Meeting Minutes

Duval County Public Schools

March 22, 2022, Board Workshop

Mr. Darryl Willie, Chairman
Dr. Kelly Coker, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Elizabeth Andersen
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 Mr. Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:43 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. BUDGET UPDATE

Michelle Begley, Chief Financial Officer, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the 2021-2022 Budget Overview.

Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent and Jim Culbert, Chief Officer, Technology Services also joined in the discussion on the following:

- Decrease in transportation and class size reduction in funds.
- Dr. Greene stated that the charts make it appear that we received more money for teachers' salaries, but we have not. The requirement for all districts is $47,500.00, and this amount allows for maintaining that. This is not an increase, as this has been the amount for the last two (2) years.
- Millage rates are mandated by the state for these amounts. Discretionary and capital outlays would increase with the increase of the millage rate.
- All of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) I has been expended. Charter and private schools have some left to spend.
- Charter schools have been notified of the deadline dates for the expenditures and the District has no penalties for requiring Charter Schools to meet the deadline dates.
- Ms. Begley requested of the state for guidance on expenditures.
- The ESSER II funds end date is 09/30/2023 and there is a designated amount required to be used to find students who did not return post pandemic. If the funds are not expended, there are

consequences for the District, but not for Charter Schools.
- ESSER III funds were approved over Spring Break.
- The District will be updating classrooms with smart boards and wi-fi internet for students who do not have that. HVAC's will be updated under Operationals.
- Mr. Culbert stated that the delay in the first shipment of teacher laptops was due to chip shortage, but that at least 2,000 were received.
- Learning loss funds were explained.
- Health care benefits related to COVID were explained.
- The amendment process was explained.
- Discussion regarding the decrease in student enrollment and the impact that it will have on the District. It is believed that the Empowerment Scholarship will be a determining factor. The District is doing what it can to consolidate to provide assurance being good stewards of the funding.
- Funds distributed to Charter Schools were discussed. It is important for the public to be aware that there are responsibilities for the Charter Schools to complete in order to receive funding.

2. GOVERNANCE

Dr. Greene, and Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel joined in the discussion on the following topics:

- Board Member Hershey:
  - Recommended that as the District moves forward regarding the Millage increase, at some point the District could provide some workshops on what is being done to assist the teachers, such as planning periods, coaches, etc.
  - Inquired what the District was doing regarding Student Conduct as we are losing teachers/staff due to this problem. She also inquired how can we expedite assessment of a student who has needs in a timely manner as one student - with needs that need to be addressed - can disrupt the learning environment. She also questioned the student dress code.
  - The District can increase teachers' pay, but other issues and concerns need to be addressed as well.
  - She also stated that a review of middle management needs to be performed as she and Dr. Greene, at school visits, have experienced students having a delay in receiving instructional materials, even though proper requests have been made.
- Dr. Greene stated there will be a presentation in April regarding Request For Quotes (RFQ) and the sale of the building.
- Discussion was held regarding the status of testing now that the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) has been done away with. Dr. Greene stated that there is a percentage of testing that is allowed and that has not changed and the District is awaiting directions from the state as to how to proceed.
- Board Member Andersen shared information regarding the conference she attended in Washington, DC.
  - The general consensus is public education is at risk for a broad range of issues.
  - There was much conversation regarding the American Rescue Plan and how that was spent, its return and possibility of extending it.
  - There was excitement around Title I funding that it might be doubled. Significant increase in poverty rate. Concerns about Title 9 requirements.
  - The school infrastructure package was discussed.
  - The legislature needs to meet the needs of mental health post-COVID. The general desire to have school lunches extended with additional federal funding.
- Board Member Joyce thanked Board Member Hershey for expressing her concerns regarding the

Student Code of Conduct because it this is a nationwide crisis and believes that it is more than just a paycheck amount. She inquired what could be done to make sure teachers are supported in their classrooms and be trailblazers. Board Member Joyce would also like further conversations to take place regarding student walkouts as this is a concern for instructional time.

- Board Member Dr. Coker stated that at the recent conference in Tallahassee there were name tags for those representing certain districts. These have been ordered by Dr. Pierce, but when received, did not feel the quality standards were met and reordered new ones.
- Mr. Poole stated that orientation and overview for the upcoming Audit Advisory Committee meeting would include public records and Sunshine Law. He stated this is a great group who will bring different experiences to the district and Ms. Blades. Legislation has been sent to the City Hall regarding the Millage.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

CRH

______________________________ Superintendent

______________________________ Chairman