



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

March 21, 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 except for Board Member Hershey. 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 9:00 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS VIA INTERACTIVE VIDEO/TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the participation of Board Member Charlotte D. Joyce via interactive video and/or telephone systems.

Vote Results:

Motion: Warren A. Jones

Second: Darryl Willie

No discussion

PASSED: 4-0

Aye:

Kelly Coker
Cindy Pearson
Warren A. Jones
Darryl Willie

Nay:

None

Board Member April A. Carney arrived at 9:02 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. PARTNER SPOTLIGHT - VYSTAR

Michael Rathjen, Vice President of School Programs, Vystar presented a PowerPoint presentation, Vystar Academy of Business High School Program. The following discussion was held:

- Appreciation for the program was expressed. When new branches will be opened.
- Staff and students are allowed to use the branches.
- Excitement about the Give-Back Program.
- Request to be able to track stories of the students who attend. Vystar has hired 66 students, with 39 still employed.
- Preference for hiring is given to intern students.

The meeting was recessed at 9:26am.

The meeting reconvened at 11:14 a.m.

2. GRADUATION RATE UPDATE

Corey Wright, Assistant Superintendent, Accountability & Assessment, presented a PowerPoint presentation, The Grad Report 2021-2022. Dr. Greene, and Paula Renfro, Chief Officer, Academic Services joined in the discussion on the following:

- The unknown whereabouts of students and the use of those codes were explained.
- English Language Learners (ELL) were especially hit hard during Covid.
- The requirement to learn English in 2 years for testing is difficult considering students are arriving from countries with little or no reading in their own countries and require additional support for parents and/or families.
- Counselors are adopting more students for weekly check-ins.
- Digital resources are helpful in that they allow the student to switch languages.
- A request for the number of ELL students. Dr. Greene will provide as a bring back.
- State law changes in reading.
- Financial literacy is now a requirement.
- Superintendents are reaching out to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) for a waiver for the last high school group during Covid (9th graders when Covid hit).
- Preparation for SAT/ACT, PERT.
- Suggestion was made to provide information to the Chamber of Commerce to help their network in Congress.
- Mastery Prep, Varsity programs.
- The effects of low graduation rates on the economy of the city.

3. GOVERNANCE

Dr. Greene and Sonita Thompson, Chief of Staff, joined in the discussion on the following items:

- Clarification on boundary changes. A request for Dr. Dana Kriznar, Deputy Superintendent to give information to principals regarding when changes will become effective.
- A request for a combined workshop for the Audit Advisory Committee and the Board to review the quarterly reports and millage overview, and then the Board will present information to the public at a Regular Board Meeting.
- Audit Advisory Evaluation Subcommittee.
- The Parental Support Guide will not be voted on as it falls under procedures. The Board approved policies that govern the Support Guide.
- Clarification on parental opt-out for medical services.
- A request was made for notifications to be sent to the Board when stakeholder input is being requested.
- Dr. Greene shared with the staff a situation that occurred over a month ago at Westside High School, and there was a live press conference that reported that items were found at the school. This is incorrect and the news station will issue a clarification to reflect that the items were not found at the school, but at a house.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

CRH

Superintendent

Chairman