

April 20, 2021, Committee 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. Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent, and 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 9:06 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW - MAY 4, 2021

DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FEES FOR 2021-2022

Board Member Joyce noted that the reason she pulled so many items is because Internal Board Auditor, Lenia Blades, sent the verification list the night before showing the financials being verified or not verified. This item was listed as not verified on the spreadsheet. This is a new process with the verification list and will be a learning process. Ms. Blades noted the discrepancies in this item was that this was not in the approved budget phase yet and that there are different numbers in the attachment then the agenda item. Chair Andersen recommended that Ms. Blades follow-up with Lisa Loehnert, Assistant to the Board, to verify information prior to the Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH READ USA, INC.

Board Member Jones initiated the discussion with a series of questions to Dr. Greene:

- Is this professional development for teachers? Who provides this training?
 - This is professional development for parents. The District provides the training along with Read USA.
- Who pays the teachers who provide the training?
 - Training occurs during regularly scheduled work time, so they are already paid regularly.

- Is there a strategy to include those parents who are more difficult to reach? i.e., identify church partners, athletic associations, etc. to assist
 - Will come back with an answer to that question because this is only the third year of this program and there has always been a high participation rate.

Chief Academic Officer Paula Renfro gave a brief description of the Read USA program.

Board Member Pearson noted that she is aware schools with highest needs tend to have low parent participation and that she would be happy to volunteer at the book fairs in District 3.

Vice Chair Willie inquired about the history of the relationship between the District and Read USA. Dr. Greene advised that the history with Read USA is brief, being only three years. Dr. Greene provided a brief history of the Read USA book fair and the parent component that was introduced. Last year, due to COVID, books were delivered by buses to students' homes. Read USA is now working with the Kids Hope Alliance and offering a unique summer program where they are giving one-on-one tutoring and the District is looking to expand that.

Board Member Joyce asked Dr. Greene the following questions:

- Is there a way to monitor parents who are receiving training?
 - This is the first year where the District will be able to have the face-to-face experience with parents. Last year, the training was sparse and had to be virtual. This year will offer face-to-face; however, vast majority of the training will be virtual. As far as monitoring, Dr. Greene added that this is more of an event in which children self-select their books and parents leave with their training material.
- If the student self-selects 3 books and the parent is not there, does the student bring home the parent's training material or does the parent have to come in?
 - We still try to work hard to get to the parents to come in, however, if they are unable to do so, we will still provide them with the information.
- How many families took advantage last year of the online shopping cart system?
 - Dr. Greene is unsure of the number of families, but it was lower than in-person sales.
- Will meals be provided and if so, can Title I funds be used?
 - Chief Financial Officer Michelle Begley responded that Title I funds are allowable for those type of things for parent involvement events.

Board Member Coker asked that in the future, if there is a possibility of capturing data on the Read USA program with student and parent participants and comparisons of current year to previous years to measure the effectiveness of the program?

Chair Andersen followed up with Board Member Coker's request and inquired what we, the District, could include in the Memorandum of Understanding with Read USA to get feedback, for example, a survey. Ms. Chastain advised that we have seen that in other contracts but not in this one so the short answer would be yes, but it is just not present in this particular contract.

Board Member Hershey is very happy to hear that this will be available in all elementary schools.

Board Member Joyce inquired if the Board could add language to the contract before we approve which would ask for the data or feedback on the effectiveness of the program. Dr. Greene advised that she would

not recommend adding it this year because COVID has already interrupted this program, and this is the first year that it will be taking place in all elementary schools.

Board Member Hershey, following up on Board Member Pearson's point, challenged all the Board Members to volunteer at one of the book fairs in their District.

