

September 21, 2021, Committee Meeting

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 9:06 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW - OCTOBER 5, 2021

APPROVAL OF 2021-2022 SCHOOL-WIDE IMPROVEMENT PLANS

- Vice Chair Willie inquired if the new direction from the governor regarding the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) will affect the school-wide improvement plan and if so, how.
 - Until the law changes, the new direction from the governor will not affect school-wide improvement plans. The District must continue to follow the law under the current legislation. There will be a gap year with switching over to the new assessment.
- Once data was received, districts could opt in for a school grade or for a district grade. The only schools that were opted in were those that went up at least one letter grade except for Northwestern Legends which qualified to get off the bottom 300 list.
- If schools choose not to opt in, the school grade would be the same as it was for the 2018-19 school year.
- School improvement plans must be completed at the beginning of the school year and voted on by the Board. After approval, plans are submitted to the Department of Education.
- Normally school grades come out in June, however, this year school grades were not released until yesterday, September 20, 2021.
 - These plans had to be completed although there are schools that no longer meet the criteria to be on the list. These plans are based on the school grades from 2018-19 and not the grades that were just submitted.

- The schools that would come off this list include Charger Academy which was a 'D' school and is now a 'C,' GRASP Academy, Pinedale was a 'D' and is now a 'C,' Reynolds Lane was a 'D' and is now a 'C,' Rutledge Pearson was a 'D' and is now an 'A,' Sallye B. Mathis, Timucuan, and Westview K-8.
- In 2018-19, the District had 20 D and F schools and today, the District is down to 9 failing schools.
- Schools that are on the list receive UniSIG (Unified School Improvement Grant) dollars which is additional funding to support struggling schools. The law has recently changed, and those schools get to remain with UniSIG for another year to help maintain after being removed from the list.
- Typically, when two schools combine, whichever school's student body had the most students, that school grade would carry over for consolidation.

APPROVAL OF 2021-2022 SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL HANDBOOK

- Board Member Coker would like to figure out a way to do a marketing campaign for parents to join school advisory councils (SAC).
- Some schools combine SAC and PTA so that both sides know what's happening. For some of the schools in the District, it wouldn't matter to talk about PTA or SAC because there is a struggle to get consistency with getting people to attend the meetings. There have been several efforts such as offering food at the meetings.
- The school renaming process showed the importance of SAC.
- Board Member Pearson noted that principals of the schools with high ESOL population, shared that parents will participate but do not want to write their names down.
- SAC is in the same situation as the Board as they are required to meet in-person by statute. Their meetings must be made available to the community public so that they can see what's happening.
- For new SAC members, there is a handbook available, and an orientation is given by Ms. Shanita Hairston, Supervisor of School Improvement, to go over the handbook, compliance, sunshine law, etc.
- Board Member Jones noted that some community members may be reluctant to join in fear of violating sunshine law unknowingly.
- Chair Andersen requested the list of area advisory council members.
- Board Member Joyce advised that one of her concerns that she's heard is that community members do not know how to participate in SAC meetings. The meeting notices are not posted on the school's website and instead they are posted inside the school building, but visitors are not able to come into the schools because of COVID so they are unaware. On the different schools' websites, the SAC information is very inconsistent from school to school. Additionally, she requested clarification on the number of members that are allowed to serve on SAC according to the statute and what, if any, are the significant changes to the handbook compared to prior year.
- There is not a single funnel on the District website where the public can sign on and see if there are any vacancies. Every school is individual so community members would have to reach out to a school directly.

RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD REGARDING HILLTOP VILLAGE APARTMENT COMPLEX

Board Member Jones suggested that the Secretary of Education be added as a person to be notified of this resolution.

APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2022 AGREEMENT WITH IMAGINE LEARNING

Chief Academic Officer, Paula Renfro, joined the discussion.

- All students that qualify for ELL (English Language Learners) are eligible for this program.
- Program is purchased by licenses so that licenses can be shared out to schools with eligible students.
- With the number of immigrant students increasing in Duval County, the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Department is a member of the community council for immigrants coming to Jacksonville. The District is in the know of when families are coming because the District needs to know how to support getting students enrolled and try to create a plan to help these students.
- The District has not received any direct information of any school age children from the Afghan refugees that are coming to Jacksonville.

APPROVAL OF THE FLORIDA EDUCATIONAL EQUITY ACT UPDATE

Board Member Pearson noted that she didn't see it listed in the agenda item but wanted to stress that course progression in elementary and middle school should be included in the interventions list.

LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE FOR KITCHEN UTILIZATION AT WEST JACKSONVILLE ELEMENTARY

- This is a temporary lease agreement.
- Before the District can demolish anything, a Castaldi report must be completed. There may be more interest on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club beyond the temporary agreement.

CASTALDI ANALYSIS FOR THREE (3) ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FOR FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION APPROVAL

Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Paul Soares, joined the discussion.

- There has not been any interest in buying these three properties.
- The goal is to demolish the buildings and sell the land.
- Salvage value will reflect in the price.

DIGITAL MEDIA SERVICES CONTRACT

Chief of Marketing and Public Relations, Dr. Tracy Pierce, joined the discussion.

- 2 years ago, the District was at 0 schools and the expected outcome is to reach 60 schools in total.
- Board Member Coker requested the list of 40 schools that have been done thus far and what is the criteria used to select schools.
- Working with absenteeism and truancy is not a part of this contract, however, the District is working with local partners such as MyVillage Project and several non-profits to address absenteeism and truancy.

Public Comment

Melissa Bernhardt

Ms. Bernhardt spoke on children being bullied and harassed for not wearing masks in schools.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

KPG

Superintendent

Chairman