



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

April 6, 2021, Regular Board 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. Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent, and Ms. Karen Chastain and Rita Mairs, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation or Thought of the Day

The Chair called for a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognitions/Presentations of Awards

Board Members

PINEDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Kate Fulginiti, Principal
Pinedale Elementary School

Through a video presentation, Principal Fulginiti highlighted the programs and accomplishments of the students and faculty at Pinedale Elementary School. Board Member Jones thanked Principal Fulginiti for coming out to showcase the school and is appreciative to Dr. Greene for putting Ms. Fulginiti at Pinedale Elementary School.

Communications

~~SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS PROCLAMATION – WITHDRAWN~~

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS PARTNER RECOGNITION

Duval County Public School expressed their appreciation to the Jacksonville Jaguars for the partnership they demonstrate on a continuous basis through the Project 17 program.

Also, new Head Coach Urban Meyer presented Dr. Greene with The Cleat award from the Jacksonville Jaguars for being named the 2021 Florida Superintendent of the Year.

Approval of Agenda

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 6, 2021, AGENDA

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the April 6, 2021 agenda as submitted on March 30, 2021 with the following changes:

- **Communications - School Social Workers Proclamation - Item Withdrawn**
- **Information Technology - Leased Lit or Leased Dark Fiber Wide Area Network (WAN) - Attachment Added**

Vote Results:

Motion: Warren Jones

Second: Lori Hershey

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Warren Jones

Charlotte Joyce

Elizabeth Andersen

Darryl Willie

Kelly Coker

Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson's report

Elizabeth Andersen, Chair
Duval County School Board

Through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached in agenda), Chair Andersen recapped what has happened in the renaming process up to this point. She clarified that the voting made available is more of a survey from the Superintendent rather than a decision-making process. She also explained what the estimated cost would be in those schools having their names changed. She listed what the source of funds would be and that it would NOT include surtax funds. Jacksonville Public Education Fund has set up an account to collect any money donated for renaming purposes.

She also noted that Karen Chastain, attorney to the School Board from Office of General Counsel, would be leaving and each Board Member thanked her for her 21 years of service to the Board.

Superintendent's Reports

Superintendent's report

Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent
Duval County Public Schools

Through a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Greene gave an update on the COVID-19 cases within the District and noted that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has reduced social distancing from six feet down to three feet. She also gave an update on state testing, National Nutrition Month within the District, the Month of the Military Child, and the annual Student Mental Health Conference.

Sales Surtax Oversight Committee Report

Hank Rogers, Chairman
Sales Surtax Oversight Committee

Following the Board's recognition at the January 12, 2021 Regular Board meeting, the Oversight Committee held their first meeting on January 19, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

At this orientation meeting, Ms. Karen Chastain reviewed the purpose and objectives of the committee, went over our governing documents such as the Board resolution and Board Policy 9.66, and Robert's Rules of Order. Mr. Brian McDuffie, Executive Director of Policy and Compliance, and Ms. Tashonia Grant, Director of Policy and Compliance, gave a presentation on Sunshine Law and public records requests. We thank Dr. Greene and Chairwoman Andersen for helping to facilitate that meeting. Also, thank you to those board members who were able to attend and provide welcoming remarks to committee members.

The committee met again on February 3, 2021 and elections for chair and vice chair were held. Ultimately, I was elected as chairman and our vice chairman is Nate Day. It is our privilege to serve on the committee in this capacity. Following our election, we received department overviews from the District. Chief Financial Officer Michelle Begley provided a finance overview, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Paul Soares, Director of Purchasing Terrence Wright, and Executive Director of Design and Construction Services Byron Page provided a facilities and construction overview, and Chief of Marketing and Public Relations Dr. Tracy Pierce provided a

communications overview of the transparency strategies the District, as well as the committee, will use for this initiative moving forward. District Consultant David Voss gave the committee a brief overview on how to respond to the media and provided the suggestion that myself and Mr. Day, as chair and vice chair, should serve as spokespersons for the group.

Our last meeting was on March 17, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. and we had another full, informative meeting. Mr. Soares provided us with an operations update and will do so on a regular basis. Anthony Cobb, Executive Director of Financial Services, gave a presentation on district charter school eligibility and reviewed a mock-up of a financial reporting template for charter schools. After review and discussion, the committee approved the template with an amendment to add a statement requesting that charter schools include supporting documentation with their reports. Additionally, the committee approved an initial communication from the Oversight Committee to charter school principals which was sent out.