Board Member Joyce asked Ms. Blades to further explain the information she had in the spreadsheet regarding this item and a discrepancy of around \$10,000 she listed in the comments section. Ms. Blades described her process of looking into this item in SAP and not finding the amount matching the agenda item. Ms. Chastain explained that she understands the verification list with Ms. Blades is a new process, however, she asked if the Board would consider when Ms. Blades sends this information to them, that the Office of General Counsel (OGC) is also copied. She suggested OGC coordinate with Ms. Blades to help smooth this over. Ms. Chastain also suggested that prior to sending the list to the Board Members, she could first send to Ms. Rita Mairs because it may be helpful to have another set of eyes looking over the document and the process in place. Ms. Blades added that she did not have an opportunity to discuss her spreadsheet with the District and that it was a very rough draft with just her observations and comments. Board Member Hershey made a recommendation to Ms. Blades that while she appreciates the work that has been put into the spreadsheet, perhaps that before sending this to the Board, knowing it will be up for discussion, making sure everything has been ironed out so that questions are able to be answered.

AGREEMENT WITH HORIZON INSTITUTE, LLC

Board Member Hershey began the discussion with inquiring if we have an idea on what the success rate has been and if the dollars would follow the students? Dr. Greene advised that this is the first time so there is no data on success rate and that the dollars would follow the students.

Board Member Pearson asked the following questions:

- What is this going to look like for the student experience? Location? Hybrid approach?
 - Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Assessment Corey Wright stated that students will report daily to school site and there will be teachers onsite. There will be 8 different locations in the city which is dependent on the number students. The locations have not yet been identified but will be driven by students with highest need.
- Is this a charter school?
 - Dr. Greene advised that this is a contracted school and not a charter school.

Board Member Jones is reminded of the program the District had, Drop Back In, which had the same concept with pop-up sites and students being able to attend after work, if needed but the program ultimately did not work out. He asked if there was an issue with expanding Bridge to Success, instead? Dr. Greene responded that there are capacity issues with being able to expand Bridge to Success.

Board Member Joyce inquired about the difference between charter schools and contracted schools in which Dr. Greene replied that charter schools have different funding options and have the ability of becoming eligible for sales surtax funds. Whereas contracted schools, the District and the provider have an opportunity to negotiate contract terms as they are set by the District. With charter schools, the contract is basically set and there is not a lot of negotiations.

Dr. Greene responded to Chair Andersen's questions advising that students will have a choice to attend and will not be assigned. Also, there will not be transportation provided. Chair Andersen also expressed her concern that we are over capacity at Bridge to Success.

Board Member Jones requested more information on transportation and the trunk route that is mentioned on page 12 of the attachment for this item. Assistant Superintendent of Operations Paul Soares advised that the trunk route is a pre-established route which is used for alternative education schools, for example. It is set throughout the school year and very little changes are made to it.

LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY FOR THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL AT EDWARD H. WHITE

Board Member Joyce started the discussion with a series of questions:

- The partnership with Children's Home Society was established in 2015, is there an end date?
 - Dr. Greene deferred to Deputy Superintendent Dr. Dana Kriznar who responded that the partnership is a 25-year agreement.
- In the 25-year agreement, is there an MOU for use of the facilities with Children's Home Society?
 - No, there has not been an MOU for facility use.
- What is the difference between the agreement we're doing now with Children's Home Society and the agreement that was recently approved with the Boys and Girls Club?
 - Ms. Chastain responded that the agreement with the Boys and Girls Club that the Board approved several months ago, were lease agreements with providers under contract with Kids Hope Alliance (KHA). The model of the prior arrangement was that KHA issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) and selected providers to put in different district schools, but missing the connection between the District and the third parties coming into district schools and utilizing the space for several years. This could not be addressed under the utilization process so Ms. Chastain proposed that to protect those providers, the District approved lease agreements with those providers if they would provide the KHA services. KHA approved the services that the providers are providing.
- Where does Boys and Girls Club fall under KHA?
 - Ms. Chastain explained that this is a new agreement and is unrelated to the KHA model. This would be a second, completely different program.

Former School Board Member and Area Director of Community Partnership Schools for Children's Home Society, Becki Couch, provided background information on the partnership with Children's Home Society, KHA, and the District, as well as the new partnership with Agape. Children's Home Society and Community Partnership Schools is the umbrella and underneath that is different lines of services Children's Home Society coordinates and brings in to help the whole child.

