



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

April 20, 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. Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent, Ms. Karen Chastain, and Ms. Rita Mairs, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:28 p.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. PURCHASING UPDATE

Director of Purchasing Terrence Wright and Executive Director of Policy and Compliance Brian McDuffie gave a PowerPoint presentation (see attached in agenda) on Purchasing Services. Ms. Chastain informed the Board that she has been in communication with Mr. McDuffie and Chief of Staff Sonita Young and requested that the District establish a formal process for all procurements. Ms. Chastain recommended to the Board the creation of a formal committee process which meets in the Sunshine where everything gets on an agenda, is open to the public, transparent, efficient, and all stakeholders are present to ask questions and clarify and either amend or approve the item. Ms. Chastain also recommended that the Board does not accept as a process but make part of Board policy going forward. Issues that Ms. Chastain has run into with the procurement process include how information is transmitted, who the vendor is, inconsistent results in rewards, sufficiency of the description of services, and more.

Due to time constraints and wanting to give Board Members ample opportunity to ask any questions they may have, Chair Andersen proposed that the Board meet at a follow-up workshop to solely discuss purchasing.

2. SUPERINTENDENT MID-YEAR REVIEW

Board Members shared their experience with the Superintendent Mid-Year Review.

- Board Member Hershey

Board Member Hershey stated that she and Dr. Greene had a good, productive conversation. Some of the topics discussed during the review included accomplishments for this year, struggles and concerns, looking ahead and identifying what is the one thing that could make this District stand out. Preferred this review much more because it was an opportunity for dialogue and to get perspective on the different struggles Dr. Greene deals with every day.

- Board Member Coker

Board Member Coker shared that her conversation with Dr. Greene was originally centered around literacy, financial transparency, and human resource capital. Some additional topics discussed included cultures of students and principals and the struggles that came with the pandemic. Next steps that she asked Dr. Greene to think about include non-grads or not-on-time grads. As a new Board Member, she enjoyed the conversation with the Superintendent and was appreciative of the information shared.

- Board Member Joyce

Board Member Joyce appreciates and enjoys Dr. Greene's ability to present her work before the Board and the public. Some topics discussed during their conversation included what went well this year and what did not go well, what needed to be improved on, the Progress Monitoring Assessment (PMA) data, where the students are, and more. She commended the District and the Superintendent for the great work they have done on the school level with the pandemic.

- Board Member Jones

Board Member Jones agreed with Board Member Joyce that Dr. Greene does a great job with presenting her work before the Board and the public. Topics discussed included turnaround schools (currently have 11 in District 5), the PMA data, safety concerns as it relates to neighborhood shootings, and communication efforts in the neighborhoods where schools have closed. Overall, meeting went very well, and he believes Dr. Greene has an effective, positive plan to address the needs brought up.

- Board Member Pearson

Board Member Pearson's meeting with Dr. Greene concentrated on District 3. Topics discussed included the number of students the District is losing in our neighborhood schools that are choosing to go elsewhere, what changes can be made in those schools that are not retaining 50% of the students zoned for that school, and the strategic plan.

Ms. Pearson was encouraged to hear that she was not alone in her concerns of students that are zoned for neighborhood schools choosing to go somewhere else.

- Vice Chairman Willie

Vice Chairman Willie had a good conversation with Dr. Greene and appreciated that with all the Board Members having different styles and asking for different things, she delivers and takes that same approach with the public. Some topics discussed included the effective communication from the Superintendent's office to the Board, District staff, and public, what school looks like next year and making sure our students are prepared for whatever happens, different transitions such as school closures and new charter schools coming in, and more.

- Chair Andersen

Chair Andersen used the Superintendent's goals and targets that was provided to the Board for their meeting. Some of the topics which were discussed included the Superintendent's commitment to engaging communities, partners, families, and other elected officials and student mental health. Overall, with it being such a challenging year, the Chair expressed that she could not complain and is very grateful for the Superintendent.

3. GOVERNANCE

There was no governance.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

KPG

Superintendent

Chairman