October 12, 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 except Board Member Coker participated via telephone. 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 9:10a.m.

Approval of Board Member Kelly Coker participation via interactive video and/or telephone systems.

Vote Results:
Motion: Cindy Pearson
Second: Warren Jones

PASSED 6-0

Aye:
Charlotte Joyce
Lori Hershey
Warren Jones
Cindy Pearson
Darryl Coker
Elizabeth Andersen

Nay:
None

Board Member Coker joined via phone at 9:12 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. INSTRUCTIONAL REVIEW

Dr. Greene presented Mr. Scott Schneider, Chief of Schools.

- Mr. Schneider shared a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Moving Forward" (see attached) to give a summary of what is being done during the Instructional Reviews at the schools. This tool is used as a coaching tool to support the teachers and schools to become better. The presentation included topics such as:
  - Standards Based Instruction
  - Stakeholders Attentiveness
  - Cultural Responsibility
  - Supportive Environment
- Mr. Schneider presented how this tool will impact the teachers of Duval County Public Schools. The Standards Based instructional review includes a strategic plan with the guiding principle of recruiting and retaining highly effective educators. It includes the timeline for team planning and support to include the 4 domains which are planning and preparation, the classroom environment, instruction, and professional responsibility.
  Board Member Willie asked who is in the room when observations are being completed?
  Mr. Schneider responded who ever directly supports the school are the ones in the room as well as others that can add suggestions.
  Mr. Schneider continued explaining the standard walkthrough tool, which is the System Instructional Review Assessed Measures-Standards Walk-Through Tool that includes observation and the use of a Qualtrics survey before leaving the classroom to share what was seen.
- He also explained the things that are being observed are the use of standards, to include the use of the terminology from the standard.
- After the presentation, Board Member Coker recognized Mr. Schneider's authenticity as a leader and shared how she enjoyed the presentation.

2. LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Board Member Pearson shared with the Board that their input has been implemented into the Duval County Public Schools Legislative Platform and the plan is to review it to ensure everything has been incorporated. She shared with the Board the focus while reviewing would be on the wording and the order of the items as these may be things that they may want to change. (See attachment for Legislative Platform).

- The Board reviewed the Legislative Platform paragraph by paragraph. Within this review Chair Andersen inquired about what the $18.70,000,000.00 cost covers?
- The discussion continued with Dr. Greene informing the Board that the cost of running the virtual program is $18.70,000,000.00 and the funding for this program is only received upon student's course completion. The district pays to run the program but also informed the Board that if a student takes a virtual course beyond 6th period the district does not receive funding for that.
- Board Member Pearson added to the discussion by suggesting that the Board start to note

other topics that may need to be discussed.
    - Vice-Chairman Willie suggested that the background of some lawmakers be a topic for discussion.
- Board Member Hershey inquired about the funding for virtual instruction and whether it pertains to Florida Virtual and/or Duval Virtual.
    - Board Member Pearson shared that the Board is advocating for Duval Virtual Instruction Academy. The discussion continued with Dr. Greene sharing insight on the funding received for Duval Virtual Instruction Academy (DVIA).
    - Board Member Hershey inquired about the reason behind the payment structure and whether it is a layer of accountability for the virtual schools.
    - Dr. Greene explained how easy it is for a parent to change their student from virtual to brick and mortar and due to that Florida Virtual will not receive payment if the student does not complete the course however the district must pay for the Florida Virtual License upfront. She also informed the Board of situations that involve students that are not present during survey 2 in which the district does not receive payment for those students either.
    - Board Member Joyce joined the discussion recalling what she heard in the discussion then inquiring about the possibilities of what happens when a student is back and forth from brick and mortal to virtual and what issues that could cause.
    - Dr. Greene shared with the Board that in a virtual setting it is different from brick and mortar. The flexibility may be why virtual instruction is funded differently as the courses can be completed at different times and the courses can be completed quicker. The district is paid less for those attending virtually but all the payments come at the end of the year due to the completion of courses may be at different times.
- Board Member Joyce inquired about an Elementary or ESE student having additional support in the virtual setting.
    - Dr. Greene shared with the Board that this has been an area of challenge as students on consultation still have to receive the services they require even if they are virtual.
- Board Member Hershey suggested that the percent increase should be included as a discussion point as there has been substantial increase in the virtual enrollment.
    - Board Member Pearson suggested that in person support be added as a discussion point as well.
- Board Member Joyce inquired about discussion on the funding model and does that cover all virtual schools or just virtual schools in Duval. She also inquired whether anyone has spoken to anyone at Duval Virtual.
- Board Member Hershey suggested getting information about other districts that have seen virtual enrollment increase as she felt this was a state issue.
    - Board Member Pearson shared she believed that was a part of the FSBA platform.
    - Vice-Chairman Willie shared with the Board that he felt there needs to be some heavy overhauling as it relates to virtual.
    - Board Member Pearson explained that Florida is a high choice state.
    - Chair Andersen shared there is a lot of interest and investing in the educational options and she also shared insight about the quality of in person education versus virtual and inquired about the appetitive of virtual school.
- Board Member Joyce shared insight on the effectiveness of in person learning and feels the quality of education is better in brick and mortar versus virtual.