DATA WAREHOUSE AND ANALYTICS

Vice Chair Willie inquired who the audiences are for the data warehouse. Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Assessment Corey Wright advised that the audience is the users, and the users of the data warehouse would be expanded from just principals using it to assistant principals, deans, and school counselors.

Board Member Coker thanked Mr. Wright and the team behind this for the work that they do and for making the data as transparent as it is.

POWERSCHOOL ONLINE ASSESSMENT AND DATA ANALYSIS SYSTEM FOR THE 2021--2022 SCHOOL YEAR

This system will be available in all the schools of the District. This tool has improved student achievement

because the more information that is put in front of the teachers, the better they can make their decisions about what they need to do. This product makes it easy for teachers to access information and data about their students and the assessments that they're taking. \$620,000 is the cost for the present fiscal year and that will be reduced next year by about \$100,000.

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION STUDENT SERVICES CONTRACTED STAFF

Board Member Pearson pulled this item for discussion and inquired why people in these professions would choose to work for a contractor versus working for the District. Dr. Greene responded that people choose to work for a contractor because of time and freedom. Some people prefer to only work part-time or have limited schedule availability. With DCPS, we have a contract with Duval Teachers United (DTU) for these positions. Executive Director of Exceptional Students Services Gail Roberts added a lot of personnel are young and they want the dollar amount for their hourly rate and do not care as much about long term benefits of being with the District.

Board Member Joyce added that the rationale between choosing to work for a contractor versus DCPS is interesting and wondered if there was some way, we could do that for Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers because we cannot provide the amount of money they are asking for. She was not looking for a response but instead wanted to throw that idea out there.

APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES FOR I-READY READING AND MATHEMATICS BLENDED LEARNING PROGRAM (K--2)

Vice Chair Willie inquired about the contract length with I-Ready and the communication plan. The contract with I-Ready is from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Communication plan from I-Ready with the District through Chief Academic Officer Paula Renfro and her team, as well as, with individual schools. The District meets with I-Ready, at minimum, twice a year. Ms. Renfro added that her team meets with I-Ready monthly to give feedback, determine school-based needs, product enhancements, or particular items that align to the District's goals.

APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF SUPPLEMENTAL WRITING MATERIALS FROM TOP SCORE FOR GRADES 4--10

Board Member Pearson asked the following questions:

1. Does this replace the product we are currently using?

Dr. Greene responded that this is not replacing the current product.

2. Does Top Score Writing have resources for English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students?

Ms. Renfro advised that resources are available in the teacher manual portion. It provides strategies for ESOL students and students with disabilities.

Board Member Joyce inquired when we will know if the curriculum we just purchased is going to dive down and align instructionally or if we are going to have to buy supplemental materials. Dr. Greene responded that she believes the work that Ms. Renfro and her team are doing now is just that. They are ensuring the materials purchased really align to Benchmark for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) standards.

FOCUS SCHOOL SOFTWARE

Chair Andersen noted that when the District was making this transition, she received feedback from schools stating they were having a lot of difficulties with, specifically, Exceptional Students Education (ESE) management portion for documentation. She asked if those issues have been resolved and that she

understands this system is cost savings but wants to make sure it really works. Dr. Greene responded that she believes the system is in a good place now and as far as she knows, has not received any additional feedback related to issues with the system. Ms. Chastain added that she is unaware of the timeframe when Chair Andersen received this feedback but when this contract began, this vendor did not have an ESE module. That was with a different company whom the District shifted that work away from because there were things that needed to be worked out which were not. The intention of the transition from the first company to Focus was to smooth over those type of issues.

