

August 17, 2021, Board Workshop

Ms. Elizabeth Andersen, Chair
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 except Board Member Jones. 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 10:54 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. BUDGET

Chief Financial Officer Michelle Begley gave a PowerPoint presentation (see attached in agenda) on the 2021-2022 Budget Overview. Discussion took place following the presentation.

- Emergency order funding adjustment
 - All through the year, the Department of Education (DOE) held the District harmless, so they kept the District's funding at the \$132,000 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) but when the District got the 4th quarter calculations, that's when the FTE was changed down to what it was when the February survey was done. This caused the decrease in Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding.
 - To make up the decrease in funding, DOE gave the District this line item of funding of \$27,970,872. Every school district received funds to make up for the decrease in FEFP funding.
 - This funding line is not typical. It's a unique item to replace what would have been lost. It is not an ongoing funding source.
 - The state has a formula it uses to calculate the funding amount.
- Reading Instruction and Digital Learning Funding
 - Funding is slightly decreased in these categories because typically, these categorical funding types are based off FTE which could be a factor in the decrease.
- Teacher Salary Increase Allocation

- The difference of \$1,879,224 will also be divided to be distributed to charter schools.
- Charter schools receive their share based off FTE.
- Out of the total, \$24,762,067, about \$5 million will go to charter schools. The District's share is typically around \$20 million.
- Class Size Reduction
 - Loss of \$16 million in this category could most likely be attributed to the District receiving so much ESSER funding.
 - Typically, class size reduction funds are used to fund teachers.
 - Generally, do not see a decrease in funding this large, however, the District was able to fund teachers using CARES fund.
 - Vice Chair Willie requested information on this line item for 2019-2020 to see if there was a decrease then as well.
- Still unknown when the District will receive ESSER III funding.

2. MASTER FACILITY PLAN UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Paul Soares and Executive Director of Design and Construction Services Byron Page gave a PowerPoint presentation (see attached in agenda) on the Master Facility Plan - Update.

- Three architects would each come with their portfolio of prototype schools they have done in other counties. They would present their three designs and that would be included in the pool for the District to select from.
- Community engagement
 - Ways to commemorate a school that has been or is being torn down
 - Before tearing down a school, the District tries to find a credible, useful purpose for the facility. This also saves demolition money.
- Use of local firms within the different phases of building a new school
- Design re-use costs
 - Other school districts that are using design re-use, saw potentially 25-35% in cost reductions.
 - With cost reductions in design, it'll enable more money to be used in construction.
 - There is no cost associated for an architect being in the design pool.
- Schools that are in low to no traffic areas competing with charter schools that are built in high traffic areas.
- In the time period when Southside Estates is temporarily relocated to Windy Hill Elementary, a bus stop will be placed at the former school for those students who will need transportation.
- Castaldi Report is a report for demolition.
 - The District hires a firm to go out and look at the school and survey it. They address any issues of the school such as a leaky roof and the overall condition assessment of the facility. Survey results are compiled into what is known as the Castaldi Report and is signed by the Superintendent and the Board Chair. The report is then forwarded to the State for approval. The State will review the report and either approve or send back and request additional information.

3. SAFETY AND SECURITY

Executive Director of School Police Chief Gregory Burton gave a PowerPoint presentation (see attached in agenda) on the 2021-2022 District Best Practices Assessment.

- Current plan to ensure adequate coverage in schools
 - Creating Memorandum of Understandings (MOU's) for approval with various local agencies, i.e., Beaches, University of North Florida, possibly St. John's County and Clay County
 - Aggressive hiring plan moving forward
 - Current employees attending career fairs
 - Word of mouth
 - Possibility of going through a security company for some of the schools' SSAs (School Safety Assistants)
- Guardians
 - Currently have 33 guardians
 - FTE allows for 100 but Chief Burton doesn't expect the District to get more than 60
 - Dr. Greene noted an issue is the pay for guardians which is \$12.97/hour
- Raptor reporting system
 - Issues in the past with principals and others being able to navigate the system
 - Raptor has now developed a very comprehensive video with step-by-step instructions
- Emergency drills
 - Drills can be very frightening for students and for teachers
 - Principals can announce a drill is occurring during the week to give staff and student's families a heads up. However, the exact day and time of the drill is not released.

Following the discussion, Board Members recessed at 12:56 p.m.

The Board re-convened at 2:17 p.m. Vice Chair Willie did not return to the meeting after the recess.

4. GOVERNANCE

Chair Andersen

- Board Assistant vacancy
 - Board Members will interview top 6 candidates
 - Interviews will take place on Tuesday, August 24th, 2021
 - Microsoft Teams is an option for interviews

Board Member Coker

- Desk shields availability
 - Secondary schools have the option not to use desk shields due to the shields being distracting.
- August 24th & August 26th (Spanish) Everything Focus
 - Course available through the Parent Academy

Board Member Pearson

- BillieAnne Gay, Director of Advocacy and Legislative Services for FSBA, will be leaving.
 - Job listing is out there so if you know of any qualified candidates who would be interested,

please share

Board Member Hershey

- Approach with the District's marketing
 - Has received complaints about the aggressive marketing with phone calls and knocking on doors of parents whose students have transferred to charter schools
 - Dr. Greene went over marketing plan with firm that was hired which includes postcards and phone calls but is unsure of the details in going door-to-door

Board Member Joyce

No items for Governance

Chair Andersen stated the topic of re-visiting the language as it relates to face mask policy for students had come up over the weekend through the Office of General Counsel. Ms. Rita Mairs, Office of General Counsel, confirmed that a Board Member made an inquiry of how one would go about re-visiting the decision made at the August 3rd Board Meeting for the student code of conduct, specifically face masks. The language approved was face masks are strongly encouraged with opt-out language. Ms. Mairs went through the process of calling an Emergency Board Meeting or Special Board Meeting to make a motion to rescind the decision that was made.

Chair Andersen took a poll of the Board Members in attendance on their position. Board Members Joyce, Pearson, Coker, and Hershey were in favor of sticking with the Board's decision that was made on August 3rd and not re-visit the face mask language and Chair Andersen supports a mask mandate especially in elementary schools.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

KPG

Superintendent

Chairman