



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

March 23, 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 Jones (*arr. 11:59 a.m.*) and Hershey (*arr. 12:08 p.m.*) 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 10:46 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. SCHOOL RENAMING

Supervisor of Elections Mike Hogan came before the School Board to discuss the balloting process for the school renaming process. He was joined by Mr. Stan Buffett of the Duval County Supervisor of Elections Office. Topics discussed included:

- Mr. Hogan went through letter (see attached in agenda) sent to Dr. Greene on March 8th which lists the position of his office and their duties during this process.
- Supervisor of Elections will not be responsible for verifying eligibility of voters. It is up to District staff to determine eligibility.
- Breakdown of the ballot and options listed
- At the end of the balloting process, raw data will be presented to the Board which they must interpret
- Ballot was designed by the District and it was requested that the current school's name be listed as an option of possible names
- With the schools that are currently balloting, there was no voters at Stonewall Jackson on the first day and the remaining 3 schools had a low turnout. Once students were brought in to cast their vote, the numbers went up. It is expected to be a much higher turn out when it comes time for the high

schools to cast votes

- In elementary schools, only grades 3-5 can vote.
- Brian McDuffie, Executive Director of Policy and Compliance, advised the Board that principals have been instructed that they cannot force students to vote. Students must elect to vote.
- Alumni verification process
- If the Board votes to change the names of any of the schools, referendum dollars WILL NOT be used
 - The District will continue to look at communications to ensure the public is aware that referendum/sales surtax dollars will not be used for any renaming of the schools
- Fundraising sources
 - Jacksonville Public Education Fund
 - The District has opened a separate account for any donations received that are solely intended for any renaming costs
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document in process
- The Board requested that all completed ballots be sent to them once collected

The Board took a brief recess at 11:48 a.m. to give I.T. a moment to restart the system due to technical difficulties. The meeting resumed at 11:52 a.m.

2. MID-YEAR DISCIPLINE DATA

Jackie Simmons, Executive Director of Discipline and Student Support, gave a PowerPoint presentation (see attached in agenda) on Mid-Year Discipline Data. Following the presentation, discussion took place and topics discussed included:

- Consequences of level I infractions
 - For each individual offense, there is a disciplinary matrix that the Board approves each year that outlines what consequences are available based on the infraction and the number of times that infraction has been done
 - With minor level I, first consequence may start with a warning or call to parents, second may be stringent, and third more stringent than the one before
- Student code of conduct assembly is held twice a year - at the beginning of the school year and midway through the year
 - During this assembly, Class I, II, III, and IV infractions are gone over in detail
- Alternative education programs and request for data on repeat offenders returning to the programs between 1-3 years later
- Virtual options were made available for parents in Night-time Substance Use Prevention Program when pandemic occurred which can be a possible reason for the influx
- Student Option for Success (SOS)
 - After school or nighttime program where parents are asked to participate in discussions with topics such as family engagement, how to deal with troubled youth, conflict resolution, etc.
 - Participants are broken up into parent only groups and student only groups
 - Criteria for referral to SOS
- Differences in levels of infractions
- Primary intervention techniques on the elementary level

- Bootcamp training
 - Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) specialists are assigned to certain schools throughout the District
 - During times of peak, high volume incidents, Department staff goes out to assigned schools and work with the school's PBIS team to prepare them and help them to identify more strategies with dealing with incidents
- Peer-to-peer accountability

Following the discussion, at 1:24 p.m., the Board took a brief recess for I.T. troubleshooting and lunch. The meeting resumed at 1:47 p.m.

Vice Chair Willie left the meeting during the recess.

3. MENTAL HEALTH UPDATE

Katrina Taylor, Director of School Behavioral Health, gave a PowerPoint presentation (see attached in agenda) on Mental Health Update. Discussion took place following the presentation and topics discussed include:

- Number of counselors available in school with the pandemic
 - Still have the same number of therapists as the state understands that this is a very different school year. Funding was not decreased but instead a little more funding was added due to the greater need because of COVID.
- Ratio of the number of referrals received versus number of students who took advantage of services
- To provide another therapist, would have to have 50% or more students over the threshold of caseload
- How to overcome barriers of parents who refuse to give permission for student to see therapist
 - Collaborate with school counseling as the school counselor advocates for the student
 - Partner with Parent Academy to explain to parents the signs and symptoms, how to access assistance, reducing the stigma, etc.
- Request of data breakdown by subgroups:
 - Ethnicity/race
 - Students with disabilities
 - Supplemental Educational Services (SES)
- Increase in the number of social workers
 - Additional funding which came through Senate bill resulting in the addition of mental health social workers
 - Social workers will provide assessments to determine whether a student needs an exceptionality so doing a psychosocial on things that have been referred for Exceptional Student Education (ESE)
 - Social workers will work with our crisis team and fulfill the needs of providing grief counseling if we have a student or teacher death
 - Social workers will also provide overflow assistance

4. GOVERNANCE

Board Member Pearson

- Schedule for adoption of textbooks
- Requested a districtwide survey done, on the high school level, of how many teachers or classes do not have the textbooks they need

Board Member Joyce

- Duval HomeRoom requirement for prom would mean that students would miss Advanced Placement (AP) exams, sporting events, etc.
 - Dr. Greene responded that schools could choose when their prom occurs as to not interfere with testing. The requirement of Duval HomeRoom is set in place because it is impossible to do contact tracing if there is a COVID outbreak after prom. Students can still participate in after school activities or sports while in Duval HomeRoom
- Status and important dates for evaluation tool for Internal Board Auditor

Board Member Hershey

- St. John's County will be going back to full brick-and-mortar in the 2021-2022 school year. Status for Duval?
 - Dr. Greene advised that the District is trying to wait and see. They will communicate with surrounding districts on their plan. She does not believe the District will receive funding for remote learning which would make it very difficult for the District to continue to offer. The hope is, next year, to relax some of the strategies but will continue temperature checks until at least the beginning of the school year.

Chairwoman Andersen

- Revisit the idea in May of the Board getting back into Room 613 for board workshops versus the Cline Auditorium
- Master Board Training in May
- April 16th Joint Meeting with City Council

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

KPG

Superintendent

Chairman