

May 11, 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.

Vice Chair Darryl Willie arrived at 9:08 a.m.

Board Member Charlotte Joyce arrived at 9:23 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Kim Miller, Director of Government Relations reviewed the 2021 Legislative Highlights using a PowerPoint presentation (see attached to agenda).

Elizabeth Trisotto, Director of Nursing Services and Brian McDuffie, Executive Director of Policy and Compliance explained the impact of the Senate Bill 2006 - Emergency Management.

Mr. McDuffie explained the impact of House Bill 35 - Legal Notices

- advertise not necessarily on Duval County Public Schools' (DCPS) website, but solely on a newspaper website
- had conversation with Daily Record about cost difference between internet and print advertisement, Daily Record will get back due to information not being available
- internet only advertisement would need to be approved by the Board
 - must have findings that is in the public's interest to use internet advertisement only
 - finding that there is sufficient broadband access in Duval County
- must publish weekly about advertising on the internet

- Daily Record does not know if the lead time would change with regards to receiving information for posting
- District's notices that need to be posted in the Daily Record will still require the 48 hours

Wayne Clark, Chief of Police, explained the impact of House Bill 590 - School Safety

- principals must document their attempts to notify the parent(s) before a student is taken for an involuntary examination
- exception to rule is if there is potential child abuse then notification may be a 24-hour delay in notification and call the Child Abuse Hotline
- when School Police respond to write a report for a child who is Baker Acted, they put the information in their report

Office of General Counsel Rita Mairs mentioned that there will be a policy established that reflects the de-escalation process.

Chief Clark explained House Bill 590 - School Safety - mental health crisis intervention training requirement that the officers will be taking. He also mentioned that he had not seen any information regarding an absolute deadline for the training.

Executive Director of Student Discipline and Support Jackie Simmons explained that with mental health training, there is a recertification process which needs to be done after so many years. There has been an online process set up for the District's personnel and has already started. Ms. Miller added that there is a possibility of seeing a form of a school safety bill in the future, that what was being discussed did not encompass the whole School Safety Bill that was hoped for by legislation.

Ms. Miller briefly spoke about the final part of House Bill 590 - School Safety which was about adding telephone or text numbers to student identification cards for national or statewide crisis and suicide hotlines.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Vicki Schultz explained House Bill 131 - Educator Conduct

- there will be a disqualifier list for all employees who have direct contact with students, not just certificated teachers, and administrators
- all support staff will be mandatory reporters which needs to be added to Board Policy and training provided
- currently, Board Policy 6.80 - Professional Ethics - says that instructional personnel and administrators are mandatory reporters
- extra step in the hiring process will be added to make sure a potential employee has signed the affidavit of separation with another District, can take longer in the hiring process
- charter schools are included and if a school accepts scholarship money, this applies to them also

Vice Chair Willie inquired if this specifically delays the hiring process versus not being hired? Ms. Schultz stated that someone would just have to gather more information than usual. This is a disqualifier list and there is either a pending investigation or there has been an investigation. Would need to know the results of an investigation before consider hiring someone.

Ms. Schultz next explained House Bill 1159 - Educator Preparation and Certification

Executive Director Stanly Jurewicz explained the impact of House Bill 366 - Educational Opportunities Leading to Employment

- Board Member Lori Hershey stated that this is tied to students being able to get practical experience and the problem has been insurance, which is now resolved? Ms. Miller confirmed. Ms. Hershey

then stated that there is a flip side.

- the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) will define if self-insured meets the definition for this bill
- Vice Chair Willie inquired if some of the local policies need to be adjusting due to the new bill? Chair Andersen added that she was jotting a list that she felt needed following up with Ms. Mairs and Mr. McDuffie.

Chief of Academics Paula Renfro explained the impact of Senate Bill 146 - Civic Education

- U.S. Government course is a semester course
 - Practicum with a semester course
 - training for teachers
- partnership for Citizen Scholar Program which students could qualify
 - University of South Florida & Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)
 - the YMCA is a youth and government program
 - Supervisor of Social Studies K-12 Erin Conklin explained the impact of the restructuring
 - it is unknown how many YMCAs around Jacksonville offer the program, but in South and Central Florida, most of the YMCAs offer the program
 - will reach out to the YMCA to get information regarding the process and inquire what schools are participating
 - Board Member Cindy Pearson inquired if students are expected to do the unpaid internship at the same time, they will be taking the government course, or could it be a summer internship that they get credit for? How do they do the internship when they have a full load? Who is providing transportation if the internship is somewhere outside of the school? What kind of government internship would there be inside the school? Ms. Miller mentioned that this idea is the first ever in this space and the beginning of the conversation. She added that when the bill was being passed, the information Ms. Pearson was inquiring about was not available.
 - Vice Chair Willie inquired if University of South Florida and the YMCA are receiving funds for this program. Ms. Miller stated that there was not necessarily appropriation, but there may be a line item for it next year.