    - The discussion continued among Board Members on subjects such as understanding the incentive for virtual learning and why parents choose virtual. The discussion also covered topics such as parental support, student environment, flexibility, and health issues that may be some of the reasons for choosing to take virtual courses.
    - Vice-Chairman Willie spoke from the law makers aspect and feels the Board needs to know and understand why someone would support the virtual program.
- The Board moved onto discussing higher student achievement through accountability which is to ensure the new accountability system fosters teachers' collaboration and serves as a formative diagnostic assessment of student growth (see attachment). The discussion covered requesting a baseline year for 2022-2023. Board Member Joyce asked whether a baseline year was given during the previous Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) rollouts. Dr. Greene responded informing the Board that when FCAT came out there was a baseline year.
    - Chair Andersen suggested the Board decide what are the things that they should inquire of Legislation. The Board also discussed looking at the formative diagnostic assessment to gather a baseline to educate students where they are for the purposes of creating an academic plan. Discussion continued with Board Member Joyce adding when moving from FSA to Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (F.A.S.T.) it is more of a progress monitoring system.
    - Dr. Greene shared with the Board that school grades are not going away, and the stakes will be tied to the assessments. She also shared with the Board there are so many things that have not been answered.
    - Chair Andersen suggested that maybe a baseline is needed because of Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S. T.) because the standards changed but not because of testing. She believes that teachers and superintendents should talk about the baseline.
    - Board Member Hershey shared concerns for stress that parents may have experienced due to testing. She continued with sharing anytime standards are changed there has been a state adjustment in the assessment therefore she believes that due to the change in the standards a request should be made for a baseline year.
- Chair Andersen inquired of Hershey what would be the one thing that she would say to legislature if provided the opportunity.
    - Board Member Hershey responded that she would request a baseline year for practice.
- Board Member Pearson shared FSBA information that states it is critical that the accountability system captures the uniqueness of each student's academic journey and the teacher's classroom and their academic path and success to high school graduation. FSBA supports legislative efforts to implement an accountability system based on the new B.E. S. T. standards with the involvement of School Board members and other education stakeholders that results in a significant increase in learning time due to reduction of assessment time in the classroom provides multiple student learning snapshots throughout the year rather than one statewide assessment at the end of the year. This provides relevant diagnostic information in a timely manner to drive individualized student instruction and it ensures learning gains are primary and italicized buckets for the teacher, district, and school accountability.
    - Board Member Pearson shared this as a comparison and asked the Board if they wanted to stay with the baseline as it relates to the agenda item.
    - Board Members shared their thoughts about it and agreed the best thing would probably be to have a baseline year.

