

January 10, 2023, Board Workshop

Dr. Kelly Coker, Chairman
Ms. Cindy Pearson, Vice-Chairman
Ms. April A. Carney
Ms. Lori Hershey
Mr. Warren A. Jones
Ms. Charlotte D. Joyce
Mr. Darryl Willie
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 9:03 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. PMA 2 AND BLENDED LEARNING

Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent, Duval County Public Schools, introduced Mr. Corey Wright, Assistant Superintendent, Accountability and Assessment, Mrs. Paula Renfro, Chief of Academic Officer and Mr. Scott Schneider, Chief of Schools who presented a PowerPoint presentation on Student Assessment Data for the 2022-2023 school year (see attached).

Board Member Joyce arrived at 9:06 a.m.

Mrs. Renfro shared handouts on the Scope and Sequence for basic reading, snip of kindergarten UFLI, lesson planning and implementation support and Florida's B.E.S.T. standards for mathematics for grade level 3 (see attached). She explained to the Board what things were implemented for kindergartens and first graders which improved the growth of kindergartners in reading.

Discussion included the following:

- UFLI has 60 early adopter schools.
- Change in standards and change in tests could cause a change in data.
- PMA2 gives a high level view of how students are performing throughout the district.
- Importance of teachers getting immediate access to student performance so that adjustments can

be made when necessary.

- This year's data covers all topics and the data is broken down by subjects and it reveals positive trends.
- The implementation of UFLI will assist with more students being ready to read.
- UFLI is through the University of Florida, and assists students with reading, comprehension and vocabulary.
- Teachers are saying students that could not read prior to the use of UFLI are able to read after 6 weeks.
- UFLI is originally for K-2 and for 4th and 5th graders, Communities in Schools also uses UFLI to assist them.
- Another curriculum being used along with UFLI is Benchmark Advance.
- For advanced students, and early readers, the foundational skills help students get beyond the guessing game.
- Dr. Greene shared with Board Member Jones the data from charter schools that impact the scores of the district can be brought back to him.
- The continued use of UFLI is important as it solidifies a student's ability to read complex words.
- Thousands of students are being moved in English Language Arts (ELA) and reading proficiency.
- Dr. Coker requested to have the tables for last year for all ethnicities for comparative data as well as ELA data for 6-8 grade students in those classes that have had 2-3 week vacancies or more.
- Dr. Greene shared vacancies are not the only thing that has affected 6-8 graders, but Covid has also affected them.
- Reading and Math tutoring modules were rebuilt based upon more complex standards, for those tutoring below level, and on the bubble students.
- Achieve 3000 has a program embedded called Boost and it helps with reading. It also includes a special feature for ESL students.
- Language! Live is a curriculum used for students that have scored level 1 or 2. It builds in an oral language component. The program is interactive and it has an individualized component as well as a small whole group component.
- Language! Live gives teachers access to student progress and the program makes suggestions for students based on independent practice.
- Studysync is the core curriculum, and it provides scalpels for grade level learners to assist with deeper thinking. It helps teachers assign the practice and it grades the practice for them.
- Achieve 3000 Boost is available through grade 10.
- Actively Learn includes lots of activities and it also provides activities for students with dyslexia.
- 3rd grade has the most transition because things that were not previously taught in 3rd grade are now required to be taught.
- To ensure the students in 3rd grade learn multiplication, adjustments have been made in grades K-2 to assist students with conceptual understanding so that 3rd graders understand how to decompose numbers, resulting in the implementation of pre-algebra.
- In order to see the utilization of tutorial videos, the views on tutorial videos need to be converted to YouTube.
- Middle school teachers have on demand and the video library is being increased.
- The addressing of misconcepts within Mathematics.
- enVision has student videos and it provides prompts to assist students with solving the problems.
- Students are able to engage in tier 1 instruction when they are not in the classroom by use of Khan Academy, which is catered directly to Duval County.
- Every school has an academic specialist assigned to them.
- Biology class resources will show a long-term impact.
- Making Social Studies content more visible to produce equitable learning outcomes.

- Working with schools on pacing and aligning areas of concerns and having remediation methods in place.
- The Accountability and Assessment, Academic and Chief of Schools offices are all working together.
- The data is reviewed per school as well as benchmarks are reviewed by grade level and teacher and the information is discussed with teachers and schools.
- Ensuring core instruction meets the students' needs.
- Evaluate to see if teachers are using tier 1 interventions.
- The use of the 4-step process and the use of the best comparable data.
- Identifying the who, what, how and doing it now.
- Small group interventions.
- Board Member Willie thanked Mr. Schneider for all of his work.
- The teachers receive their classroom data and only what impacts them.
- The teachers appreciate the data being shared with them and the principals take the time to explain what the data means.
- Teachers are taking advantage of more professional development.
- Chairman Dr. Coker thanked the staff for the deep dive in this area and keeping everyone abreast of why they do what they do.

