



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

July 28, 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. 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 3:05 p.m.

Board Member Dr. Kelly Coker arrived at 4:21 p.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. STRATEGIC PLAN

Dr. Greene and staff explained the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Keystone Projects through a PowerPoint presentation. (see attached to agenda). There was also a review of what the District would like to use as a brochure, Achieve '26.

Dr. Greene explained the Keystone Overview:

- Campaign for Grade Level Reading
- Workforce Readiness
- Career & Technical Programs
- Instructional Technology

The Superintendent also focused on chronic absenteeism.

Discussion:

- District started the kickoff of the campaign for District Level Reading when the Board was informed what was going to be done with the CARES Funding for non-enrollment.
- Real kickoff for the community is with the Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF), Kids Hope Alliance (KHA) since they are the lead organizations, and the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) would like to participate.
- Partners were attained by Dr. Greene attending a Campaign for Grade Level meeting, providing a short version of the training on 'Theory of Change', and spoke about who could be involved to assist with the project.
- Dr. Greene and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Dana Kriznar are co-quarterbacks for the project while each person who spoke about each Keystone Project is the quarterback for that project.

Chair Andersen wanted confirmation that students with attendance issues would be identified and referred with one of our partners. Dr. Greene stated only a portion because not all the schools are tied to all the programs. Schools that are not tied, students will be identified and developing a team to work with those schools. Chair Andersen inquired if there was a place where we will build or scaffold feedback. She could see this going from inspiring leader to task master, wants all to keep enthusiasm and not get burned out. Dr. Greene responded the goal is to be as enthusiastic as 'Igniting Your Passion', and one's passion gets them through the rough spots. She mentioned about short-term wins and keeping the momentum moving forward.

Corey Wright, Assistant Superintendent of Research and Assessment, explained Workforce Readiness from the PowerPoint presentation (see attached to agenda).

Discussion:

- Getting started with the goals.
 - 2021/2022 school year is about the development, placement, curriculum, and determining what will be utilized
 - 2022/2023 school year will be establishing the state fungated numbers
- Chair Andersen briefly spoke about identifying and working on soft skills.

Mr. Wright explained the Keystone Project - Career and Technical Programs - Goal 4 through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached to agenda).

Chief of Information Technology Jim Culbert explained Instructional Technology through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached to agenda).

Discussion:

- Board Member Cindy Pearson inquired if increasing the number of females in the coding area, would it be parallel in the math path
 - Mr. Culbert responded math is needed. He also added that girls could leave Kirby-Smith Middle School with a license.
 - Ms. Pearson inquired how early would girls have to start math to be ready for Kirby-Smith Middle School.
 - Paula Renfro, Chief of Academics, stated students are exposed to coding as early as

kindergarten. Not only through the gifted programming, but the Media Specialist, and Science teachers received training. Conversations about curriculum and revision will happen in the math classes as well.

- Moving forward, staff will make sure girls are offered the classes which appear only boys are enrolling.
- There will be more focus on middle school math and Algebra and Geometry in high school.
- Vice-Chair Darryl Willie spoke about the importance of data points. He inquired about what determined the main pieces under each one.
 - Dr. Greene responded that it is five years, it's the focus for the 2021/2022 school year, and being done step-by-step.

Dr. Greene stated this is a duality of change as shown in one of the previous slides. There is the big project and then the barriers or strategies and how they are aligning the strategies they are going to use. They could be a piece of the Keystone Project or things are being done differently.

Ms. Renfro explained Goal 1 - Literacy through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached to agenda).

Discussion:

- Board Member Charlotte Joyce mentioned that when looking at the strategies, it appears they are already being done. She inquired about the difference. Ms. Renfro stated it is still one of the barriers and that it must be more intense.
- Board Member Warren Jones requested for confirmation the need for more intense Professional Development with English, Language Arts (ELA) teachers in the future to move the District off that 50% high end number. Ms. Renfro confirmed and added, teacher turnover must be considered, and a percentage of the teaching force is being replaced each year, there must be continuous support for them. Mr. Jones mentioned much of the teacher turnover is in the challenging schools.

Mr. Green explained Goal 2 - School Grades through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached to agenda)

Discussion:

- Support for students in schools that are not Title I, there is a timeline in which the process has started for identifying teachers, hiring intervention teachers for each one of the schools, additional funding will be put into the schools, additional staff members teaching reading, professional development, ongoing support for teachers, supervisor of reading intervention to provide support for teachers
- Vice Chair Willie inquired about how it is determined what lever to pull. Mr. Green mentioned, they are always looking at absenteeism and how to get students in school every day. When looking at barriers, this is always first.

Dr. Kriznar explained Goal 3 - Soft Skills through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached to agenda).

Mr. Wright explained Goal 4 - Career and Technical Education through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached to agenda).

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Vicki Shultz explained the Guiding Principals 1 - Highly Effective Educators through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached to agenda).

Chief of Operations Paul Soares explained the Guiding Principals 2 - Fiscal Transparency through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached to agenda).

Chief of Staff Sonita Young explained the Guiding Principals 3 - High Quality Partnerships through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached to agenda).

