Meeting Minutes

Duval County Public Schools

September 22, 2021, Policy Handbook Review Committee Meeting

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 except Board Member Charlotte Joyce and Vice-Chairman Darryl Willie. Ms. Rita Mairs, Office of General Counsel, was also present.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 A.M.

Items to be Discussed

1. BOARD POLICY 2.37, INTERNAL BOARD AUDITOR EVALUATION

Ms. Tashonia Grant, Director of Policy and Compliance, explained the policy and how it sets forth the roles and responsibilities of the Duval County School Board in the performance evaluation of the Internal Board Auditor of Duval County Public Schools (DCPS). Discussion took place among the Board members concerning this policy.

- Board Member Pearson questioned whether this is the typical procedure "If at any time before interim, informal performance assessment, or after such interim assessment but before the final evaluation, a Board member (or members) shall contact Human Resources, who will notify the Board office that a publicly noticed meeting between the Board members is necessary to determine whether the Internal Board Auditor should be placed on a Growth Plan." The discussion continued with a question from Board Member Jones as to how growth is established. Dr. Greene joined the discussion to share insight on the growth plan. The communication continued with Board Member Coker sharing insight on the growth plan as it relates to the Sunshine laws and how it is to help make the individual successful in the position. Ms. Mairs added to the discussion by sharing that Ms. Vickie Schultz, Assistant

Superintendent, Human Resources, would work with the individual.

- Chair Andersen shared that Human Resources determines what the growth plan should be if the Board approves that the individual should be placed on a growth plan and then a final evaluation will be done. The discussion continued with Ms. Mairs sharing with Board Member Hershey when this topic was originally discussed.
- Board Member Hershey asked questions about the growth plan as it relates to how things were handled in the past and can the Board still opt to non-renew without a growth plan? The discussion revealed that a growth plan is recommended but not required therefore Board Member Hershey suggested that information to clarify be included for all future Board Members so that they understand the growth plan in not required but only recommended.

2. BOARD POLICY 8.22, INVOLUNTARY MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT OF MINORS

Ms. Tashonia Grant, Director of Policy and Compliance, read the policy.

- Board Member Hershey inquired about self-harm and whether there may be a delay of reporting this information to the principal specifically if something happens on a Friday and maybe there is a holiday on a Monday, does the student still get the help needed? Chair Andersen added to the discussion providing clarity which resulted in the involuntary assessment being questioned. Ms. Katrina Taylor, Director of School Behavioral Health Services, joined the discussion defining what involuntary assessment is and sharing what it involves. Chief Gregory Burton joined the discussion to share information about the term "recent behavior" as stated in the statute and he explained "imminent threat" to bring clarity.
- Chair Andersen shared her experiences with the Board as it relates to being careful when resorting to Baker Act. Board Member Jones joined the discussion sharing most times parents support the Baker Act but what happens when a parent objects?
- Ms. Taylor explained that they can still proceed with the Baker Act because it is just verification not permission especially when the child poses an imminent threat. Chair Andersen continued in the discussion sharing the assessments that take place when the child is admitted into a facility. Discussion continued about additional support and how the Baker Act falls under the mental health statute to include the history of it and how it originated. Within this discussion information from other districts' policy and compliance was shared along with discussion concerning the limited resources for overnight stay and the increase of Baker acting. Ms. Taylor continued in the conversation sharing with the Board what facilities are available and how the resources are limited.
- Ms. Mairs joined the discussion sharing her concerns about children being put into the back of police cars and how gains are being made to avoid this through training but feels it should be addressed on the Legislative Platform. Chair Andersen agreed that at some point and time this needs to be addressed.

3. BOARD POLICY 8.53, CONSOLIDATION IMPACT REVIEW PROCESS

Ms. Grant read the policy and gave background on the new policy.

- Discussion took place with Board Member Hershey questioning how does this policy differs from the current Academic and Community Excellence (ACE) Policy?

