



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

March 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 except Board Member Warren A. Jones. 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

DINSMORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wanda Reese, Principal
Dinsmore Elementary School

Through a video presentation, Principal Reese showcased the Science Magnet program offered at the school.

Vice Chair Willie thanked Principal Reese for presenting the video. He noted that the wonderful community partnerships the school has is a result of the great leadership there.

Communications

RIVER CITY SCIENCE ACADEMY SCHOOL OF CHARACTER RECOGNITION

River City Science Academy Mandarin and River City Science Academy Middle-High are two of only four schools in the State of Florida to receive a State School Character Award given by Character.org. They are also the first schools in Florida to receive the recognition. Both schools are now up for national titles.

ADAM GEIS, JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS COACH OF THE YEAR

Adam Geis, Football Coach at Sandalwood High School, was named as the Jaguars Coach of the Year and was presented with the Superintendent Coin of Excellence.

JACKSONVILLE BEACH ELEMENTARY, CERTIFIED NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION MAGNET SCHOOL

Jacksonville Beach Elementary was named a Nationally Certified Demonstration Magnet School by Magnet Schools of America.

Approval of Agenda

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 2, 2021, AGENDA

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the March 2, 2021 agenda as submitted on February 23, 2021 with the following change:

- **School Choice and Pupil Assignments - Charter Application for River City Education Organization, Inc., to open San Jose Cyber Academy - Attachment Added**

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte Joyce

Second: Lori Hershey

PASSED - 6-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

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

Through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached in agenda), Chair Andersen presented information regarding the Strategic Plan the Board has been working hard on, the waiver process for accountability set up by the state for schools, and introduced Oversight Committee Member Hank Rogers as the Committee Chair.

Superintendent's Reports

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent
Duval County Public Schools

Through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached in agenda), Dr. Greene gave an update on COVID-19 cases, academic progress, the school renaming process, graduation rate, and talks the District has had with students.

RECESS

Motion:
That the Duval County School Board recess for 5 minutes.

Vote Results:
Motion: Cindy Pearson
Second: Lori Hershey

PASSED - 6-0

Aye:
Lori Hershey
Charlotte Joyce
Elizabeth Andersen
Darryl Willie
Kelly Coker
Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

Department Reports

There were no Department reports.

Public Comment

The following were not in favor of school name changes:

- Jerry Holt
- Nathaniel Farley, Jr.
- Frank Attaway
- Blake Harper
- Peter Newsome
- Gerri Woodhan
- Robert Bracewell
- Patti Price
- William Tucker
- Quisha King

The following were in favor of school name changes:

- Joseph Tudor
- Carrington Boyer
- Xavier Curtis
- Anquon Ancly
- Deyona Burton
- Cedell Hardy II
- Lew A. Welge
- Nataria Covington
- DeeAndrea Carter

The following would like to see a less strict dress code in the schools:

- Tracy Synon
- Sloan Nottmeier

Reginald Blount

Mr. Blount noted that although he is neither for, nor against, changing the names of schools, he wants everyone to understand that if we go down the road of changing the names of schools because something in a person's past offends us, then we may find ourselves going down a path we can't return from. If we change the name of Andrew Jackson High School, will we be changing the name of Jacksonville?

Comments from Parent Organizations

Theresa Rogers, President
Duval County Council of PTAs (DCCPTA)

The celebration for our Reflections art program will be virtual and will take place March 19. We will be honoring all our Duval County winners and highlighting some of the winning artwork.

Our Student Leadership Academy will be virtual and will begin next month. The DCCPTA Student Leadership Academy focuses on developing leadership and advocacy skills for students and invitations will go out to all Duval County public high schools within the next week or so.

We are currently accepting scholarship applications for graduating seniors and are looking forward to awarding six scholarships this year.

Finally, PTA members in the state of Florida are being encouraged to speak out against Senate Bill 48 and the unaccountable voucher expansion that would dismantle the public school system as we know it. This bill heads to the appropriations committee March 4 and we are encouraging everyone to contact Senator Bean's office and make their voice heard.