Mr. Green explained the Guiding Principals 4 - Student Supports through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached to agenda). Dr. Greene added that over 1000 students re-enrolled and most of the students are considered homeless. Will have to figure out what the issues are; what the living situation is; and who can help get the living situation stable. The Superintendent mentioned there are close to 7000 students who need arms wrapped around them.

Dr. Greene explained the Next Steps through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached to the agenda). She spoke about the dashboard and brochure Achieve '26.

2. GOVERNANCE

Dr. Greene mentioned that there was a meeting with the Commissioner of Education and the Chancellor of Education. The two topics discussed were:

- facial coverings
- quarantining

Dr. Greene also met with Ernesto “Tito” Rubio, MPH – Interim Administrator/Health Officer Duval County from the DOH and they conversed about:

- The partnership between DCPS and DOH working through the pandemic.
- The roles and responsibilities of DCPS and DOH.
- DOH will support DCPS with the following:
 - Stating that masks are highly encouraged.
 - Committed to a 10-day quarantine requirement.
 - DOH will be offering vaccines to secondary school students.

Chair Andersen mentioned that it sounds like conversation is still going on and inquired when everyone would know the final details. Dr. Greene stated that the discussion about facial coverings will be covered in the Code of Conduct public meeting.

Ms. Hershey inquired about the difference between highly encouraged and optional. Dr. Greene commented about the new guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Ms. Hershey wanted to confirm that at present masks were optional for Duval County Public Schools and that the Board was not voting on anything to make changes at this meeting. Dr. Greene confirmed.

Vice Chair Willie inquired where would the Board stand legally if they made mask mandatory. Rita Mairs, Office of General Council, mentioned there is nothing in place at present she is aware of, and research is being done.

Chair Andersen inquired if there is a liability if the Board follows one guidance over another. Ms. Mairs mentioned Mr. Darrell Chatmon, Office of General Council, is currently working on getting information.

Vice-Chair Willie would like the conversation to continue.

Ms. Pearson read a section from an email sent by State Representative Fine and requested for Ms. Mairs to explain what it would mean if the Board were to pass something. Ms. Mairs shared what knowledge and information she had and mentioned that she could get the answer.

Ms. Mairs explained the constitutional authority Board Members have allowing them to make decisions regarding policies that effect the schools.

Ms. Hershey mentioned that the public needed to hear from the representative from the Department of Health to understand the relationship between the School District and the Health Department. Mr. Ernesto Rubio "Tito" explained:

- The working relationship with the District.
- Two members who will be dealing with the contact tracing and vaccines were introduced.

Mr. Jones inquired about the balance of the recommendation to support the School District in strongly encouraging versus the CDC's recommendation of all students wearing mask on day one. Mr. Tito responded about there not being a difference and that Florida is a red zone. By using the words in the recommendation, the Board is telling parents that this is an important decision that needs to be made.

Mr. Jones inquired if the positivity rate is being considered with regards to making recommendations. Mr. Tito stated that the positivity is considered.

Vice Chair Willie inquired about the Board of Health's support for the District regarding a mask mandate. Mr. Tito responded whatever decisions and policies are made regarding the School District, the Board of Health will not oppose, but will support. Chair Andersen expressed about it being important to be able to lean on the Department of Health with regards to making decisions. She inquired if Mr. Tito had any information regarding case rates for those under the age of 19. Mr. Tito stated he did not have the information with him and there was a request for information and it will be provided to Dr. Greene.

Dr. Coker requested for Mr. Soares to speak on all the protective measures being taken. Dr. Greene responded temperature checks will be done in elementary schools only; social distancing of 3-feet; supplements offered to teachers who allow students to eat in the classrooms; every classroom will have hand sanitizer; Clorox wipes; every school will have masks; elementary schools can request desk shields. Mr. Soares added that the District is in the middle of the summer clean and that at the end of the process there will be an enhanced cleaning process.

Dr. Greene mentioned about Hazel Telehealth being available so that all schools will have medical services; entrance into schools the first nine weeks will be limited; the COVID-19 dashboard will be up; and received permission to extend Duval Virtual Institution Academy (DVIA) enrollment. She also explained the difference between strongly recommended and optional. Mr. Soares added that the enhanced cleaning process will continue well into the school year and the new custodial contractor HES is fully staffed.

Chair Andersen inquired about teachers and staff regarding mask. Dr. Greene responded an email would be going out to the employees stating what CDC recommends and the District strongly recommends masks be worn when inside.

Ms. Hershey mentioned about being at a school during the summer and saw students with mask and students without mask. She inquired if anything was seen over the summer that would indicate having mask optional would interfere with the success and routine of the school day. Dr. Greene mentioned that she saw the same thing especially in the high schools. Most of the students were wearing a mask.

Vice Chair Willie inquired about the wearing of masks on transportation. Dr. Greene mentioned the District is waiting on DOH to provide information about masks on the buses because it might be mandatory.

Chair Andersen mentioned about getting data and being more transparent about the data so that parents can make informed choices.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: Cindy Pearson

Second: Vice Chair Willie

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Elizabeth Andersen

Darryl Willie

Dr. Kelly Coker

Lori Hershey

Warren A. Jones

Charlotte Joyce

Cindy Pearson

Nay:
None

GC

Superintendent

Chair