- Mr. Paul Soares, Assistant Superintendent, Chief of Operations, explained the traditional ACE process and the new policy and how the policy functions. Board Member Jones joined the conversation to gain clarity on the boundaries for Henry F. Kite and Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary schools in which Mr. Soares shared the streamline process will be used as it relates to the boundaries. Ms. Sonita Young, Chief of Staff, joined the discussion to add clarity on the policy regarding the role of the body being the community and that the community needs to know the purpose for coming together. This policy is a broader group, and the purpose is different from ACE.
- The discussion continued with Board Member Pearson sharing her understanding as well as questioning what the community members would be doing while on the committee. She asked what the committee members would be recommending so Board member Hershey responded with examples of things that the committee would be recommending. Ms. Young provided suggestions on the community input.
- Board Member Pearson suggested staggered meetings. Ms. Sharwonda Peek, Assistant Superintendent, School Choice, joined the discussion by letting everyone know the committee decides when to meet.
- The discussion continued with Chair Andersen sharing the issues with bus stops. Mr. Soares joined the conversation sharing a bus stop is placed at the closed school however this does not apply if there is already an existing bus stop.
- Ms. Young explained how this policy was created along with the multiple consolidation changes that are about to take place.

4. BOARD POLICY 9.62, AGENTS, SOLICITORS, AND SALESPERSONS

Ms. Grant read the policy.

- Chair Andersen asked if there were any amendments. There were no suggestions for changes.

5. BOARD POLICY 9.63, SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS/SCREENING PROCESS

Ms. Grant explained the changes to the policy.

- Discussion took place around the approval of this and information that the Board does not have.

6. BOARD POLICY 9.65, BACKGROUND SCREENING FOR CONTRACTORS

Ms. Grant explained the policy.

- Ms. Anita Smith, Director of Employee Support, explained the new statute and what the district will be doing.
- Chair Andersen requested further information to find out what this policy is related to.
- Board Member Coker explained what the data base will allow. Ms. Mairs joined the discussion to suggest that the title of the policy be changed because certain contractors are not required to do Level 2 fingerprints therefore, she suggested using the word "certain" in the title.
- Chair Andersen approves of the title change however believes that the use of the word

"certain" is very vague so the discussion continued as to which word should be used to avoid confusion or leave open doors.

7. ~~BOARD POLICY 9.65, BACKGROUND SCREENING FOR CONTRACTORS~~

Duplicate item discussed in item #6

8. BOARD POLICY 9.66, SALES SURTAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Ms. Grant explained the policy.

- Board Member Jones questioned about the non-attendance of committee members.
- Ms. Young shared the languages proposed came from Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) and members thought the meetings would be quarterly when they took on the responsibility however the meetings have been monthly which has caused an issue with them being present. Board member Coker joined the discussion and shared dialogue heard from the last meeting in which revealed there are some amazing people on the committee that have a genuine desire to serve but due to other responsibilities it affects the monthly attendance. Board member Jones joined the discussion and referenced the engagement of the committee members.
  Board member Hershey joined the discussion asking if the need to meet increases or decreases as the schools are built?
- Ms. Young spoke about the dashboard and how monthly reporting would not be necessary because the work does not move that fast. Board Member Pearson joined the discussion to share communication with someone from the charter community and wanted to know if they could come in and report what the charter schools were doing. Ms. Young continued with information from the last 2 meetings about the charter schools and their 1st quarterly report in which they have no dashboard showing what is happening with funds. Board members continued the discussion talking about those appointed to the committee to serve and when their term would end. They also discussed having meeting dates for the committee forwarded to Board Meetings so Board Members could support.
- Additional discussion took place as Chair Andersen shared with the Board that Policy 5.64 needs more conversation and staff needs time to review it and asked that it be returned to the subcommittee for final input before the Board reviews it. Approval by the Board will be on October 19, 2021, during the special meeting.
- Board Member Pearson questioned if there would be enough community members available for the meeting and the discussion continued with Board Member Coker expressing the purpose and need for the meeting in October. Ms. Mairs added to the discussion by presenting what happened during the review process of the student code of conduct and what will happen if there is no policy in place.

