



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

February 25, 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 Members Lori Hershey and 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 12:43 p.m.

NOTE: The recording was not working well during the meeting.

Items to be Discussed

1. SAFETY AND SECURITY

Chairwoman Elizabeth Andersen stated that they would be going over some safety and security protocols and opened the opportunity for anyone to make it known if they had something to say regarding the topics prior to going into the Executive Session which was closed to the public. School Police Executive Director Wayne Clark stated that he would like to speak at the Executive Session.

Chairwoman Andersen then verified that Office of General Counsel Karen Chastain was on the conference phone line. Ms. Chastain acknowledged that she was on the line. The rest of her

comments were inaudible.

The Board Workshop recessed for the Executive Session at 12:45 p.m.

The meeting resumed for the public at 1:39 p.m.

Ms. Chastain spoke regarding policy and legal matters pertaining to public comment and freedom of speech: (inaudible)

- Board Policy 2.26 - Board Meeting Protocol and Format
- First Amendment and what is not protected under freedom of speech

Vice Chair Darryl Willie stated that comments and phrases are taken in different ways and questioned who would be policing. Ms. Chastain responded. (inaudible)

Chairwoman Andersen briefly spoke regarding the following:

- developing a high tolerance for things that may be uncomfortable
- making sure that the meetings are safe and respectful
- giving directives prior to public comment
- have school police to escort someone out if required
- have Ms. Chastain to review the First Amendment (freedom of speech)
- statement used by City Council President Tommy Hazouri regarding comments and gestures

Board Member Charlotte Joyce spoke about an incident that occurred at the Community Meeting on February 24, 2021 at Robert E. Lee High School. She mentioned that Principal Timothy Feagins stated, "If you continue to do that, you will be removed from the room." She also mentioned that he did not have to say, "Remove him." The School Resource Officer (SRO) just escorted the person out. Ms. Joyce then made an inquiry as to whether you have to say that person has to be removed, do you give the warning and it continues to happen, or the SRO just takes the responsibility to remove? Ms. Chastain responded that the Chair would remind or issue a warning. (inaudible)

Chairwoman Andersen mentioned that she would check with Mr. Clark and Dr. Greene to make sure the right protocol is in place.

2. GOVERNANCE

Board Member Dr. Kelly Coker briefly spoke on the Redistricting Meeting that her and Vice Chair Willie had attended.

Ms. Joyce made inquiry about what information would be provided to the students regarding voting. Dr. Greene responded that there will be three videos for only high school not for middle and elementary school. Those schools can have a discussion without having a video. She also mentioned that the first video has been completed and that the videos are a factual timeline of the person from their birth to their death. The videos will be sent to the Board before deciding to use

them or not. Dr. Greene also mentioned about list of resources that is provided for the adults so they can do research.

Chairwoman Andersen:

- how students are being engaged in the process
- dialogue among historians for the students
- show video and someone can provide context

Discussion regarding the voting process involved:

- conversation with the Supervisor of Elections about verification of votes
- process for certifying votes should a litigation case be brought against the District
- informed that when votes are received, they would be inserted into the machines
- Board would most likely have to certify if certification is required
 - Ms. Joyce would like to have protocols and procedures in place before getting to that point
 - Dr. Greene stated that the Team is working with the Supervisor of Elections regarding the matter
- Will there be a ballot box outside or would students, community members, and alumni will go into school to vote? Dr. Greene stated there will be no outside ballot box. All will go inside the school to vote.
- check-off for alumni verification
- Would there be an opportunity for someone neutral, an alumnus, or any organization to watch the process? Dr. Greene responded that it would be a part of continued conversation. She also mentioned that she was thinking along the lines of videotaping, not someone just sitting and watching the process. There will be continued discussion on how to ensure and let people know that the vote is whatever it is.

Board Member Cindy Pearson:

- knowing what the cost is for changing the name of the schools
- need to be clear about what the plan is for financing
- campaign for half-cent sales tax; not to use any of the sales tax money to pay for name changes
- not enough money in the budget to pay for infrastructure and safety in schools

Chairwoman Andersen:

- the board had conversations and voted on walking this path
- campaign for the Referendum, the District thought there was a need for additional funding from the community to be able to meet the needs of the facilities
- not fair to imply that the District did not do a financial analysis
 - community members may not understand the nuance
 - could have had discussion about the way the board voted to walk this path and asked for all the things that were mentioned

- sense of what the community wants
- the financial impact on the District is an important conversation
- Superintendent and staff have been giving what their best guess is to what this might cost

Dr. Greene:

- responded to an email on the same day that Ms. Pearson had submitted
- explained what capital funds pays for
- provided examples of what the school(s) pay for out of internal accounts
- not able to say how much money is going to be received from donations because the determination of name changes has not been made yet

Ms. Pearson:

- no board policy on funding guideline for school name changes
- there is a board policy on funding guidelines for school name change when the school changes the programs
- not clear on how to pay for a school name change in board policy
- Board needs to have a discussion and put parameters that only private funds will be used for school name change
- Use of public funds that can be raised and the rest be paid by private?
- people will not have the incentive to attend a fund-drive if they know there is another way to fund the changes

Ms. Joyce mentioned that the Board needs to adopt a procedural policy regarding incoming funds.

Chairwoman Andersen mentioned about the recommendation that comes from the District and the Superintendent, the financial impacts, and the avenue regarding payment will be a part of the agenda item as an attachment.

Ms. Pearson expressed her concern regarding getting the funding recommendation at the same time as the name change recommendation, names for elementary and middle schools in May, and then in June for high school. She does not feel that this is a position that Board should be in.

Vice Chair Willie: (inaudible)

- this is good conversation
- look to see if any gaps

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

GC

Superintendent

Chairman