



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

May 23, 2023, Special Board Meeting

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 10:38 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 23, 2023, AGENDA

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the May 23, 2023, Agenda as submitted on May 16, 2023.

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte D. Joyce

Second: Darryl Willie

PASSED - 7 - 0

Aye:

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

Nay:

None

Public Comment

The following signed up to speak:

- Nelson McCoy

Topics to be Discussed

1. SUPERINTENDENT SELECTION (FOR A TERM NOT TO EXCEED SIX MONTHS)

Chairman Dr. Coker read the recommendation and discussion was opened at 10:45 a.m.

Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel, gave a summary of the candidate recommendations and stated that he had reached out to each to confirm their interest. He stated there were several who respectfully declined. The list of possible candidates is Mr. E. Wayne Gent; Mr. Kevin E. Hyde; Dr. Dana Kriznar, and Dr. Matthew A. Ohlson

- Board Member Jones stated that the one name on this list that stands out is Dr. Dana Kriznar. Her experience, knowledge of the district and her availability, will allow her to continue the work of the district.
- Board Member Hershey expressed her concern that there were two candidates that have no educational leadership experience. One candidate that would be new to the district does have exceptional leadership and with that the Board must determine if that is what weighs heaviest on the district or bringing in someone who is a qualified leader, who has experience serving in a large urban district, and who is already serving as superintendent. Having said that, she recommended Dr. Dana Kriznar.
- Board Member Willie expressed concerns about the two candidates who lack upper level educational experience to lead a large district. He, too recommended Dr. Dana Kriznar and believes wholeheartedly she is the right person for this moment. He expressed concerns about possible staff changes and the possible turnovers that may occur when the district is already in an understaffed position. He also had concerns about bringing in a person from the outside due to the time it would take them to get up to speed and the start of the new school year. He expressed gratitude and complimented the work she is doing now and believes this will provide the district with stability to move forward.
- Vice Chairman Pearson expressed her appreciation for the four candidates who expressed interest in serving during this time of transition. She feels that this six-month position is a bridge position between Dr. Greene and the person hired to be our next long term superintendent and feels the most logical person for this position would be Dr. Dana Kriznar.
- Board Member Joyce stated she is coming at this from a different approach and while she feels Dr. Dana Kriznar has done an exceptional job as Deputy Superintendent, her concerns are that there are two aspects of this bridge. First, keeping the district where it needs to be academically, and secondly is the administrative portion. There are issues within the district and she feels Mr. Hyde brings a lot of administrative qualities to the district that would be helpful to get to the bottom of that and Dr. Kriznar would still be deputy superintendent, which would allow the district to continue the work academically. She stated that she feels this would be a good-will gesture to the community.
- Board Member Carney agrees with Board Member Joyce in that there is a two-fold portion to this bridge. She stated that she feels with regards to the staffing changes, she believes those changes might bring forth a better caliber of candidates for finding someone who would want to be here long term.
- Board Member Willie questioned administrative changes during both the interim phase and cautioned those changes. He stated there is a team of lawyers working on the Douglas Anderson

issues and that the investigation should not be the responsibility of the interim superintendent. He stated Mr. Hyde has accomplished some great things, but feels the K-12 school system is much different than that of a college.

- Board Member Joyce stated that keeping the status quo does not look good in the community.
- Board Member Hershey stated that Mr. Gent's resume shows he is the only one that shows reorganizational experience in the Human Resource Departments that has proven skills to bring forth increased accountability and increased recruitment and retention. She stated that the question at hand is what we are looking for immediately to get us through to what our expectations are in a long-term superintendent. It must be someone with experience in all the categories of this district and Dr. Kriznar represents that.
- Chairman Dr. Coker stated that she too had brought Dr. Dana Kriznar's name and resume to the search. She stated that Dr. Kriznar has a name in the community that is well trusted and she has the skills to keep this district moving forward. She added there would be a workshop in June to further discuss the expectations of the future superintendent.

Vice Chairman Pearson moved to amend the pending motion to appoint a Superintendent for a period not to exceed six months by specifying that Dr. Dana Kriznar be appointed as Superintendent. There was a second by Board Member Jones.

Mr. Poole and Chairman Dr. Coker confirmed Vice Chairman Pearson's wish to amend the recommendation to name Dr. Dana Kriznar as Superintendent.

No discussion.

Vote Results:

Aye:

Warren A. Jones

Cindy Pearson

Dr. Kelly Coker

Lori Hershey

Darryl Willie

Nay:

April A. Carney

Charlotte D. Joyce

The amended motion to name Dr. Dana Kriznar as superintendent for a period not to exceed six months passed 5-2.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: Cindy Pearson

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

CRH

Superintendent

Chairman