Meeting Minutes
Duval County Public Schools

April 18, 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 Board Member Willie. 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 9:01 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. PARTNER PRESENTATION: I'M A STAR FOUNDATION, INC.

Board Member Charlotte Joyce arrived at 9:03 a.m.

Ms. Betty Burney, Executive Director, Mr. Hank Rogers, Chief Operating Officer and Bederia Kennebrew, I'm a Star Foundation, Inc. presented a PowerPoint Presentation.

Ms. Burney presented on the Leadership Program and the following programs:

- Mental Health Toolkits
- Mississippi Water Drive
- Let's Move Jacksonville
- Homeless Peers Project

Mr. Rogers presented on the following:

- Gear Up "A"
- Level Up
- Impact 2023
- Dome (Don't Offer or Make Excuses) Group
- Empowering Parents

Board Member Lori Hershey arrived at 9:13 a.m.

Ms. Kennebrew presented on the following:
- Gear Up "B"
- College Ready
- Service Learning Projects
- Mentoring Students
- Parent Empowerment Group

Appreciation and gratitude were expressed for the program and mentorship that has been provided by Ms. Burney and the program for meeting the needs of our students.

Welcome and acknowledgment of Suzanne Jenkins, former City Council Member in attendance.

The meeting was recessed at 9:27 a.m.

2. BUDGET UPDATE/ESSER

The meeting reconvened at 10:16 a.m.

Michelle Begley, Chief Financial Officer, presented a PowerPoint presentation, the 2023-24 Budget Overview. Dr. Greene and Vicky Schultz, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, joined in the discussion on the following:
- The legislative session is not over for the year. Therefore, the information provided is preliminary. It does include charter schools and scholarship programs.
- Full-time Equivalent (FTE).
- Millage Rates.
- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) I, II, III deadlines for monies to be expended and expenditures.
- ESSER funds remaining after the expenditure deadline.
- Base student allocations comparison from 2008 to now. Information will be provided.
- A request for a breakdown by percentages of how ESSER funding was spent was made.
- There were 1,064 charter students and 1,215 students from outside the district that entered our schools after the third survey was completed, of which the district received no funding for.
- Base funding for family empowerment scholarships verses base funding per student.
- Allowable spending categories and amounts for each ESSER I, II, and projected for III were requested.
- Expansion of drop plan from 60 months to 96 months.
- HB239 will be devastating for all school districts and entities that participate in the Florida Retirement System as there is no additional funding provided for this increase.
- Healthcare amounts funded for Covid payments.
- A request for what steps have been and are being taken to get control of the rising cost of healthcare benefits.
- The Request for Proposal (RFP) for healthcare was issued and only the current provided submitted bid. Dr. Greene has stated that a Shade Meeting will be scheduled to discuss this. It was strongly encouraged to seek additional companies that are willing to provide benefits. It was suggested that the RFP be reviewed. A request was made to obtain information from other large county districts regarding the RFP for benefits, transportation, etc. and what department in the district handles the RFP for possible review of that department and policy for presenting RFP's. A presentation of the RFP process will be requested for the Board.

Recessed at 11:35am
Reconvened at 11:46 am

3. DOUGLAS ANDERSON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS INVESTIGATION UPDATE BY LEGAL SERVICES

Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel, presented an update and discussion was held on the following:

- Mr. Poole has been interfacing with Jason Teal, Shawn Granite, and Jon Philips regarding this situation. The scope of the investigation, which is still under review, is to address all concerns regarding this matter.
- The multiple aspects of this situation were reviewed.
- Mr. Teal is speaking with the State Attorney's office to confirm any concerns that may have been expressed regarding the district's investigation.
- The district has received a number of letters of possible claims that may arise out of this situation.
- Possible reasons that could impede Board Members' ability to vote in situations that may arise during an investigation.
- It was expressed that this is outside the scope of what has previously been brought before the Board and she feels compelled to ask questions, to know what happened, and to make sure this never happens again. Mr. Poole has stated that he will be happy to assist in facilitating this so that there is no risk of being disqualified, and will provide information to assist with this process.
- Concerns were expressed for the Office of General Counsel to respond soon and that this investigation not just be focused on just Douglas Anderson, but the district as a whole, to ensure this is not happening in other schools.
- Coordination with general counsel regarding future meeting(s) to discuss the concerns amongst the Board and regarding policies, procedures and protocols of this situation.
- Reminders were given to the Board with the exception of Board Member Carney, who was not a member of the Board at the time of the release of the Grand Jury's findings, of the charge given in that report. A request was made for the Board to meet and review the findings of the Grand Jury report in respect to how those findings apply to the details of this current situation. This was concurred by another board member. Chairwoman Dr. Coker stated that she will work with counsel to move that discussion forward.
- A request about how communication will be given to the board, as it was stated they do not like to learn from the media first.

4. GOVERNANCE

The following items were discussed:

Legislative Item:

- Split funding for step-up students' administrative costs. The Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) is now willing to take up this item. A request for staff to put together a list of duties that are unfunded and an estimate of cost to the district for those items.

Scanning of books back into schools:

- Issues with this process and no district-wide directive.
- A surrounding county (Clay) pulls books that are not allowed. A list of books not allowed is available. Suggested this may be an easier process. A copy of the policy from Clay County has been requested.
- Consequences of the district not completing this task were mentioned.

Junior Achievement:

- A request for Junior Achievement to reach out to each Board Member has been made.

Ground Breaking for Southside Estates:

- The groundbreaking ceremony will take place tomorrow.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 pm.

CRH

Superintendent	Chairman