Dr. Greene commended the team, Mr. Wright, Ms. Renfro and Mr. Schneider and shared with the Board that their leadership has been phenomenal and the resources and training have been provided to ensure teachers have what they need, to do what they need to do. She continued sharing with them that the African American students are still the subgroup that is not where the district desires them to be. Therefore, UFLI and other interventions are being utilized to ensure every child has what they need to be successful.

2. ANNUAL AUDIT OF INTERNAL FUNDS

Mrs. Michelle Begley, Chief Financial Officer, shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Board on the status of internal accounts audit reports. The presentation included annual financial and operational reports (see attached). She continued sharing with the Board the challenges with turnovers in certain positions, along with sharing the department background.

Discussion included the following:

- The majority of the revenue in our schools stems from yearbooks, field trips, and activity fees. The schools have very little grant funds as grant funds are normally at the district level.
- The biggest generator of school funds stems from middle and high schools, due to concession stands, selling t-shirts or prom tickets.
- Transitioning the sale of athletic tickets to an online method has reduced the work at the school level as the company collects the funds, then sends it to the schools, which reduces the paperwork.
- Vice-Chairman Pearson asked if someone could negotiate the online method, so the service charge is per transaction versus per ticket.
- Within the guidance of writing audit reports, it is understood that when dealing with finance and audit reports, the use of "present fairly" is a good thing.
- Concerns about finance staffing issues and whether staffing structure changes have been discussed.
- The vacant position was not previously a director's position, but since Covid, the market has become very competitive and the number of people qualified to do the job has decreased. The work from home opportunity within other companies also poses a challenge for the district to fill this vacancy.
- A solution is needed for this issue, but the union contract must be followed.
- Internal audits are one year behind.

- Board Member Joyce requested to have a report listed by the school and requested to see the audit findings per school.
- Internal Accounts Audits are generally completed each year, but due to turnover rates for bookkeepers, sometimes it can take longer.
- Audit field work will begin in April for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and in August the audit field work for the 2022-2023 fiscal year will begin, endeavoring to complete the audits by December 2023.
- The recruitment of auditors from outside contractors.
- All auditors must be certified.
- Ways to get young people certified through the district.
- The significance of the Director's position being a certified position.
- The external auditors have indicated that when the district uses a vendor to perform the audits, they do not have to review the working papers. Therefore, the annual auditors can rely on that information. This applies to operational audits.
- The district does not have any Curriculum and Technical Education (CTE) programs that are pipelines in preparing our students that have an interest in auditing. The district has the Vystar program which focuses more on finance.
- The division of work for the external contractors to bring all audits current.
- Once the Finance department is fully staffed, then the external contractor position would need to be revisited to see if it is still needed.
- There is a need to be out of the box thinkers, as schools are engaging in more revenue. Therefore, schools need internal and external contracted solutions.
- An auditor position was last filled in June 2022.
- Identifying the disconnect with those that are interviewing for the Director and Auditor positions and accepting the job but then end up declining. This is an ongoing problem within the district and needs to be fixed.
- The Duval County Public Schools' auditor salary and what the auditor is responsible for.
- Ways to change the position to a non-union position.
- The district does not want to send the wrong message to employees. Therefore, there is a need to see how the contracts work and if they can get the work done. To make the position non-union, it means the individual would have to be an administrator/coordinator, which would be costly.
- Following the contract is important as high school audits are time-consuming, therefore a solution must be thought through.
- There were 4 audit findings in which corrective actions have already taken place and the issues have been resolved.

3. ACCREDITATION UPDATE

Dr. Dana Kriznar, Deputy Superintendent, shared with the Board a PowerPoint presentation on the Duval District Accreditation (see attached). Mrs. Sonita Thompson, Chief Of Staff, passed packets out to each of the Board Members for the presentation. Dr. Kriznar gave the Board Members a fun activity to assist them with understanding the history of Duval Accreditation.

Discussion included the following:

- The 4 schools that celebrated 50 years of accreditation in 2018.
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and AdvancED merged into 1.
- Accreditation protects the students, the parents and the community.
- Accreditation is needed for post-secondary, grants and scholarships as well as the military.
- In the past, the Regional Accreditation Evaluators (RAEs) met with the Board and shared their review. However, due to the changes and the new holistic approach of Cognia, this will no longer

happen unless a request is made.