In addition, as states are being given the ability to seek waivers from federal requirements for school accountability, PTA members in the state of Florida are being asked to contact the Governor and urge him to seek the federal waiver and use the flexibility to eliminate the requirement to test 95% of eligible students, suspend school grading and hold students and educators harmless from the negative effects of the test results.

Comments from District Student Government Association

Elena Every, Senior
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

It's incredibly important that students are able to participate in the conversations occurring on the District level so I'd like to first and foremost thank you for having me and allowing me the opportunity to speak.

I'd like to begin by addressing the most recent events surrounding the DCPS "You Matter" campaign. It's my goal tonight to highlight the student voice of both my school and of JAGS and provide a firsthand account as to how this campaign truly impacted the students of DCPS. Beyond sharing the experiences and thoughts of my peers, I hope to go a step further and propose possible solutions the school board can take to create tangible change in our school system.

To preface, I understand the need to provide students with mental health resources and I am not diminishing nor denying the importance of issues such as suicide prevention; however, the timing of the "You Matter Month" campaign, not to mention the wording of the slogan itself, was problematic, to say the least. The consensus among students at our school, and across the district for that matter, is that the implementation of this campaign overshadowed the importance of Black History Month and led to a large percentage of our student body feeling ignored and silenced by the school district. By decreeing February to be "You Matter Month" you are, in turn,

saying to the students that “yes, while Black history might be somewhat important, it’s not AS important as mental health.” Black History month has already been confined to the limits of a single month, while mental health, on the other hand, is emphasized by the district every month. While we do not believe it was the district’s explicit intention to replace Black History month, the mere fact that everyone in the room failed to recognize that February was already dedicated to Black History made it appear as though there was a blatant disregard for the topic. Furthermore, there was little to no emphasis placed on Black History Month on behalf of the school district and a prevalent lack of Black History resources being provided to students.

During the month of February, Duval Schools has made a total of 57 posts to their Instagram. Out of all 57 of these posts, 9 posts alluded to Black History Month. That’s 15% of all posts in February dedicated to Black History Month, less if you take into consideration the multiple duplicate posts. We felt as if there was a general lack of information and resources concerning Black History Month being provided by the District. Although it’s no longer Black History Month, there are still steps that can be taken to spotlight and lift the voices of the black community. By simply highlighting various Black historical figures on social media every day or spotlighting local black businesses to support, the district would be able to encourage discussion surrounding Black history and culture and emphasize its commitment to this seemingly overlooked topic.

The District has done a great job so far in ensuring that African American history classes are offered to students. This class has been a good first step, but black history shouldn’t just be confined to the limits of a single and in most cases, elective, class. Integration into the curriculum of all core classes will help to solidify a deep understanding of black history and culture. This can take the shape of reading influential black literature in English or learning about the contributions of important black scientists. To this day, some of the most impactful books I’ve read in school were written by individuals such as Chinua Achebe or Malcolm X. Another proposed idea is for a district-wide roundtable. Last week I was able to meet with Dr. Greene and student leaders from other schools. This discussion proved incredibly beneficial in understanding the perspective of Dr. Greene and the school district throughout the events of the past few weeks. There tends to be a layer of miscommunication between the students in schools and those actually running our schools, so we are not often aware of what’s taking place on the District level. During this meeting I learned of various initiatives such as the African American Task Force and the thousands of books purchased for our elementary schools.

I was also able to hear students from other schools voice their concerns and learn about the different programs they’ve implemented at their own schools. This conversation was very insightful; however, it was limited only to the student leaders of a few, select schools. By opening these discussions to the entire District, we can begin to break down the wall that stands between students and the District and rebuild an open, and trustful relationship in which students feel comfortable voicing their concerns. Similar discussions have already been taking place such as the roundtables being hosted by the Douglas Anderson Cultural Advisory Board or the Stanton Political Activism Club so it would be fairly easy to introduce this on a district level.