Ms. Conklin explained the impact of House Bill 5 - Civic Education Curriculum

- Ms. Renfro provided additional information about what Ms. Conklin and her team are doing
 - Districts can write the curriculum for which they would approve based on the standards that are required to teach. The oral history (patriotism and first-hand accounts of victims of other nation's governing philosophies) will come from the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE).
 - the bill becomes effective July 1, 2021
 - Ms. Joyce asked if the District was writing something and having it approved by the State or if the State providing additional standards to be taught with the curriculum current to the District? Ms. Miller mentioned that if there was an effective date upon the bill being signed, there would be a better chance of receiving some guidance from FLDOE. Since the bill has the effective date of July 1, 2021, the state can only prepare. It is upon the FLDOE to allow school districts to complete something this first year and present it to the FLDOE for approval. Or the FLDOE might send a letter explaining how the school districts are to have the subject taught.
 - End of Course (EOC) exams - a committee who does the state questions, and the District does the local questions
 - information will be in the curriculum guide and the syllabus so families can see the changes

Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Assessment Corey Wright explained the impact of House Bill

827 - School District Funding - Advanced International Certificate of Education Program (AICE)

- funding source remains the same, but allows for expansion of the funding
- the District does not offer pre-AICE exams/would have to offer teachers training
 - would need to reach out to AICE to inquire about cost of training and administering the exam
 - the District would have to take the share of what is already received and divide it even more.
 - offering the pre-AICE exams - teachers would receive a bonus and students would be prepared for the exam.
 - Dr. Coker inquired if this helps students who are applying for college. Mr. Wright responded his assumption is that the AICE exam is weighted.

Ms. Miller explained SB410 - Material Harmful to Students

Ms. Miller explained House Bill - Moments of Silence in Public Schools

- Ms. Pearson inquired if there was already a moment of silence. Dr. Greene responded that it is not a requirement.

Ms. Renfro explained the impact of House Bill 0003 - Home Book Delivery

- applies to K - 5 students
- similar with District's partnership with Read USA (shared with all students)
- program is for students who need intensive reading/must be identified so that the students can get books
- charter school is included
- parents can opt out
- Ms. Pearson inquired if the books had to be delivered to the student's home or if the books can be sent to the school and taken home by the student. Ms. Miller responded that the books are delivered to the student's home.
- Dr. Coker inquired how the District is going to turn this back in (tracking). Ms. Renfro stated that there is language in the bill about partnerships with libraries.

Director of Early Childhood Sonya McSwain explained the impact of House Bill 419 - Early Learning and Early Grade Success.

Director of Health and Physical Education Heather Albritton explained the impact of House Bill 157 - First Aid Training in Public Schools.

- currently have the American Heart Association (AHA) hands-only CPR (HOCPR) kits in each of the secondary schools
- Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE) and Health Education teachers teach lesson once a year
- will be working with schools, Health Education teachers, and AHA to come up with a plan to get more kits
- large-scale training at least once a year so high school students could receive information twice in high school
- financial impact with acquiring additional kits

Ms. Albritton explained the impact of House Bill 519 - Required Health Education Instruction

- team is currently rewriting the lessons for child/human trafficking, teen dating violence, and all things related to sexual health education
- part of a trafficking pilot program
 - teachers can review materials K-12

- partnership with Florida Department of Education (FLDOE), HER SONG JACKSONVILLE, INC., A21, and Florida State University
- currently use Child Safety Matters, Teen Safety Matters, and District-written curriculum for middle school and high school
- parents may review and ask questions

Assistant Superintendent of School Choice Sharwonda Peek explained the impact of House Bill 429 - Purple Star Campuses

- the District has a Military Liaison on staff
- FLDOE handles the process of the designation

Ms. Peek explained the impact of House Bill 1028 - Charter Schools

- the bill allows the Board of Trustees to be their own Local Education Agency (LEA)
- the District does not have to provide funds
- the District's funding goes down as enrollment decreases
- the burden is removed from the District because the university would be responsible for everything
- whatever the Federal requirements are, the charter school still must comply, and the university would be responsible
- Ms. Mairs inquired about the impact of this bill on the District. Dr. Greene responded to the inquiry.
- new charter schools will not necessarily be eligible for the half-penny, but it could be in two years
- if the new charter schools are recognized as their own LEA, then their grades will not affect the District

Chief of Operations Paul Soares explained the impact of House Bill 1028 - Charter Schools regarding the list of the vacant, underused, or surplus facilities

- Vice Chair Willie asked if the list can be used by anyone, not just charter schools? Ms. Miller responded yes.

