committee**
- **November 20, 2020, Community Meeting**
- **December 8, 2020, Board Workshop**
- **December 15, 2020, Committee Meeting**
- **December 15, 2020, Board Workshop**
- **January 11, 2021, Regular Board Meeting**
- **January 12, 2021, Special Board Meeting**
- **January 12, 2021, Board Workshop**
- **January 19, 2021, Committee Meeting**

- **January 19, 2021, Board Workshop**

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte Joyce

Second: Darryl Willie

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Warren A. Jones

Charlotte Joyce

Elizabeth Andersen

Darryl Willie

Kelly Coker

Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

Approval of Consent Agenda

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the Consent Agenda.

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte Joyce

Second: Warren A. Jones

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Warren A. Jones

Charlotte Joyce

Elizabeth Andersen

Darryl Willie

Kelly Coker

Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

Consent Agenda

Board Members

1. APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION INSTRUMENT AND WAIVER OF BOARD POLICY 2.14, SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

Human Resource Services - Staffing

2. HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES EMPLOYEE TRANSACTIONS
3. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS – SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER
4. APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-FIELD TEACHERS

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

5. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT – NOVEMBER 2020
6. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS – DECEMBER 2020
7. SCHOOL DISTRICT FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN 2020/2021 – 2024/2025 (AMENDED)

Operations - Real Estate, Planning and Programming

8. DECLARE AS SURPLUS LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 74

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

9. CHANGE ORDER REPORT
10. PREQUALIFICATIONS OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS
11. PERIODIC REPORT OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETIONS AND FINAL INSPECTIONS OF MAJOR MAINTENANCE AND MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDER \$1,000,000.
12. DISTRICTWIDE ROOF REPLACEMENT AT VARIOUS SCHOOLS/DCSB PROJECT NO. M-83800/ITB-017-21/LM
13. CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AGENT/OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE SERVICES - AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONSULTANT - RFQ-NO. 11-21/TW

14. NEW RUTLEDGE H. PEARSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (K5) - AWARD OF DESIGN SERVICES
PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT - PROJECT RFQ-NO. 09-21/TW

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

15. SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT

16. CONTRACT ASSIGNMENT- SOLID WASTE SERVICES ITB-026-19/LN

17. DECEMBER 2020 PURCHASE REPORT

Discussion

Academic Services

18. COLLEGE BOARD SUITE OF ASSESSMENTS (COLLEGE READINESS AND SUCCESS)

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the amended College Readiness and Success Contract with the College Board in an amount not to exceed \$637,651.50

That the Duval County School Board approve the SAT School Day Program agreement with the College Board.

That the Duval County School Board authorize the Board Chairman or Vice Chairman, and the Superintendent, to execute the agreement and the amendment contingent upon form approval by the Office of General Counsel.

Vote Results:

Motion: Darryl Willie

Second: Kelly Coker

PASSED - 6-1

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Warren A. Jones

Elizabeth Andersen

Darryl Willie

Kelly Coker

Cindy Pearson

Nay:

Charlotte Joyce

Discussion:

Dr. Coker gave background on this item to explain that in years past, the only students to take this test were students whose parents could afford to pay the fee for it. It became an equity issue in this district, so that is why the District now pays for all students to take the test. Board Member Joyce sees exempting low-performing students as an opportunity to alleviate some of the over-testing being done with our students and not put them into an overwhelming situation. She thinks the three hours spent taking the test could be better spent with instruction for these students. Parents are notified when the students are scheduled to take the test and it should be possible for parents to opt their student out of the test. Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Assessment Corey Wright said they can certainly look at various ways they can test different groups of students next year.

MOTION TO AMEND COLLEGE BOARD SUITE OF ASSESSMENTS (COLLEGE READINESS AND SUCCESS)**Motion:**

That the Duval County School Board amend this recommendation to exclude the 7th grade low-performing students from taking this three-hour test.

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte Joyce

Second: None

There was no discussion on this proposed amendment.

19. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: ADOPTION OF DISTRICT-WIDE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEXTBOOKS**Motion:**

That the Duval County School Board conduct a public hearing and vote to approve the adoption and purchase of the following English Language Arts instructional materials:

1. Afflerbach, Peter PH.D., Briceno, Ed.D., Dorta-Duque de Reyes, Silvia, Hoyt, Linda, M.A., Klein, Adria, Ph.D., McGee, Patty, M. Ed., Zweirs, Jeff, Ed. D. *Benchmark Advance (1st Edition 2022)* For K-5.
2. Fisher, Douglas, Dr., Martin, Michelle H., Dr., Shanahan, Timothy, Dr., Tucker, Catlin, Dr. *Florida StudySync 1 Volume 1and 2. Middle School Language Arts 1. (1st Edition, 2020).* For Language Arts 1.
3. Fisher, Douglas, Dr., Martin, Michelle H., Dr., Shanahan, Timothy, Dr., Tucker, Catlin, Dr. *Florida StudySync 1 Volume 1and 2. Middle School Language Arts 2. (1st Edition, 2020).* For Language Arts 2.
4. Fisher, Douglas, Dr., Martin, Michelle H., Dr., Shanahan, Timothy, Dr., Tucker, Catlin, Dr. *Florida StudySync 1 Volume 1and 2. Middle School Language Arts 3. (1st Edition, 2020).* For Language Arts 3.