2020--2021 STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN WAIVER

- Board Member Jones asked what the plan is for schools that make a 'C' out of turnaround status, will they be exempt?
 - Dr. Greene responded that we cannot exempt turnaround schools.
- Deputy Superintendent Dr. Kriznar provided an overview of this item
 - Graduation waiver for meeting math and reading requirements for graduating seniors only
 - Charter schools maintain standards consistent with the District
 - Provisions for state waivers for state end of course exams
 - Promotion and retention decisions
 - 3rd grade reading assessment waiver but with good clause exemption
 - Requires we provide extra support for students who are struggling and that they are prioritized for summer school
 - Waives provisions for Bright Futures
 - Students present plan or reason on why they did not complete volunteer hours
 - Extends ACT and SAT performance deadlines until December 1, 2021
 - Schools will not receive grades this year unless they opt-in
 - Schools that do not get student grades will have all the same data but no summative grade at the end of the year
 - Schools can opt-in for school grades if 90% of students did test
 - Allows the Districts to offer 200 hours in VPK, as opposed to 300 hours
- Board Member Pearson asked Dr. Greene and Dr. Kriznar the following questions:
 - For waivers, will attendance or chronic non-attendance be a factor in deciding to promote or retain a student?
 - No
 - On the 3rd grade promotion waiver, it mentions promotion upon successful completion of summer reading program. More information on that program?
 - The District has always had a good clause exemption and the summer reading program will be an addition to what is already in place. Students will be working on portfolios. This is not much different to what we have had in the past.
 - If a student is retained by DCPS and their parent disagrees, can they be admitted in the next grade at a charter or private school?
 - Charter schools would accept the grade that is on the report card.
 - What do we do with students who have never enrolled, or they enrolled but were not logged in throughout the year?
 - If students were enrolled in Duval HomeRoom, their grades would dictate whether they would be promoted or retained.
 - Will students who withdrew to finish high school with Florida Virtual School have the option of re-enrolling back to in-person?
 - Mr. Wright responded that our Student Progression Plan (SPP) states that students

cannot enroll after the start of the third quarter. However, there is a student waiver process which goes through the Deputy Superintendent.

- Chair Andersen asked who determines what students are at-risk of being detained and what is "at-risk"?
 - Mr. Wright responded that at-risk is not meeting the promotional requirements as described in the emergency order.
- Vice Chair Willie inquired if there were a threshold of the number of schools that would need to opt-in for a school grade for the District to receive a grade.
 - Dr. Kriznar advised that there are no provisions in the emergency order for Districts to opt-in for a District grade.

AGREEMENT WITH PSTT EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING, INC., D/B/A EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT SERVICES (EMCS)

Vice Chair Willie inquired the impact that the 2020-2021 Student Progression Plan would have for George Washington Carver Elementary with it being a D school. Dr. Greene advised that if the school does not get a grade, they stay where they are. They would essentially be frozen. Ms. Chastain stated that she has not been in talks with the contractor about if school grades are waived next year. Her recommendation is to deal with it if we get to that point so that we understand what we are dealing with. Currently, we are assuming that it will be business as usual the next school year.

Board Member Jones asked if the school makes a C or higher next school year, would this extra support still be offered at George Washington Carver for the following school year. Dr. Greene responded no as there is additional District support for the school and if the school felt like they would need even more support, the District would reconsider extending or bringing back this extra support.

CHARTER APPLICATION FOR GLOBAL CHARTER ACADEMY, INC., TO OPEN GLOBAL ARTS ACADEMY

- Board Member Pearson's question was related to this item and the following agenda item. She asked what efforts the District takes to communicate with the neighborhoods that a charter school is set to open in to "woo" them to either stay or come to a DCPS school.
 - Assistant Superintendent of School Choice Sharwonda Peek responded that her department has been working very closely with Chief of Marketing and Public Relations Dr. Tracy Pierce and his department. They are looking at the various programs each new school has and making certain material is being prepared to send out to families in the community to keep them assured that in Duval County Public Schools, we have that.
- Board Member Hershey stated that she is excited about the District's ambitious response and appreciates the response. She also suggested that the District take a page out of the charter schools' handbook when we do some of these upgrades and pilot programs, invite City Council and State Representatives to come see the innovations we are doing in the schools and put out press releases.
- Board Member Jones pointed out that on page 226, it shows Global Arts Academy did not meet one of the standards and inquired if that has since been corrected.
 - Ms. Chastain advised that what happens next, if the application is approved, within 30 days the District owes the applicant the draft charter contract. Exhibit 1 to the contract is the application so behind the scenes, the charter office works with the applicant to correct those

sections of the application that were marked as partially meets the standard so that it does meet the standard.

