

February 19, 2021, Board Workshop

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 with the exception of Board Member Lori Hershey. Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent was also present.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS VIA INTERACTIVE VIDEO/TELEPHONE SYSTEMS
2. ADVOCACY

Chairwoman Elizabeth Andersen summarized the purpose of the meeting.

Board Member Warren A. Jones arrived at 10:16 a.m.

Government Relations Director Kim Miller spoke about Cares Missing Children:

- PTA Appropriations Committee met along with five Superintendents
- dispel fears and answer questions
- what challenges are in finding students and the money that is needed back

Board Member Cindy Pearson mention about a questionnaire that Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) sent out to Superintendents and Board Chairs. She was happy to know that Duval County Public Schools was not on the list as one of the districts that did not return their survey. Ms. Pearson inquired about where FSBA might be with the data. Ms. Miller responded to the question.

Chairwoman Andersen made it known that she would be staying in Room 613 to listen to the FSBA meeting and invited the others to stay and listen if they wanted to. The meeting was a summary of a committee meeting that the lobbyist of FSBA attended.

Cares Act Funding

Discussion involved:

- there are multiple Cares Funding
- the District is using last year's Care Funding \$35 million
 - shared with charter schools
 - initially shared with private schools and then pulled back and put back in the District's funds
- waiting for the second Cares Act Funding, amount unknown and will included charter schools
- legislatures do not distinguish charter schools from traditional schools when looking at money spent
- District is held responsible for money not spent
- Federal Programs Executive Director Niki Micheau is the grant manager of the Cares Act Funding
 - charter school spending is tracked, but not what is purchased, would have to research to verify that funds were spent on correct items
 - charter schools provide information to the District
- the District still has about half of the funds from last year left
- Dr. Greene met with the legislative delegation and explained the remaining funds is a reimbursement
 - nurses hired must be paid, temperature checkers, personal protective equipment (PPE) purchases, recurring expenses
 - budget will not be gone until the end of the school year
- incumbering of money
- amendment regarding funds

Vice Chair Darryl Willie called in at 10:28 a.m.

Chairwoman Andersen brought Vice Chair Willie up to speed on the meeting.

Ms. Miller mentioned about there being 2400 bills filed and that 110 are educational related bills. She reviewed the following four (4) bills:

- SB1180 School Board Member Salaries

- SB48 Educational Scholarships
- SB Post-Secondary Education (Dual Enrollment)
- SB1228 Education (Live Remote Instruction)

Board Member Charlotte Joyce arrived at 10:34 a.m.

Ms. Miller explained about SB48 Educational Scholarships.

Discussion involved:

- challenging for School Districts
 - anticipating how many students leave public schools and go into scholarship schools
 - management of the budget/planning for the school year
- students eligible for free and reduced lunch could use these scholarships
- focus on customer service more to address this matter of not losing our students
- financial impact on public school
- parents do not have to be concerned about the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA)
- other options that families can spend money on instead of private schools
- getting data on students who have left the District and returned
- price tag on students
- students who come back after Full time equivalent (FTE) and come back before FTE
- parents who homeschool will be receiving FTE
- explanation about FTE funds
- use of projection model for budget
- law requires the District to inform families about the scholarship and the District must provide proof to the Department of Education (DOE) that information has been shared
 - McKay Scholarships are handled by the Exceptional Student Services Department (EESS)
 - Empowerment Scholarships are handled by the School Choice Department
- addressing the matter with the community about education
 - use of tax dollars for private purposes and no accountability
 - get partners involved in discussing the matter
 - copy other districts by reminding parents and students that the District is still here
- parents homeschooling, but not teaching their children
- students graduating
 - no distinction between traditional public schools and private school regarding students being able to read and write
 - information shown on how the District moves students from ninth grade to graduation
- parent choice to homeschool
 - burden of responsibility for proficiency
 - financial expense shifts to taxpayers
 - public schools pay for the education of children
 - movement in homeschool called unschooling
- accountability

- complaint about schools and accountability, make all accountable
- someone has a choice, but should still be held accountable for choice

Chairwoman Andersen briefly spoke about information that she requested from Staff:

- About DCPS
- District Funding
- COVID Response
- Mental Health/Wellness
- District Student Demographics

Ms. Miller requested for Ms. Joyce to provide her with any articles she may come across regarding the unschooling program. Ms. Joyce mentioned that she might be able to get information about unschooling from Home Education Resources and Information (HERI).

Chairwoman Andersen wanted to know if the District had the number of students who are homeschooled. Deputy Superintendent Dana Kriznar stated that the District does have the numbers because the homeschool process is handled through the District. Chairwoman Andersen requested for the information to be placed under the 'Demographics' section of the information provided by Staff.

Chairwoman Andersen also commented on the third item on DCPS' Legislative Platform: QUALITY EFFICIENT SERVICES. She suggested the need to consider asking for 'support and administrative expense' for services added to the platform item.

Ms. Miller explained about SB52 - Post-Secondary Education (Dual Enrollment). Ms. Begley went over the funding for the different programs

Discussion involved:

- District does not make money on programs.
- DCPS' programs are successful due to good partnerships.
- Generating more programs and getting the adequate funding for this service.
- Have partners to advocate for DCPS' dual enrollment program

Ms. Miller explained about SB1228 - Education (Live Remote Instruction)

Discussion involved:

- Duval HomeRoom
 - stay forever or used for emergency purposes
 - mandatory or optional
 - not be on the menu as an option to be offered to parents

Chairwoman Andersen summarized the discussions that took place.

Board Member Dr. Kelly Coker met with Accountability and Assessment Assistant Superintendent

Corey Wright about a new dashboard that was created. It has a lot of information that board members would find helpful.

3. GOVERNANCE

Ms. Joyce mentioned that she went to the Stonewall Jackson Elementary School and Kirby-Smith Middle School for a presentation.

Mr. Jones mentioned about the news coverage of George Washington Carver Elementary School's food pantry. He spoke with former State Senator Tony Hill, who would reach out to Food Share and request for them to provide food to the pantry. Mr. Jones also noted that there were many schools that have a food pantry and the same problem. It was suggested that one school in each area would be identified and Food Share could deliver food to that school for students to go to if they need food for the weekend.

Chairwoman Andersen mentioned about previously having a conversation with Farm Share (local partner) and Chief of Operations Paul Soares about not violating any laws with regards to distributing food from the schools. She suggested the board members double-check with Mr. Soares on the matter.

There was a brief conversation about the Back Pack Program/Feeding America.

Ms. Joyce mentioned about representatives from the Farm Bureau reaching out to her. They are having a program in either March or April in which they will be setting up a weeks' worth of meals to be delivered to about 100 students in need. Chairwoman Andersen inquired if the Farm Bureau might want to help set-up community farms. She says that it would be a good opportunity for the children to help and have access to food. Ms. Joyce thinks that would be good.

Ms. Pearson spoke briefly about the farm program at Watkins Elementary School in Washington D.C.:

- it is an urban school
- there are garden plots all around the school
- parents raised money for a kitchen lab to be put in school
- students growing food and shown food preparation

Ms. Pearson also mentioned about co-hosting a food distribution on Saturday during Spring Break with Councilman Carrico and Councilman Carlucci for District 3 at CrossRoad Church, UMC at 10005 Gate Pkwy N. Jacksonville, FL 32246. They are working with Feeding Northeast Florida and have about 400 packets to give away.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

GC

Superintendent

Chairman