Lastly, at our March meeting, we configured our meeting logistics. Moving forward, the committee will meet on the third Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted, and will alternate between the times of 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21st at 10:00a.m.

We encourage all members of the public to visit duvalschools.org/half-penny in order to access the artifacts of the committee as well as other sales surtax updates.

Public Comment

The following were not in favor of changing school names:

- Peyton Quina
- Melanie Love

The following were in favor of changing school names:

- Joe Honeycutt
- Elnora Atkins
- Isaiah Rumlin
- Amril Hamer
- Becky Williams - St. Augustine, FL - also wanted Ms. Donofrio returned to the classroom

Motion:

That the School Board of Duval County take a short recess to allow IT to reboot the broadcast system.

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte D. Joyce

Second: Lori Hershey

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Warren Jones
Charlotte Joyce
Elizabeth Andersen
Darryl Willie
Kelly Coker
Cindy Pearson

Nay:
None

The meeting reconvened at 7:19 p.m.

The following were not in favor of changing school names:

- Hugh Blanton
- Pat Geer
- Dana Pommell
- Seber Newsome III - Nassau County

The following were in favor of changing school names:

- Lyla Williams - St. Augustine, FL - also wanted Ms. Donofrio returned to the classroom
- Joy Washington - St. Augustine, FL - also wanted Ms. Donofrio returned to the classroom
- Avery Black - St. Augustine, FL - also wanted Ms. Donofrio returned to the classroom
- Mary Warren
- John Warren
- Nancy Staats
- Judy Sheklin
- Juanita Powell-Williams
- Claudia Liner
- Jill Liner
- Emma Martinez - Ponte Vedra, FL
- Hope McMath
- Dan Merkan
- Van Gayton
- Patricia Munez
- Kimberly Allen

The following were neutral on the topic of school name changes:

Reginald Blount

Mr. Blount addressed our black youth by noting: We have successful black leaders in our community today in spite of racism that exists in our society. Find out how they have done it.

Tim Miller

In light of all the challenges facing the Board, Mr. Miller encouraged the Board to make sure Exceptional

Student Education doesn't fall behind.

Motion:

That the School Board of Duval County take a short recess to allow IT to reboot the broadcast system.

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte D. Joyce

Second: Lori Hershey

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Warren Jones

Charlotte Joyce

Elizabeth Andersen

Darryl Willie

Kelly Coker

Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

The meeting reconvened at 8:18 p.m.

The following were not in favor of changing school names:

- Martha Pumphrey
- David Lawrence
- Robert Lawrence
- Marcia (last name not on card and inaudible on recording)
- Patti Price
- Ronald Wrye
- Chris Chandler
- Marshal Rollins - Starke, FL
- Blake Harper
- Jerry Holt
- Marshall Clayton Rawson - Hampton, FL - did not speak
- Lisa York - did not wish to speak

The following were in favor of changing school names:

- Wells Todd
- Van Nostrand
- Leigh Ann Gustavus - did not speak
- Christine Hatfield - St. Augustine, FL

- Cindy Jorgensen
- Ethan Evans
- JoAnn Brooks
- Hailey Moore - not present
- Steven Davis - not present
- Bob Rutter
- Sarah Thompson
- Laura Ragunas
- Shawn Eaton

Elton Brown

Mr. Brown urged the Board to reconsider awarding the custodial contract.

Comments from Parent Organizations

Theresa Rogers, President

Duval County Council of PTAs (DCCPTA)

Back in August I shared part of the resolution adopted by the membership of the Florida PTA. Tonight, I am going to read it in its entirety.

Two of PTA's core values are diversity and respect. To accomplish our mission of enabling every child to reach their potential, we must focus on respecting all children, their diversity, and their experiences. For our communities to operate in full engagement and empowerment to advocate for all children, we must consider the names and symbols of educational institutions within our communities.

The harm from colonization and enslavement on our country, state, and local communities is profound. Commemorations and symbols become ingrained into the background tapestry of our institutions. Despite this background, we must examine our commemorations and symbols so we can fully advocate for all children. School names and symbols (e.g., mascots) that disenfranchise their populations reinforce racism and stereotypes, and thus continue disempowering and harming our communities. Our public schools are proclaimed safe places and must be safe for everyone.