- 3 Areas of improvement from the last review were to ensure students use technology more frequently and authentically, collaboration with and between stakeholder groups, and greater differentiation of instruction.
- The collaboration of institution leaders includes leaders within Duval County Public Schools (DCPS).
- The Board Members shared accreditation ideas on post-it notes, including their initials, to distinguish who shared the specific idea(s), per sunshine laws.
- The information/ideas collected was used as a self-evaluation.
- Dr. Coker thanked Dr. Kriznar, Mrs. Thompson and Ms. Sharwonda Peek, Assistant Superintendent, School Choice for their work and support.

4. GOVERNANCE

Board Member Jones shared with the Board that they need to take a good look at the neighborhood schools' showcase as some of those schools do not have any parents that attend the showcase.

Board Member Willie inquired about textbook adoption for Social Studies, specifically what can or cannot be done to ensure that the Board is properly informed to communicate information correctly to the public.

Board Member Joyce inquired about missing dates for the district led meetings for the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) clubs, so Dr. Greene requested that Board Member Joyce send her an email. Board Member Joyce continued inquiring if the meetings would be held only at the high schools. Dr. Greene shared that due to the volume of GSA's within high schools, once completed, they will have the meetings for the middle schools.

Board Member Joyce also shared the updates on the next AAC meeting dates to include the frustration because her appointee had not received the requested information and once he did receive it, it was not what was expected.

Board Member Carney shared with the Board that she has someone for the Sales Surtax Committee, but she did not know who to communicate that information to. Mrs. Thompson offered to assist Board Member Carney with that inquiry. Board Member Carney also stated she has someone for the Audit Advisory Committee (AAC) as well.

Board Member Pearson shared in light of public comments as it relates to the GSA meetings, is the district doing anything to see how people will respond along with communicating the purpose, agenda and posture with the club's leadership and sponsors. Per Dr. Greene, a letter was sent to the principals of the schools to communicate the district's clear intentions. Dr. Greene also requested to meet with all of the GSA sponsors and students.

Board Member Hershey followed up with what Board Member Jones stated about the schools' showcase inquiring of a magnet school day because for some schools it was not as beneficial as it could have been. Having something to highlight the neighborhood schools would be helpful.

Board Member Joyce shared feedback on the showcase attendance when it was hosted at the school versus the Prime Osborn Center.

Suggestions on how to present the Duval County Public Schools were given by Board Members.

Board Member Hershey inquired about principal feedback and district representation.

Chairman Dr. Coker inquired about the data per school for the schools' showcase pre-covid and post-covid at the Prime Osborn Center.

Board Member Joyce inquired about a cost analysis of having the showcase at the Prime Osborn vs. the schools to see which is more cost effective.

Board Member Pearson shared the value of being able to visit the school.

Board Member Hershey shared suggestions of hosting virtual showcases.

Chairman Dr. Coker thanked Ms. Peek for assisting with partnerships that provided transportation and she also thanked Dr. Pierce and the communications department for spreading the word about the school showcases.

Mr. Poole gave a quick update on the grand jury report and he also requested that the Board let him know if they wanted to speak with the attorneys individually, he would arrange that or potentially have the attorneys come in.

Discussion included the following:

- Chairman Dr. Coker suggested that it would be good to have the opportunity for each of the attorneys to present the findings, and allow the Board Members to ask any questions they desire, so she requested it to be done in February if the attorneys' schedule permits.
- Board Member Joyce shared information about the agreement and retainer. She also shared with the Board that the scope of the work that she thought would be done was not what the attorneys were thinking, so she suggested to the Board Members to call the attorneys to ensure they are clear about what the Board is looking for.
- Mr. Poole shared with the Board that he has expressed his disappointment to the attorneys about the length of time this matter has taken.

Dr. Coker gave the Board an update on the Board Retreat, grievance hearings and student expulsion hearings. She also shared that changes may be needed to the Audit Advisory Committee Policy but she did not want to discuss policy in a meeting that is not a policy review meeting. She concluded by thanking Dr. Kriznar and Mrs. Thompson.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte D. Joyce

Second: Warren A. Jones

PASSED - 7- 0

Aye:

Dr. Kelly Coker
Cindy Pearson
April A. Carney
Lori Hershey
Warren A. Jones
Charlotte D. Joyce
Darryl Willie

Nay:

None

MA

Superintendent

Chairman