9. BOARD POLICY 5.64, COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Chair Andersen explained the foundation of the policy in which this School Board seeks to provide, in the least restrictive environment, for the educational needs of each student to the maximum extent consistent with the needs of other students and the health, safety and welfare of all. One key step in furthering this goal is the development of a policy and resulting procedures to control communicable diseases affecting the health of the District Community (who includes, but is not limited to students, parents/guardians, visitors, vendors/contractors, and employees of the district).

- Chair Andersen shared the goal is to get something more permanent in place when managing communicable diseases in general along with the importance of ensuring everything aligns as it relates to the health manual.
- Board Member Hershey asks about the Superintendent's medical advisory team as she advises that balance and perspective is needed.
- Chair Andersen shared insight on the public health experts as well as why the District Advisory Council (DAC) is being included.
- Board Member Pearson joined the discussion to share how many people attend the DAC meetings concurring that it maybe 12 people in attendance.
- Chair Andersen wants to ensure that parents have a voice.
- Board Member Pearson asked if Parent, Teacher, Student Association (PTSA) was involved as she suggested that maybe it will be more helpful to have PTSA as the association is more vibrant.
- Board Member Hershey shared her insight on having PTSA involved.
- Board Member Coker also agreed with Board Members Pearson and Hershey however she shared her concerns of it as well.
- The Board continued discussion on who should be a part of this advisory team.
- The Board members discussed that the Superintendent has the right to choose who needs to be on the advisory committee depending on the issue at hand.
- Board Member Pearson shared under Section II she does not see anything about exemption. She shared the opt out and exemption has been a big part of the discussion, but it is not included in the policy.
- Ms. Mairs shared that the goal was to get away from the voluntary versus mandatory and get the Superintendent out of the position of telling people what they voluntarily should do and get back to either there are known protocols or no protocols.
- Board Member Pearson questioned if this is going to be a case-by-case issue?
- Board Member Hershey shared her concerns about how much time is going towards the policing and discipline part of the protocol.
- Board Member Coker asked how often will the protocols be reviewed?
- The Board Members discussed what the policy was before versus what is being drafted now due to the health crisis faced.
- Ms. Mairs shared insight on the policy as well from the student and adult aspects.
- Ms. Mairs asked Chair Andersen to reconsider the insubordination because of past issues to avoid inconsistencies.
- Mr. Jackie Simmons, Executive Director of Student Discipline and Support Services, shared insight on the student code of conduct as it relates to insubordination to policy 5.64.
- Board Member Hershey questioned how will the information get to the teachers about honoring the exemption?
- Chair Andersen questioned how do we get anyone to follow any of the policies?
- Dr. Coker suggested that if any policies are not being followed the Board should bring it to the Superintendent.

- Chair Andersen explained the process of how the Superintendent handles the procedures if they are amended or put into place.
- Ms. Mairs shared that since the Superintendent is now responsible for the new developments for amendments everything should have a central location.
- Ms. Mairs also shared her thoughts about section B-II-f concerning Policy 5.64 being housed in one place.
- The Board discussed ideas of how to word certain parts of the policy to avoid confusion but also wants to ensure everything is compliant.
- Ms. Elizabeth Trissoto, Director of Nursing, shared with the Board her thoughts of the policy being very comprehensive and sufficient.
- Chair Andersen brought up blood borne pathogens and shared that the structure of the policy needs to be reviewed.
- Chair Andersen questioned whether the procedures that are being followed now are a result of the policy and where can adjustments be made?
- Board Member Coker joined the discussion to share how other districts came up with a policy regarding HIV in the past but wants to ensure that the district stays in compliance and gets out of emergency ruling as soon as possible.
- Ms. Young shared the reduction rate as it relates to the Department of Health and how things could change within 2 weeks.
- Discussion took place around waiving the portion of the dress code making mask mandatory to include how waiving the policy works, what is the process for waiving, and the conversation continued about the mask and quarantining as well as opt-out.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Vote Results:
Motion: Cindy Pearson
Second: Kelly Coker

Passed 5 - 0

Aye:
Elizabeth Andersen
Kelly Coker
Lori Hershey
Warren A. Jones
Cindy Pearson

Nay:
None

MA

Superintendent

Chairman