PTA's mission is to advocate for all children to reach their full potential. We cannot effectively do that if one child is allowed to be harmed. If we are ever to find a way forward for every child to reach their full potential, each PTA needs to speak up with one voice to ensure that our educational institutions are safe - even in their names and symbols.

Whereas,

At least 195 public schools around the country have names that are culturally insensitive. They memorialize Confederate soldiers, leaders, or politicians even though more than half of the 125,000 students who attend these schools are Black (22%) or Hispanic (31%). In North America, there are more than two thousand professional, college, and high school teams with Native team names and symbols.

Whereas,

An often overlooked component of race and racism is the impact of school names and symbols on the school culture in shaping the identities of students, teachers, and their communities. These memorializations normalize stereotypes and reinforce systemic racism, thereby producing toxic learning environments for students and educators leading to inequitable learning outcomes.

Whereas,

School names and symbols (e.g. mascots) reflect school community values. Removing or transforming symbols of racial hierarchy and creating affirming sites of memory in their place expresses respect towards the lives of people who were harmed by the historical injustices. Title VI provides practices and supports community engagement that lead to reflections regarding our schools, including their names and symbols, as recently demonstrated in Hillsborough County.

Be It Resolved, that Florida PTA and its constituent associations call for and support the renaming of schools which have culturally insensitive names,

Be It Resolved, that Florida PTA and its constituent associations call for and support the replacement of school mascots which are culturally insensitive,

Be It Resolved, that Florida PTA and its constituent associations advocate for school community and stakeholder input in the renaming and replacement process.

Michael Hawk, Chair
District Advisory Council (DAC)

Our last meeting was March 22, 2021. During that meeting, we had a mini baby shower for Ms. Hairston. We anticipated having Board Member Joyce. Due to a scheduling conflict, Ms. Joyce was with us, but after we adjourned the meeting. Members of the DAC requested her presence. They had questions and concerns about the March 5th Board meeting. We left some of their concerns with members of the District, but the District did not feel it appropriate to get in the middle. I agreed. So tonight, I want to bring up some of the concerns. This meeting seemed to take place in response to a School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting that was held at Robert E Lee High School. During that meeting, things were brought up by the alumni. Why should underclassmen be able to vote? Alumni should be able to mail in votes and what about the cost? During that meeting one of the alumni said, "You mean seven people are going to make this decision?" to which someone else replied, "All it takes is four." We had concerns because some of the DAC members as well as some of the SAC members and some of the students say the fix is in.

I also sat through five community meetings that to me, felt like five mini clan meetings. I was told get over it. Jesus didn't condemn slavery. If there are problems in the school, how long has it been predominantly Africa American? If you want to be mad at someone, be mad at the chiefs in Africa that sold you into slavery. This is about black and white, and we don't owe you anything. And then to top it off, I was flashed the white power sign and that gentleman told the Board Members who were present that their decision was very important for their families. This whole process has been troubling.

When this was first brought up and voted on, I said we should try to take the emotion out of this and think practically. I want to say this again. Here is what i think:

There are some things that are morally wrong and some things that are illegal. Sometimes they are the same and sometimes they are not. Slavery was morally wrong, but not illegal at the time.

Jean Ribault - 1520 to 1565 - morally wrong but not illegal
Andrew Jackson - morally wrong but not illegal
Joseph Finegan - morally wrong and illegal
James Ewell Brown Stuart (JEB Stuart) - morally wrong and illegal
Jefferson Davis - morally wrong and illegal
Edmond Kirby Smith - morally wrong and illegal
Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson - morally wrong and illegal
Robert E Lee - morally wrong and illegal

All of these men except Finegan betrayed their commission in the USA Armed Forces. All these men fought against the United States of America.

Comments from District Student Government Association

There was no report.

Comments from Employee Organizations

There were no reports.

Approval of Minutes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following Board minutes:

- **February 9, 2021 - Board Workshop**
- **February 16, 2021 - Committee Meeting**
- **February 16, 2021 - Board Workshop**
- **February 19, 2021 - Board Workshop**
- **February 25, 2021 - Board Workshop**
- **March 2, 2021 - Regular Board Meeting**
- **March 5, 2021 - Board Member Meeting**
- **March 17, 2021 - Student Expulsion Hearing**

Vote Results:

Motion: Lori Hershey

Second: Darryl Willie

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Warren Jones
Charlotte Joyce
Elizabeth Andersen
Darryl Willie
Kelly Coker
Cindy Pearson

Nay:
None

Approval of Consent Agenda

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion:
That the Duval County School Board approve the Consent Agenda.

