



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

July 13, 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, and Ms. Rita Mairs, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. DELORES WEAVER POLICY CENTER

Through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached in agenda), Dr. Vicky Basra, President/CEO of Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center, gave the Board background information on the center since its beginning and what their mission is.

Vinessa Gordon, Research Project Manager, gave insight to the research the center is doing to better the lives of young girls and, more specifically, black girls. The PowerPoint presentation presented data that is specific to Duval County. Presenters have noticed an improvement in data since the implementation of the Civil Service Citation program.

The following interpretations were derived from the data collected:

- Gender Bias
- Racial Bias
- Intergenerational Trauma
- Adulthood bias – the notion that Black/Brown girls are more mature than white girls and are expected to exhibit more mature behavior

Conclusions drawn:

- Victimization of girls K-12
- Lack of emotional well-being
- Lack of school safety
- Disparities in educational attainment

Miscellaneous:

- Suspension from the classroom has a detrimental effect on girls' education
- Most girls feel that no one listens to them when they need to talk
- Teachers with full classes are not able to leave classrooms to counsel girls one-on-one
- DCPS is training teachers in identifying possible signs of sex trafficking
- Student dress code can, and often does, show bias
- Many issues occur off campus, but the baggage is brought to school

2. BOARD POLICY 8.59 - NAMING AND RENAMING SCHOOLS

The Board Policy 8.59 draft that was passed out at the meeting (see attached in agenda) was a compilation of all the suggestions made by individuals and committee members. Today the Board can decide what stays and what goes.

Noted changes:

- Consolidated schools bearing a person's name will not fall under the requirement to refrain from using a person's name for renaming a school.
- Schools that have been considered for name changes but were not changed will not be eligible for reconsideration for a minimum of three years.
- Within 60 days after the Board accepts the written request to consider renaming, the Superintendent shall present written administrative procedures and protocols to the Board.
- Above referenced administrative procedures and protocols presented to the Board will be made available to constituents electronically within 12 days after they have been presented to the Board.
- Facilitators at community meetings would be someone at the District level and not someone who has been assigned to any specific school.
- The District will host up to three community meetings for the renaming process.
- The policy committee may want to consider creating a policy that oversees the naming of school mascots and decide where it would fit within Board policy.
- Changes will be voted on at the September meeting.

It is not unusual for financial caps to be included in Superintendent recommendations, but not money sources. There was extensive discussion centered around whether language for the Superintendent's recommendation could or should include specifics regarding what money sources would be used for school name changes. The Superintendent recommended using the term "non-tax funding sources" as the language in the recommendation, then give more specifics in the finance tab of the agenda item. Some Board Members were concerned that using that term would prevent the Board from using tax dollars if it

should want to. Ms. Mairs recommended that the issue be resolved by adding language to the section under V-J that would allow the Board to stipulate a funding source in an amendment, should the situation call for it. The Board preferred to see the funding source language in the recommendation itself.

The Board recessed at 11:39 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 11:57 a.m.

3. DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD CIVIL SERVICE BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

The three-year term is due to expire soon for the Board's current Civil Service representative Kimberly Scott. She is willing to continue as the Board's representative and the Board is happy to have her continue. The position will later be confirmed by City Council.

JACKSONVILLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND

Rachael Tutwiler Fortune, President

Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF)

Ms. Fortune reported the following:

- JPEF hosted a residency for principals, assistant principals, coaches, and Teachers of the Year
- a pilot study is being conducted at Jacksonville Heights Elementary
- fundraising for the school renaming going well
- Dr. Eddie Glaude, Jr. to speak at the EdTalks event in the fall

4. INTERNAL BOARD AUDITOR EVALUATION

Each Board Member gave a recap on the conversation they had with Lenia Blades, Internal Board Auditor (IBA), during their one-on-one evaluation meeting with her. Six Board Members gave a rating of effective, and one gave a rating of needs improvement. Much work has been done by the subcommittee this year to define exactly what the role entails with the changes made to it by the State and how the evaluation process will work.

5. GOVERNANCE

Dr. Coker passed out the latest timelines for the Superintendent and IBA evaluations (see attached in agenda) and gave a quick update. Due to this past school year being highly unusual, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) will not be sending out all school grades this summer like it typically does. Instead, the data files for all the schools will be sent out, districts will inform FDOE which school grades they would like to receive, then FDOE will send the grades for those schools. There is no set deadline for when all this is due to happen, so it has had an effect on the evaluation timelines. Meanwhile, the next Superintendent evaluation will start on September 1.

Board Member Jones asked the Board to consider a Resolution to the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office asking that they enforce their safety requirements for property owners. Children from the Hilltop area (District IV) are attending Northwestern (District V) in very tired or sleepy conditions due to being fearful to sleep at night. There is evidently a rat issue in the housing complex overseen by HUD that needs to be

addressed. Board Member Jones passed out an example of the type of Resolution he is asking the Board to consider (see attached in agenda). Ms. Mairs will work with Board Member Jones and Vice Chair Willie to craft a properly worded Resolution to put onto the August agenda.

As a side note, Board Member Jones informed the Board that the Sulzbacher Shelter plans to relocate behind Susie E. Tolbert and R. V. Daniels Elementary Schools. While most in the community support a homeless shelter, most do not support the location of it so close to elementary schools when many in the shelter could have criminal backgrounds.

Board Member Hershey has had principals express concerns about whether the new custodial service will be able to have certain cleaning tasks done that are traditionally done prior to the first day of school. Dr. Greene indicated there is a cleaning schedule that has been established and they are on track to have things done by the first day of school. Board Member Hershey also noted that due to budget issues, block scheduling was changed to traditional scheduling a few years back. She is wondering if it is possible to revisit that option in case it may have fallen by the wayside since it was discontinued. Dr. Greene assured her that block and traditional scheduling is something that is considered every year before scheduling is set. Returning to a block schedule has an effect on many things. The topic is scheduled to be revisited at an upcoming executive session. Since the District has high absenteeism in this post-pandemic era, Board Member Hershey wondered if the Board and District should consider pursuing a campaign designed to boost student attendance. Dr. Greene will be addressing the topic during the July 20 workshop. Chair Andersen has been in conversations with the new Duval County Council of PTAs Kay Hawkins, and they intend to focus on student absenteeism during their work this next year.

Chair Andersen noted that job applications/resumes for the open position in the Board office are being compiled and will be sent to Board Members soon. The August 10, 2021 workshop has been rescheduled for Monday, August 9, 2021 since the first day of school is August 10. She also anticipates the Board working with the City's Joint Planning Committee regarding concurrency and the education landscape as it relates to using taxpayer dollars.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

LBL

Superintendent

Chairman