Ms. Albritton explained impact of House Bill 1028 - Charter Schools as pertains to water safety courses and swimming lessons.

- Ms. Joyce inquired about the potential of partnering with the City of Jacksonville (COJ) because they already have swim lessons during the summertime. Ms. Albritton stated that is what it would be and partnering with other organizations that are already doing this well.
- Vice Chair Willie mentioned that every time a new facility is built, so is a retention pond. He added that it is important to think about.
- Ms. Albritton added that general competent skills are taught in Physical Education because it is a standard.
 - actual practice of being in the water, reducing fear

Director of District Athletics Tammie Talley explained the impact of House Bill 1028 - Fairness in Women's Sports Act

- Ms. Hershey mentioned about students being able to play a sport based on how they identify themselves, and then inquired if the bill restricts them to what is on their birth certificate. Ms. Talley confirmed that it is based on the birth certificate.
- Ms. Talley added that currently females can participate on boys' sports if brother/sister sports are not offered
 - female, girls, or women sports; male, boys, or men sports; or co-ed sports

Executive Director of Exceptional Student Education Gail Roberts explained House Bill 7045 - Gardner

Scholarship

- parent can go to another public school, charter school, private school
- School District will have to provide transportation and services
- reimbursement to families of homeschooled students (the way the bill was originally written)
- Chair Andersen stated that this is a big meaty piece which needs to be allowed to be summarized and the Board could come back later to discuss the specifics
- Dr. Coker briefly spoke about the procedure for having students evaluated for Exceptional Student Services
- Ms. Roberts stated that an Individual Evaluation Program (IEP) could not be developed without an evaluation and that there is a question as to where the funding was coming from
- Dr. Greene stated that with a District the size of Duval, it is not possible to complete the process in thirty days
- Board Members going to the Florida School Board Association (FSBA) conference in Tampa, could get more insight and a better understanding pertaining to the bill and have further discussion later
- the community could take advantage of this effective July 1, 2021

Break at 11:20 a.m.

2. BUDGET UPDATE

Resumed at 11:32 a.m.

Chief of Finance Michelle Begley explained the 2021-22 Budget Overview through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached to agenda)

Discussion involved:

- District has \$66 million for CARES II; part of the money is already assigned to designated categories leaving a balance of \$35.7 million that the District must spend by September 1, 2021
- The ultimate decision-maker as to what can be done with the funds or extend the time is the Florida Department of Education. They used legislation to provide the categories for which funds are to be used.
- The \$35.7 million can be used as operational dollars to upgrade a specific HVAC system and anything that is COVID related.
- Funds being used for expansion of staff.
- More information is needed with regards to having funds spent by September 1st.
- Non-enrollment assistance - using CARES funds to find out where these students went and how to retrieve them.
- Losing to \$19 million for entire District including charter schools
 - Losing \$19 million in discretionary and short \$15 million in categorical
 - CARES dollars will be needed to sure up the two areas
- Emergency Order Funding Adjustment - \$27 million provided to keep District in 'held harmless' status due to the decrease in the FTE during the school year.
- Explanation of the ten-day count regarding student enrollment and adjustments.
- Use of CARES dollars regarding hiring; surplus process; supporting schools
- Charter schools and charter school growth; COVID-19
- Keeping an eye on people coming from other states; recruitment and enrollment.

Ms. Begley continued with the PowerPoint presentation. She also mentioned about the upcoming budget

meetings and explained that the time of the meetings are per Florida Statute.

Further discussion involved:

- Charter schools; existing charter school growth
- Explanation of the forecast model and the model the District selects gives the most FTE
 - 8 models for forecast; request for adjustments even though not normally allowed; correspond with FLDOE about changes in which they have the final say
- Board Office budget
- Principals concerns about students returning from charter school and having no way to calculate projection; unique situations, schools are supported
 - Adding and losing positions within the schools
 - Budget Team works with each principal regarding positions

3. GOVERNANCE

Dr. Coker mentioned about the upcoming Subcommittee Meeting on Monday and the discussion will be about the evaluation instrument. Chair Andersen added that the Board would be reviewing and voting to adopt the instrument at a Special Board Meeting in June.

Ms. Hershey spoke with an educational group and the trending gender neutral pronoun came up Inquired if a national trend and what the status of this matter. Dr. Greene mentioned about seeing the pronouns in emails, but there is nothing in the curriculum.