Vote Results:
Motion: Lori Hershey
Second: Kelly Coker

PASSED - 7-0

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

Nay:
None

Discussion:
Board Member Joyce asked that the following items be moved to Discussion:

LEASED LIT OR LEASED DARK FIBER WIDE AREA NETWORK (WAN)
AWARD - CUSTODIAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT, RFP NO. 13-21/TW

Consent Agenda

Academic Services

1. AGREEMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

School Choice and Pupil Assignments

2. APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT (CHARTER) - BISCAYNE MYCROSCHOOL, INC., (FORMERLY KNOWN AS FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL FOR ACCELERATED LEARNING - GREATER JACKSONVILLE, INC.), DOING BUSINESS AS BISCAYNE HIGH SCHOOL

Human Resource Services - Staffing

3. HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES EMPLOYEE TRANSACTIONS
4. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH TPG CULTURAL EXCHANGE SERVICES, LLC.
5. PROPERTY INSURANCE

Human Resource Services - Compensation

6. APPROVAL OF NON-BARGAINING UNIT SALARY SCHEDULES FOR 2020-2021

Human Resource Services - Labor Relations

7. APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH DUVAL TEACHERS UNITED (DTU) FOR THE CONVERSION OF TEACHERS FROM THE GRANDFATHER SALARY SCHEDULE TO THE PERFORMANCE PAY SALARY SCHEDULE

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

8. EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY – DANIEL NICHOLAS

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

9. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT – JANUARY 2021
10. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS – FEBRUARY 2021
11. BOND COUNSEL SERVICES
12. FINANCIAL ADVISOR SERVICES

Information Technology

13. GAGGLE SAFETY MANAGEMENT SERVICES RENEWAL

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

14. CHANGE ORDER REPORT

15. PERIODIC REPORT OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETIONS AND FINAL INSPECTIONS OF MAJOR MAINTENANCE AND MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDER \$1,000,000.

16. PREQUALIFICATIONS OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

17. PHASE III DOCUMENTS APPROVAL - CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS, NORTHWESTERN LEGENDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #124, DCPS PROJECT NUMBER M-89510.

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

18. TREE TRIMMING AND REMOVAL, OEO SHELTERED MARKET - AWARD

19. FEBRUARY 2021 PURCHASE REPORT

20. SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT

Discussion

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

21. EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY – THOMAS CAGGIANO

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the amended written reprimand with suspension without pay for five (5) days for Thomas Caggiano, a Teacher at Sandalwood High School. The recommended amended written reprimand with suspension without pay is for unprofessional conduct and was the recommendation of the assigned DCPS counsel.

Vote Results:

Motion: Lori Hershey

Second: Warren Jones

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Warren Jones

Charlotte Joyce

Elizabeth Andersen

Darryl Willie

Kelly Coker
Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

Discussion:

This item was brought before the Board back in December 2020. Board Member Joyce wondered why it is being brought back again. Mr. Derrel Chatmon, Office of General Counsel, indicated there was additional information uncovered which resulted in more charges being added. That is why the item is returning before the Board.

Information Technology

22. LEASED LIT OR LEASED DARK FIBER WIDE AREA NETWORK (WAN)

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the services agreement with Crown Castle Fiber LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$26,800,001.14 for the period of July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2031, for RFP NO. 16-21/LM (Leased LIT or Leased Dark Fiber Wide Area Network).

That the Duval County School Board approve the award to purchase equipment to Step CG, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$2,279,124.10 for the period of July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2031, for RFP NO. 16-21/LM (Leased LIT or Leased Dark Fiber Wide Area Network).

That the Duval County Public School Board authorize the Board Chairman or Vice Chairman, and the Superintendent, to execute the agreement with Crown Castle Fiber LLC, contingent upon form approval by the Office of General Counsel.