Finally, if the District is to continue to push mental health as their main focus, we believe it should, at the very least, be expanded to include mental health specifically within the African American community. Mental health does not have a one size fits all solution, thus it is imperative that it’s approached from a multifaceted curriculum that considers the true diversity of our students. Wellness Wednesday is a great tool to introduce such material in addition to providing school counselors with resources to share with students.

I’d like to finish by reiterating the great work the District and the School Board has been doing so far. Opening the conversation to students and involving us in these discussions is an important first step. It is my hope that I’ve been helpful in providing both student insight and possible solutions and I look forward to seeing how DCPS

will support black history moving forward.

Joshua Thomas, Senior
First Coast High School

In our JAGS meeting on the 16th we discussed a plethora of important topics. Some of the intriguing takeaways from the meeting were improving the Wellness Wednesday Curriculum, redefining the job of a Guidance (Or School) Counselor, and changes to our Career Readiness and Health Curriculums. In our conversations, many different inconsistencies were highlighted in the Wellness Wednesday curriculum. Majority of our students felt as if the curriculum was stereotypical, and that it didn't cover the true adversities that us students face daily. We also came to a consensus that the way that the curriculum is conveyed to students is ineffective. Myself, an Early Admissions student at FSCJ, can personally say that I haven't been provided with the Wellness Wednesday curriculum since before the pandemic. We also believe that the way the curriculum is taught needs improvement. We took time in the meeting to share our encounters of Wellness Wednesday. Majority agreed that the way teachers taught the curriculums to the students were impersonable. They weren't teaching us the curriculum. They were simply reading a script. Our idea for improvement was to change the amount of Wellness Wednesday meetings to incorporate professional counselors, therapists, and adults who are knowledgeable to help teach the curriculum.

Another idea mentioned during our meeting was redefining the role of a School Guidance Counselor. A topic that I can personally support. In my tenure over the past four years at First Coast High School, the Guidance office seems to be one of the busiest places in the school. Four guidance counselors balancing the responsibility of scheduling students, monitoring grades, enrolling new students, handling student's needs and their families. I'm sure that we know that it isn't an easy job. My concern with the workload of counselors is the therapeutic or guidance side of the job description. How could you expect a counselor to successfully complete the computational side of their job while aiding a student's personal needs. As a group, we came up with an improvement idea that the job description requires two different jobs and that there should be licensed therapists or psychologists in schools to aid students that need a helping hand, soothing words, or advice on the many obstacles in life.

The last topic we conversed was improving the career readiness and health science curriculums. School tends to advertise college as the only way a student can gain a successful career or life. To this idea, I pose a question: Why should schools primarily focus on college when there are many career and vocational options? We discussed the Strategies for Academic Success (or SLS) class being the only source of information that proposes that there are other ways to gain success other than college, the small issue was that this proposition is roughly a small percentage of the curriculum of the one semester class. One recommendation was that the class should be transformed into a full year class that focuses on collegiate and vocational studies and post-graduate options. Health Science is an important curriculum that was taught at a young age. It's quite detrimental for students as they matriculate from their pre-pubescent stages to adulthood. We felt as if the curriculum taught isn't informational enough and teaches the same curriculum through the different years of grade school. Most students talk about their health class encounters as being similar through middle school as well as in our required HOPE (Health Opportunities through Physical Education Class) in high school. We proposed that the curriculum could use changes to outline and emphasize the importance of different topics in the biological field of health to support proper hygiene, decisions, and mindsets. The change in this curriculum early in our education could lead to better decisions and choices being made in the future.

I would like again like to thank the School Board for giving me the opportunity to inform them of our progress in our organization as we do our best to improve our county one step at a time.

Comments from Employee Organizations

There were no Employee Organization reports.