CHARTER APPLICATION FOR JACKSONVILLE CLASSICAL ACADEMY, INC., TO OPEN JACKSONVILLE CLASSICAL ACADEMY EAST

- Board Members Pearson and Hershey had their questions answered during the discussion of Global Arts Academy.
- Board Member Joyce made the comment that the District is losing a significant number of students to charter schools. In her District at John Stockton Elementary, a lot of the students are transferring to Jacksonville Classical Academy because parents do not have to worry about a lottery for their kids to get into a school and there is a continuity through middle school. Wanted to go on record by saying almost every elementary school in that area, John Stockton, Fishweir, Venetia, and Ortega, are all magnet schools, whereas the feeder middle school Lake Shore, is not. This is another reason parents are looking at the charter school in the area. She recommended the District see about transforming Lake Shore to a college preparatory or magnet program.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT – FEBRUARY 2021

Vice Chair Willie stated he would speak with staff later regarding his question.

OXYA – SAP HOSTING SOLUTION

- Board Member Coker had the following questions for Chief Informational Officer Jim Culbert:
 - What have you seen in this arena right now, in terms of what we need to be watching for as a district?
 - What do you see as some of our ways of defending ourselves against anything happening to our data points?
- Mr. Culbert stated that what is most worrisome for him is the amount of people that are still working from home and the mindset you would get if you're not in the office every day. People tend to feel like they need to be very reactive and do things more quickly and often that makes you not think as hard about something and possibly make a mistake. A lot of what is coming in recently has been through e-mails instead of traditional phishing schemes. I.T. has done efforts to make sure that people are aware that if an e-mail comes from outside the District that you get that red flag. I.T. has also implemented several different security measures around e-mail service. They also stay very engaged with Microsoft and have a regular phone call with them where they walk through any issues occurring.

APPROVE GRANT OF FOUR TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENTS AND SALE OF RIGHT OF WAY BETWEEN THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DUVAL COUNTY AND JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY FOR WIDENING OF SAN PABLO ROAD

Board Member Pearson spoke about the student's accessibility to get to school during construction and asked if it is possible for the District to work with the City to have the work completed during the summer to less impact school traffic. Mr. Soares responded that they talk with them and coordinate as much as possible, but the District does not have much control.

SCHULTZ CENTER LEASE AGREEMENT

Board Member Hershey inquired if the District is making any changes to the contract the Board discussed last week. Dr. Kriznar stated that they are meeting again with the Schultz Center again to discuss 3

additional items that are still in negotiations. The items to be discussed include:

- Preferential Scheduling
- Current agreement has a 14-day cancellation, would like to discuss changing to a 7-day cancellation
- Late fee schedule

ASBESTOS ABATEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ON A CONTINUING CONTRACT BASIS/DCSB PROJECT NO. M--83700/RFQ NO. 18--21/TW

Board Member Joyce pointed out the financial impact as it states the contract does not require operation of district funds and asked if this amount will go up with demolition and reconstruction of buildings. Dr. Greene responded that the demolition is included in that package.

CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT CONTINUING SERVICES: SELECTION AND CONTRACT AWARD/RFQ NO. 14--21/TW

Board Member Jones asked if the protest on this contract will be resolved before the Board meets to approve this item. Mr. Soares advised that the protest hearings were held on the 16th and the decision is due this upcoming Friday. If the decision is issued early enough then we would try to get the contract finalized and attached before the May Board meeting. However, if unable to finalize the contract, this item would need to be pulled and pushed back.

Ms. Chastain added that when there is a protest filed, everything stops. Contracts are unable to be negotiated and the District cannot move forward with anything until the protest hearing is called and a final order is issued. She does not see all this being done by the time the agenda is published and recommended that the Board pull this item and call a Special Board Meeting when the item is ready. Dr. Greene advised that they would pull the item off the agenda and call a Special Board Meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

KPG

Superintendent

Chairman