Vote Results:

Motion: Warren Jones

Second: Lori Hershey

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey
Warren Jones
Charlotte Joyce
Elizabeth Andersen
Darryl Willie
Kelly Coker
Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

Discussion:

Chief of Technology Services Jim Culbert explained to the Board that these services are leased because the school district doesn't have the authority to go around the City and lay fiber in the ground. He explained the roles played by both the vendor and the District in getting the fiber laid and utilizing the service. Currently, there are federal dollars available to handle the last mile to be laid which would reduce the District's cost from \$550,000 a month to \$75,000 a month.

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

23. AWARD - CUSTODIAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT, RFP NO. 13-21/TW

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the Custodial Services Management, RFP No. 13-21/TW contract award to HES Facilities, LLC., from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

That the Duval County School Board authorize the Chairman or Vice Chairman and Superintendent to execute the contract upon form approval by the Office of General Counsel.

Vote Results:

Motion: Lori Hershey

Second: Darryl Willie

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Warren Jones

Charlotte Joyce

Elizabeth Andersen

Darryl Willie

Kelly Coker

Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

Discussion:

Board Member Joyce asked questions regarding how this contract was awarded and the practice of shifting the current personnel for custodial services over to the new vendor. Assistant Superintendent of Operations Paul Soares explained the point system used by our Purchasing Department when considering all bids for custodial services. The incoming company will need to interview and potentially hire the workers from the previous vendor and how many of those will be hired is unknown at this point. That will all need to be completed by the start of the contract which will be July 1, 2021.

Board Member Travel

BOARD MEMBER TRAVEL

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board confirm the travel listed is for official Board business and that it complies with the rules of the State Board of Education:

- **June 8-11, 2021 - Tampa, FL - FSBA Summer Conference - Andersen, Coker, Hershey, Joyce, Pearson**

Vote Results:

Motion: Lori Hershey

Second: Warren Jones

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Warren Jones

Charlotte Joyce

Elizabeth Andersen

Darryl Willie

Kelly Coker

Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

No public comment.

No Board discussion.

Superintendent's Travel

There was no Superintendent travel.

For The Record

Board Member Warren A. Jones

Board Member Jones noted the following:

- Thanked all who attended the community meetings for the school name changes
- Thanked the Jumbo Shrimp for sponsoring the Heritage Classic Baseball game
- Congratulated Cheryl Hartley of Crown Point Elementary as Employee of the Year
- Congratulated James Weldon Johnson for being named the Community First School of the Month

Board Member Cindy Pearson

Board Member Pearson noted the following:

- High school students can develop their leadership skills by having dance marathons to raise money for children's hospitals. Locally they have raised \$52,333.
- Gave words of encouragement to students as they begin a season of testing

Board Member Lori Hershey

Board Member Hershey noted the following:

- Congratulations to Cheryl Hartley, Crown Point Elementary, as Employee of the Year
- Thanked the security workers who helped control tensions at community meetings
- Wished students well on upcoming Florida Standards Assessment

Board Member Dr. Kelly Coker

Board Member Coker noted the following:

- Congratulations to Assistant Superintendent Sharwonda Peek on her invitation to speak at the Magnet Schools of America Conference.
- Congratulations to Merrill Road Elementary School and Principal Natasha Clark for being chosen for the Community First School of the Month.
- She, too, thanked everyone for attending the community meetings

Board Member Charlotte D. Joyce

Board Member Joyce noted the following:

- Congratulated Dr. Greene on receiving the Cleat Award from the Jaguars
- Apologized to Mr. Hawk for not being able to make their meeting on time and will call him.

Vice Chair Darryl Willie

Board Member Willie noted the following:

- Wanted to go on the record--Black Lives Matter
- Thanked everyone for coming out to the community meetings, including the students
- Commended the Superintendent and her staff on their COVID response
- Congratulated Oceanway Middle School and Principal Emily Kristansen for being named Community First School of the Month
- Encouraged the students to get involved in Mr. T's reading challenge that are participating in it

Chair Elizabeth Andersen

Chair Andersen noted the following:

- Thanked the Jaguars for presenting their award to Dr. Greene
- Appreciated Coach Meyers' comments on the importance of being involved in the community
- Happy Assistant Principal Week
- Recognized Autism Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Congratulated Atlantic Beach Elementary for being named the Community First School of the Month
- Thanked everyone who came out tonight during Public Comments and appreciated everyone's civility

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting.

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte Joyce

Second: Lori Hershey

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Warren Jones

Charlotte Joyce

Elizabeth Andersen

Darryl Willie

Kelly Coker

Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

LBL

Superintendent

Chairman