Approval of Minutes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

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

- **January 19, 2021, Sales Surtax Oversight Committee Meeting**
- **January 20, 2021, Joint Meeting with JPEF**
- **January 20, 2021, Policy Handbook Review Committee Meeting**
- **January 28, 2021, Subcommittee Meeting**
- **February 2, 2021, Regular Board Meeting**
- **February 8, 2021, Board Member Meeting**
- **February 9, 2021, Auditor Selection Committee**
- **February 17, 2021, Subcommittee Meeting**

Vote Results:

Motion: Lori Hershey

Second: Darryl Willie

PASSED - 6-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey
Charlotte Joyce
Elizabeth Andersen
Darryl Willie
Kelly Coker
Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

Approval of Consent Agenda

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda

Academic Services

1. EDGENUITY CURRICULUM

2. APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF LINDAMOOD BELL SEEING STARS READING INTERVENTION (K-5)

3. THE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CATALOG

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES, LLC FOR EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

5. APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT OF THE AGREEMENT WITH EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

School Choice and Pupil Assignments

6. APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT (CHARTER) - RIVER CITY EDUCATION ORGANIZATION, INC., DOING BUSINESS AS SAN JOSE PREP

7. APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT (CHARTER) - RENAISSANCE CHARTER SCHOOL, INC., DOING BUSINESS AS DUVAL CHARTER SCHOOL AT WESTSIDE

8. APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT (CHARTER) - RENAISSANCE CHARTER SCHOOL, INC., DOING BUSINESS AS DUVAL CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL AT BAYMEADOWS

9. APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT (CHARTER) - S.O.C.K. OUTSTANDING STUDENTS (S.O.S.) ACADEMY, INC.

10. CHARTER APPLICATION FOR RIVER CITY EDUCATION ORGANIZATION, INC., TO OPEN SAN JOSE CYBER ACADEMY

Human Resource Services - Staffing

11. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SCHOOL POLICE

12. HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES EMPLOYEE TRANSACTIONS

Human Resource Services - Labor Relations

13. SETTLEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST FLORIDA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES LOCAL 630, LIUNA, AFL-CIO (HEALTH SERVICES)

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

14. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT – DECEMBER 2020

15. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS – JANUARY 2021

Information Technology

16. EXTREME WIRELESS INSTALLATION

Operations - Real Estate, Planning and Programming

17. LEASE WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH ABILITY HOUSING, INC. FOR LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 74

18. SALE OF SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY - LACKAWANNA SCHOOL NO. 10 / OFDC-ITB-013-21 LM: PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

19. CHANGE ORDER REPORT

20. PERIODIC REPORT OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETIONS AND FINAL INSPECTIONS OF MAJOR MAINTENANCE AND MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDER \$1,000,000.

21. PREQUALIFICATIONS OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

22. CONTINUING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR ASBESTOS ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SERVICES SELECTION AND CONTRACT AWARD/ RFQ NO. 10-21/TW

23. SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION AND CERTIFICATION OF FINAL INSPECTION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS OVER \$1,000,000; PRE-K THROUGH 5 CONVERSION AT NORTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL #3155 / DCSB PROJECT NO. C-91640.

Operations - Transportation

24. STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, OTHER THAN SCHOOL BUSES

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

25. RENEWAL - NONPROFIT SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE - FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT COMPANY, RFP NO. 02-19/TW

26. SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT

27. JANUARY 2021 PURCHASE REPORT

Chief of Staff

28. CONTRACT FOR WEBSITE COMPLIANCE/RFP NO. 04-21/TW

Discussion

Chief of Staff

29. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 6 BOARD POLICIES

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board conduct a Public Hearing and adopt the recommended revisions to the following policies in School Board Manual Chapter 6:

Policy 6.03, Definition Of Personnel

Policy 6.08, Appointment Or Employment Requirements

Policy 6.12, Employment Of Athletic Coaches Who Are Not Full Time Employees Of The School Board

Policy 6.15, Educational Paraprofessionals

Policy 6.16, Copyrights And Patents

Policy 6.20, Tutoring

Policy 6.21, Transfers Of Personnel

Policy 6.28, Probationary Status For Educational Support Personnel

Policy 6.30, Certification Of Administrative And Instructional Personnel

Policy 6.32, Teaching Out Of Field

Policy 6.38, Alcohol And Drug-Free Workplace

Policy 6.42, Assessment Of Employees

Policy 6.51 Leave Of Absence

Policy 6.52, Leave Application

Policy 6.70, Employees With HIV, AIDS, Or Other Communicable Diseases

Policy 6.72, Violation Of Local, State, And/Or Federal Laws

Policy 6.77, Retirement Of Employees

Policy 6.81, Records, Report And Equipment

Policy 6.87, Gifts For School Board Employees

Policy 6.88, Honoraria

Public comment: None

Vote Results:

Motion: Lori Hershey

Second: Charlotte Joyce

PASSED - 6-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey
Charlotte Joyce
Elizabeth Andersen
Darryl Willie
Kelly Coker
Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

30. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 1 BOARD POLICIES

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board conduct a Public Hearing and adopt the recommended revisions to the following policies in School Board Manual Chapter 1:

- 1. Policy 1.20, Goals and Strategies**
- 2. Policy 1.21, Strategic Planning Policy**

Public Comment: None

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte Joyce

Second: Lori Hershey

PASSED - 6-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey
Charlotte Joyce
Elizabeth Andersen
Darryl Willie
Kelly Coker
Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

31. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 9 BOARD POLICIES

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board conduct a Public Hearing and adopt the recommended revisions to the following policy in School Board Manual Chapter 9:

Policy 9.20, Communications

Public Comments: None

Vote Results:

Motion: Kelly Coker

Second: Darryl Willie

PASSED – 6-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Charlotte Joyce

Elizabeth Andersen

Darryl Willie

Kelly Coker

Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

Board Member Travel

There was no Board Member travel.

Superintendent's Travel

There was no Superintendent travel.

For The Record

Board Member Cindy Pearson

Board Member Pearson noted the following:

- attended the JAGS meeting
- attended the Northeast Florida Scholastic Art Show
- congratulations to National Merit Scholarship award finalists
- Wolfson High School had the largest increase in passing AP exams
- San Jose Elementary and Englewood High School - Community First Credit Union February Schools of the Month
- will co-host a food distribution for families with children at the start of Spring break
- various activities and events she has attended that commemorates Black History Month
- background information about Rutledge Pearson she has learned during Black History Month

Board Member Lori Hershey

Board Member Hershey noted the following:

- Chat with the Superintendent she had in her district
- thanked The Players Club for special recognition for Teacher of the Year
- Literacy month--what book are you reading?
- Day in the Legislature will be virtual this year

Board Member Dr. Kelly Coker

Dr. Coker noted the following:

- attended meetings in her district schools with stakeholders
- creative ways Principal Caroline Wells at San Mateo Elementary is using technology with their families
- the team spirit at New Berlin Elementary when the entire faculty decided to become reading endorsed when test scores were below their expectations
- Arlington Middle School - Community First School of the Month
- thanked Principal Vincent Hall at Raines High School for his hard work to set up for the Leadership Jax Education Day

Board Member Charlotte Joyce

Board Member Joyce noted the following:

- Echoed Board Member Pearson's thoughts earlier on Rutledge Pearson
- heroic efforts by staff at Joseph Stillwell Military Academy saved a mother's life who went into cardiac arrest while driving by the school
- thank you to all individuals and groups who are participating in the community meetings for the school name changes and encouraged everyone to stay engaged
- she and her constituents have questions during this process that they don't yet have answers for and hopes to get them soon

Vice Chair Darryl Willie (poor audio)

Vice Chair Willie is excited to see students come to the microphone, thanked the Jumbo Shrimp for their partnership, and recapped different things he has been doing.

Chair Elizabeth Andersen (poor audio)

Chair Andersen, again, congratulated Jacksonville Beach Elementary on their award earlier in the evening. She is excited to learn about the history of the past and making history. If school names are changed, how will we commemorate the changing of school names? She, too, recapped events she has attended and been involved in. She thanked the Jacksonville Public Education Fund for the teacher retention study they did and several stakeholders in the community for helping to kick off Women's History Month.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: Lori Hershey

Second: Cindy Pearson

PASSED - 6-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Charlotte Joyce

Elizabeth Andersen

Darryl Willie

Kelly Coker

Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

LBL

Superintendent

Chairman