- Board Member Pearson moved onto the 3rd paragraph containing the 3rd item on the legislative platform which focuses on the skilled workforce and economic development with the action being to create and fund a statewide grant program for school districts to apply for funds to develop start-up or expand existing programs for high-wage, in-demand jobs in targeted industries that reflect the needs of the region within the state of Florida. This deals with asking for money in the form of a grant. She continued discussing by sharing feedback with Board Members letting them know this is what has been proposed and adopted.
    - Board Member Hershey added to the discussion by sharing this aligns to what is going on in Tallahassee right now and everybody needs employees.
    - Board Member Pearson shared with the Board about programs already working but need to be duplicated or if programs need to be expanded.
- Board Member Hershey suggested that Jax USA be added as a talking point.
    - Vice-Chairman Willie added more talking points such as: Underpaid, Unemployed Ages 18-24.
- Board Member Pearson moved on to topic #4 - Fiscal Responsibility through Responsive Procurement Practices. The action behind this item was to create a planning period for American Rescue Plan Funds to allow schools to successfully navigate supply chain and logistic challenges. This item deals with significant challenges with the worldwide demand for computers and virtual infrastructure while experiencing a global chip shortage.
    - The Board discussed the description paragraph as they did not feel it adequately covered the message being conveyed however Dr. Greene suggested to the Board that they leave the last paragraph as is since the approval of ESSER funds have not been received yet.
    - The discussion continued with Dr. Greene sharing with the Board, the grow you own teacher was not included in the legislative platform, so the Board discussed whether they wanted to have 3 or 4 items on the Legislative Platform.
- Discussion continued with Chair Andersen asking for Board Member thoughts on teacher's salary.
    - Board Member Hershey talked about changes in first year teacher's salaries, and she thinks the ongoing should be up to the school districts. Clarification was given to Board Member Jones about the teacher salary causing him to understand the request is to maintain and fill the gap for teacher's salaries. Board Members decided the action for this would be attracting and retaining highly effective teachers for paramount student success.
- She asked the Board Members if they desired to change the order of topics for discussion on the Legislative Platform and the Board suggested the following order:
    - skilled workforce and economic development
    - fund virtual education at the sustainable choice option
    - higher student achievement through accountability
    - the last topic would come from the FSBA platform and be tailored to Duval County Public Schools.
- Board Member Pearson and Chair Andersen thanked everyone for their input.

3. GOVERNANCE

- Chair Andersen inquired of Ms. Mairs about the Communicable Diseases Policy. Ms. Mairs shared with the Board that she desired to double check somethings and offered to read the language to the Board if they desired. Board Member Hershey shared concerns of discussing

this as it would be discussed in a policy meeting since this was not covered in the meeting notice.
    - Chair Andersen took that into consideration and decided that the Board would touch basis offline but would discuss on October 19, 2021. Ms. Mairs requested to be informed ahead of time of anything needing to be discussed.
- As it relates to Board Office Staffing, she asked the Board Members to please get their interview candidate to Ms. Schultz as soon as possible.
- Chair Andersen suggested the Evaluation committee meet to double check the evaluation tool to ensure they are on task.
- Discussion continued about the advisory team and meetings that are needed to review the revisions. Chair Andersen assigned that task to Board Member Joyce and asked Board Member Pearson to assist. Board member Joyce requested to have Mr. Brian McDuffie's s schedule. She also requested the Board Office Staff to schedule the evaluation committee meeting with Board Member Coker, herself, and anyone else who wanted to join and then get dates for the meeting from Mr. McDuffie when the draft is finished.
- Chair Andersen asked if there were any other items for Governance.
    - Board Member Pearson passed out a document that included a resolution from the FSBA Board and a letter from NSBA.
    - Chair Andersen inquired of the Board about processing a resolution and they decided that would be a good idea.
    - Vice-Chairman reflected on the NSBA letter and encouraged the Board Members to ensure they are educating the public. He suggested that the Board create something that says we want our parents to have a voice.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:
That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

Vote Results:
Motion: Charlotte Joyce
Second: Warren A. Jones

MA

Superintendent	Chairman