5. Fisher, Douglas, Dr., Martin, Michelle H., Dr., Shanahan, Timothy, Dr., Tucker, Catlin, Dr. *Florida StudySync 1 Volume 1and 2. High School Language Arts 1. (1st Edition, 2020). For Language Arts 1.*
6. Fisher, Douglas, Dr., Martin, Michelle H., Dr., Shanahan, Timothy, Dr., Tucker, Catlin, Dr. *Florida StudySync 1 Volume 1and 2. High School Language Arts 2. (1st Edition, 2020). For Language Arts 2.*
7. Fisher, Douglas, Dr., Martin, Michelle H., Dr., Shanahan, Timothy, Dr., Tucker, Catlin, Dr. *Florida StudySync 1 Volume 1and 2. High School Language Arts 3. (1st Edition, 2020). For Language Arts 3.*
8. Fisher, Douglas, Dr., Martin, Michelle H., Dr., Shanahan, Timothy, Dr., Tucker, Catlin, Dr. *Florida StudySync 1 Volume 1and 2. High School Language Arts 4. (1st Edition, 2020). For Language Arts 4 and Honors.*

Vote Results:

Motion: Darryl Willie

Second: Warren A. Jones

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Warren A. Jones

Charlotte Joyce

Elizabeth Andersen

Darryl Willie

Kelly Coker

Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

Discussion:

Chair Andersen thanked Chief Academic Officer Paula Renfro and her staff for all their hard work to prepare this agenda item. Dr. Greene explained how the teachers would be trained through professional development to then be able to use the new curriculum.

Board Member Travel

There was no Board Member travel.

Superintendent's Travel

There was no Superintendent travel.

For the Record

All Board Members congratulated the winners of the EDDY Awards.

Board Member Lori Hershey

Board Member Hershey thanked Dr. Greene for her explanation of African American studies. Ms. Hershey recently read a book by Carter G. Woodson and noted how true his writing from 1935 still rings true today.

Board Member Dr. Kelly Coker

Dr. Coker thanked our lobbyist, Kimberly Miller, for her help in getting Dr. Coker connected to the people at the city who have formed a task force to reduce the crime that has started to increase in the Arlington area. She commended Chair Andersen for the letter she crafted to the governor regarding educators receiving priority status for the COVID-19 vaccine. She concluded by noting how impressed she was with Lake Lucina's virtual literacy night.

Board Member Charlotte Joyce

Board Member Joyce is also impressed with what her schools have been doing virtually. She expects a lot of this new way of learning to continue long after the COVID-19 pandemic is over. She has been attending many of her schools' mid-year School Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings with the expectation that there will be statistical evidence of learning losses up to this point in the pandemic; however, that is not what she is seeing and commends Dr. Greene and her staff for the academic performance among students being as high as it is. She also congratulated the Baldwin Varsity Cheer Team for winning the State Championship. She saw the Jackie Robinson movie sponsored by the Parent Academy and Jumbo Shrimp and thanked them for their sponsorship. She also noted that Community First Credit Union recognized Westview K-8 as the school for this month.

Board Member Warren A. Jones

Board Member Jones thanked the Jumbo Shrimp for their partnership with our district. At the Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast, he thanked Dr. Greene for her participation at the event. He mentioned a local effort underway to save a 1917 building that housed the oldest and one of the first schools for black students.

Board Member Cindy Pearson

Board Member Pearson attended the Jackie Robinson movie with her daughter and recommends that parents watch the movie "42" with their students. She would like to see teams watch the movie together when there is a rain out on practice days. She attended the Generation WOW Virtual Conference in January and was quite impressed with how inspiring it was. She reminded everyone that magnet applications are due on February 28, 2021 and noted that many schools, such as DuPont Middle School, have magnet programs within the neighborhood school, so students don't always have to travel across the county to participate in one. She congratulated the following:

- Coach Adam Geis - Sandalwood High School - Coach of the Year by the Jacksonville Jaguars
- Brookview Elementary - Literacy Week - goal was one book/classroom - they received one book/student with books left over
- River City Science Academy - recognized as a School of Character at both their middle and senior high campuses - received two of only four schools in the state that was awarded the recognition

Board Member Darryl Willie

Board Member Willie expressed his appreciation to the principals in our district for their hard work during such difficult times and to the volunteers on the Oversight Committee for the work they have started doing. There is a lot of effort being put into ensuring transparency throughout the process. In celebration of Black History

month, he appreciated the charge from Derrell Johnson of the JAGS when he said their job is "to relentlessly educate us."

Chair Elizabeth Andersen

Chair Andersen congratulated Fletcher Middle School for being recognized as a School of the Month. She noted that the community meetings that were scheduled for the school name changes have been postponed and everyone can watch for new dates/times to come out. The Strategic Plan draft is done, and a survey will go out to get feedback from the public on the draft. She also expressed her condolences to the families of the teacher and student our district has lost.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte Joyce

Second: Cindy Pearson

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Warren A. Jones

Charlotte Joyce

Elizabeth Andersen

Darryl Willie

Kelly Coker

Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

LBL

Superintendent

Chairman