



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

September 14, 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. 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. ACADEMIC UPDATE

Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Assessment, Corey Wright, along with Chief of Academics, Paul Renfro, explained the Academic Update and Supports for Struggling Students (see attached).

Board Member Joyce arrived at 9:14 a.m.

Discussion involved:

- The differences between iReady and Star Math programs.
- The use of Qualtrics for teachers to sign up for professional learning opportunities.
- Strategic tutoring:
 - Using Read USA and other organizations for elementary and English, Language Arts only.
 - The District will be funding strategic tutoring for the secondary levels. Use hybrid for middle school and the experts are already on the high school campuses, but will be using some virtual tutoring for specific content.

- Explanation as to why the Blended Learning Baseline is always so high.
 - The use of the same ELA curriculum for the past 6 years.
 - The District has added supplemental curriculum to the Title I schools.
 - The large elementary schools need assistance also.
- The concern about fragile students taking the Standardized Aptitude Test/American College Testing (SAT/ACT) and the graduation rate.
 - There has been a partnership initiated with Mastery Prep, which offered a few free boot camps for the first semester. They will bring their teachers in and provide instruction to the identified students. This will take place in October, just before the time to take the SAT and that will allow the District to see the results of the program.
 - The District is looking at implementing the programs' curriculum for the second semester so as to pilot it and use it as a data point to determine if the District wants to use it in all schools compared to the current curriculum, ChalkTalk.
 - Explanation of what ChalkTalk was about and the problems that have occurred.
 - Participation in a grant funded program called Graduation Ready.
- A request to see the data for everything when the data becomes available. Also, to see data for the last class in school all year long, specifically the graduation rate for each district.
- Conversation about the baseline shown in the PowerPoint presentation (see attached).
- The Teacher Academy for new teachers and teachers who are identified to participate in the program so as to get ready for the beginning of school. Beyond that, schools will engage in instructional reviews with tools.
- The scores of chronically absent students.
- Piloting projects across the district for student groups instead of specific schools.
- If data is impacted by the students who stay home or go somewhere else.
- The monitoring of high-performing students leaving and teachers' salaries being attached to their students' proficiency.
- Engaging students who are struggling.
- A request to see the disaggregated data by subgroups.
- Use of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER).
- Use of volunteers to assist the students. Notification to potential volunteers about the process.
- Use of tutoring to close student gaps in reading and math.
- A request for data on enrollment count for the last 3 years by schools, containing traditional, charter school, virtual, and private schools.
- Vacancies impacting the lower performing schools: State-wide concern about filling Math, Science, Exceptional Student Education (ESE), and massive shortage of Paraprofessionals due to pay.
- Other types of data will be available on how students are being moved.

2. SUPPORTS FOR STRUGGLING STUDENTS

Discussion for this topic was included in the Academic Update.

3. REDISTRICTING

Discussion involved:

- Vice Chairman Willie provided an update regarding the redistricting process for the City Council.
- Board Member Dr. Coker briefly reviewed the documents that she shared with the Board Members from the redistricting meeting.
- Director, Kimberly Miller mentioned the upcoming meetings and suggested the Board Members reach out to the council members with any concerns.
- A request to have a copy of the School Choice maps/attendance zone maps.
- Board Member Jones mentioned what to be cognizant of when going to meetings and speaking with the council people.

Break at 11:14 a.m.

Resumed at 11:27 a.m.

4. BOARD STAFFING

Assistant Superintendent Vicki Schultz shared a summary of the results from the Administrative Assistant interviews and presented the Board Members with the options for filling the vacant position.

Discussion involved:

- Coordinator Nena Sparrow filling the position of Supervisor in the Board Office.
- Board Member Hershey requested to have a conversation about the role of the Supervisor.
- Completing minutes.
- The purpose of the changes in the office format.
- Roles of responsibilities of the Administrative Assistants
- All Board Members except the Vice Chairman wanted to hire from the existing list.
- Board Members shared their thoughts about selecting the candidate, Monica Adams.
- Role of the Supervisor.
- If the first candidate turns down the position, then the position would be reposted.
- The need for support staff and the Supervisor to be assigned to the Board and not the Superintendent.
- Chief of Staff, Sonita Young, explained the organizational structure, that the Supervisor would answer to the Board, and the role of the former Executive Director, Internal Board Auditor.

5. GOVERNANCE

Board Member Pearson:

- Attended the Florida School Board Association (FSBA) Advocacy meeting in Kissimmee, FL. She shared that one of the items the Board submitted, made it to the State Platform.
- She read the items that were going to be requested on the Federal and State Platform.

- A discussion with the Department of Education (DOE) about the General Knowledge (GK) exam, which did not make the Platform.
- Proposal to workshop the dress code with students to help them understand and get their input.

Further discussion on involving students:

- The District had plans to involve students in a different way.
- Dr. Greene then explained the process that is being worked on to get student input.
- Chair Andersen mentioned the structure of how students are engaged and the current structure at present is JAGS.
- The desire to help students understand how and why policy is written.

Vice Chairman Willie made an apology for information of the Emergency Meeting before it was noticed.

Chair Andersen mentioned that she had requested for Dr. Goldhagen to stay at the meeting.

Board Member Joyce expressed that if the Board is going to listen to medical professionals, there is a need to hear both sides of an argument.

Vice Chairman Willie spoke about the schools that are being consolidated and people expressing interest in utilizing the facilities.

Board Member Jones spoke about having a meeting with the City Council about schools being demolished.

Board Member Hershey expressed her thoughts regarding the Emergency Meeting. Chair Andersen explained how the Emergency Meeting came to be scheduled. Office of General Counsel, Rita Mairs, added to the conversation. Other Board Members also provided input into the conversation.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Motioned: Board Member Joyce
Second: Board Member Dr. Coker

GC

Superintendent

Chairman