Ms. Hershey recommended that after June, the Board Members could consider looking at the policy on name changing. Ms. Joyce mentioned that chapter 8, which includes Board Policy 8.59 - Naming or Renaming Schools, was coming before the Board this month at the Policy Meeting. Ms. Joyce spoke briefly about the concerns that were brought to her attention and the discrepancies that she witnessed regarding the voting process.

Ms. Hershey received a request to be on the Florida Afterschool Network Panel, which is looking at the word 'all' for afterschool programs. They talked about there being a state of choice and how some students' parents make sacrifices to get them in some schools, but do not have afterschool resources if they had not changed schools.

Chair Andersen asked Mr. McDuffie about the number of policies that will be at the next meeting. He responded there would be about 10 or 12 policies: chapter 8 and policy 2.45. Chair Andersen stated that she agreed with Ms. Joyce about coming to the meeting with comments and having a conversation about policy 8.59. Ms. Hershey mentioned that they might want to consider having two policies: a policy for changing the name of one school and another policy for changing the names of multiple schools.

Mr. Jones stated that the policy mentions about solicitation, not requiring a vote. He also added that the policy had been reviewed after the name change of Nathan B. Forest High School due to issues at that time and then reviewed again when Mayport Middle School had a name change.

Ms. Pearson introduced the suggestion about having the mental health conference done at a different time because it took away a day of instruction, which just happen to be the day before exams. She also mentioned about it being a voluntary off-site program to inside and a whole-school program. Ms. Pearson made a request for the attendance for high schools from the Wednesday before, the day of, and the Wednesday after. Dr. Greene spoke about this taking place during Mental Health Awareness Month.

Ms. Joyce mentioned about there being a large group of parents who were concerned about the masks mandate and wanted to know if there would be a preference for the remainder of the school year? Dr. Greene responded no and explained that it is in the policy and code of conduct that the Board had approved. She mentioned about the survey being done so that a decision could be made regarding masks for next school year. Chair Andersen provided input about masks. Ms. Joyce cautioned the Board and the District, that going into next school year and mandating something, there will be a loss of more students because they are not going to participate.

Vice Chair Willie inquired about figuring out a date and time for getting an answer about the wearing of masks next school year. Dr. Greene stated that the survey ends on May 24th so at the next Workshop the Board would be informed as to what the District is doing next school year. She also mentioned that there will be an announcement regarding Duval HomeRoom,

Dr. Greene made a request to Chair Andersen to have a conversation on May 25th about COVID Mitigation.

Vice Chair Willie stated that he is sitting as a liaison for the Lift Jacksonville group who is working with the early learning folks and spoke with the Chair about the group coming in and sharing their information.

Having a centralized document for all the Board Members to use when attending CPAC meetings. Board Members expressed their thoughts and provided input regarding this suggestion.

Mr. Jones mentioned about receiving phone calls from students regarding extra tickets for graduation. Dr. Greene responded that the tickets went from 2 to 4 and that they would have to speak with their principal. She added that the Times Union had a very strict COVID policy.

Dr. Greene spoke about the graduations being held outdoors, that the podium only sits so many people. Since others have been invited, she is asking the District personnel to sit on the grass.

Chair Andersen mentioned about the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meeting that she attended. Reviewed the Board calendar regarding the schedule and that there would be an effort not to schedule any meetings so they could spend time with their families during the summer. Dr. Greene requested that June 22nd be reserved if a meeting is needed.

Chair Andersen also provided a reminder to the Board Members about Internal Board Auditor Lenia Blades' evaluation needing to be completed. She also mentioned:

- should of the Board Internal Auditor continue to be just one person
- had a conversation with Board Member Joyce about the Auditor Selection Committee
 - getting more information about the make-up of the committee
- had a conversation about the Internal Board Auditor position
- Ms. Joyce would like to have further discussion at another meeting
- Dr. Coker mentioned about the Internal Board Auditor evaluation instrument and the discussion she had with Ms. Blades
- Ms. Joyce suggested doing the best practices in the districts across the state

Chair Andersen spoke about the FSBA Liaison and alternate - submitted to FSBA by July 1, 2021

- Gave a brief explanation about some changes that have taken place
 - Ms. Pearson - Liaison and Ms. Joyce - Alternate
 - Vote at the Regular Board Meeting in June
- Dr. Coker expressed her interest in the Council of Great City Schools (CGCS)
- Ms. Pearson mentioned that she has signed up as a Moderator in FSBA.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

GC

Superintendent

Chairman