

August 8, 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. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present. Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent was also present. Mr. Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel was not in attendance.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. RELOCATION OF ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached), Sonita Thompson, Chief of Staff; Terrence Wright, Director of Purchasing; Office of General Counsel Attorneys, and CBRE Representatives updated the Board Members on the relocation of the administration building.

A lot of information was provided when the Board had previously met. There was a request for time to review the information and individual discussions were held with various people involved with this item.

This is the time for all the people that can answer any questions that the Board may have and to see if the Board is wanting to move this item to the next agenda to be consider or something different.

Discussion involved:

- A request to have the two groups who responded to make a presentation to the Board.
- Have an understanding of why the proposals were drafted in the manner they were.
- Research the ability of the Board to purchase a building after leasing.
- The Board is boxed into the proposals that are on the table from the two vendors. Any amendments to the proposals is not something that could be done.
- Research of the Florida Statutes on the Board being able to purchase a building or if they can only lease.
- There are restrictions to purchasing depending on the type of funds that are used. General

operating dollars can be used for purchasing and capital dollars can only be used for leasing.

- Discussions that the Board Members can and cannot have was explained.
- Board Members can go inspect the facilities as a due diligence.
- Board Members agreed to the two
- Board Members received an email for a site visitation.
- Compare the cost for staying in the administration building for 20 years, with some fixing up vs the lease option vs the lease to purchase.
- Consider options for terminating the lease and penalties if downsizing becomes necessary due to decrease in student population.
- What additional options exist. However, due to how the solicitation was written, it is up or down on the existing recommendations.
- People have done a lot of work, to get the two current solicitations and the Board needs to make a decision.
- Information shared about other businesses that were moved off the river.
- Pros and cons of both solicitations were shared.
- Sitting on a very valuable piece of property, and not comfortable with giving it away.

Board Member Willie arrived at 9:24 a.m.

- Follow through with presentations, get the comparison financial numbers, determine what the future Board would be obligated to depending on population changes and shifts, and have this item prepared to bring for the September agenda.
- Presentations will possibly be made in September.
- The financial comparison will take a little time to achieve.
- There was nothing in the ITN for a proposal providing an estimate as to how much it would cost to renovate.
- It could be mid-October by the time numbers are available because a study of the building needs to be done.
- Choose between September 12th or 19th Board Workshops for the presentation.
- Re-send out opportunities for the Board Members to view the facilities.
- There is an opportunity for a virtual tour for JTA.

2. PROMOTION AND ACADEMIC UPDATE

A PowerPoint presentation (see attached) for End of Year Results - Academic Proficiency & Promotion-Retention was presented by Corey Wright, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Assessment; Paula Renfro, Chief Academics Officer; and Scott Schneider, Chief of Schools.

Mr. Wright reviewed the data for Reading.

- 2023 school year was the first year for administering the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) assessment.
- 3 different assessment (fall winter & spring)
- Current results are just for the spring.
- The results were immediate for parents and principals.
- Reading by grade level - DCPS compared to the state as a point of reference. Did not include prior year due to new assessment.
- Reading proficiency by subgroup was reviewed.
- When looking at the subgroups, the information is raw data, which is every student who took the

test. Regarding school grade data, there are nuances within the calculation of the school grade where some students do not count because their achievement levels don't count against the school grade.

- English Language Learners are not calculated in the school grade until they have been in school or in the country for two years.

Ms. Renfro reviewed the Academic Support for Reading.

- Coach teachers toward exceptional instruction.
- Equip teachers with research-based resources.
- Engage families to create a literacy-rich culture.

Discussion involved:

- Black students vs white students - concern expressed about the gap growing wider instead of narrowing. Check the gaps with other test and bring back.
- State averages should be the same, not increased.
- Look at data trends from successful teachers in the past. Inquire if there has been a decline in their students' scores and rates, or does it remain the same.
- The data reflects charter and non-charter schools.
- Request to see data for only DCPS students. Request for data for students who were new to DCPS for the 2022/2023 school year.
- Legislative items - students on a 504 plan are outperforming the state average.
- Consider providing English Language Learners 50% more extra time.
- The state has a designation for an elite group of teachers. However, it might be too small. In 22/23 the state did not calculate VAM, so the group of teachers was not identified. Will have to wait for 23/24.
- The difference between the new assessment (FAST) and the former assessment (FSA - Florida Statewide Assessment).
- The number of schools that have reading coaches or reading interventionists.
- Request for which schools have reading coaches and which schools have interventionists. Will also include teacher shortages and attendance data for schools.
- Free and reduced lunch students struggle. DCPS data compare to other districts with free and reduced lunch.
- Specific specialized support to some of the high-needs schools. Some of the Title I schools have multiple interventionist and support from regional specialists.
- Coaches work with teachers and interventionists work with students.
- A review of the anomaly affects and how to expand results.
- 51% of 10th grade students who scored 1 missed 20 or more days of school. 20% more than the district average.

Mr. Wright reviewed data for Math.

Ms. Renfro reviewed the Academic Support for Math.

- A Continuum of Professional Learning.
- Communication and Collaboration.
- Curriculum Guide.

Discussion involved:

- If the bump in Algebra and Geometry is due to a scheduling problem.
- Tutoring contributed to the increase in math.

- Curriculum audits are completed as a whole team. Each core content area leadership is reviewed.
- Data to compare between districts that have more K-8 schools vs traditional middle schools.
- Improvement in the gap for math.

Mr. Wright reviewed the data for Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) Science, Biology and Social Studies and Ms. Renfro reviewed the Academic Support.

- Social Studies.
- Science - Curriculum Guide.
- Professional Learning.

Discussion involved:

- Positive gaps in Civics.

Mr. Schneider shared the following:

- 93% of all schools are a C or better.
- Building bridges between charter schools and traditional schools.
- Heterogeneously combining students - 50% low socio-economic students and 50% affluent students in schools.

He then reviewed Learning through Earned Autonomy based on Data (LEAD):

- Each school shares what their priorities are and acts on the plan that they present.
- Mr. Wright provides the data, Ms. Renfro listens for curriculum needs, and Mr. Schneider listens to the plans.
- The process for the program was explained.
- 4-Step Process explained.

Discussion involved:

- Achievement levels in grades 3, 4, and 5 are dropping in high-performing schools.
- The loss of high-performance students.
- Using the methods of a good teacher with other teachers throughout other schools.
- Celebrate teachers who are successful.
- Academic Service Specialist working together with the Region Specialist.
- Student and teacher support.
- Unified School Improvement Grant (UniSIG).
- Support for principals who are struggling.
- Teacher feedback.
- Support for teachers.
- Using technology to make things work more efficiently.

Break at 11:13 a.m.

Resumed at 11:24 a.m.

Mr. Wright explained that there were no school grades for 22/23 at this point and time. There is a convening of different stakeholders going through a level setting process right now that is looking at the 2 results and assigning cut scores to become achievement levels. The raw data is based off of the FSA cut scores. The cut scores are going to change. Students will receive the new achievement level. He added that he heard that school grades would be coming out in the middle of the year.

It was shared that Board Member Joyce was recently immersed in the process of the cut scores being created.

Mr. Wright and Ms. Renfro explained the Promotion and Retention for the 2022-2023 School Year:

- Overall by District.
- Grade Level Breakdown.
- Grades K-5 Overall.
- Grade 3: Good Cause Exemption 2022-23.
- Grades K-5.

The use of AI and the various Vendors to assist the students was discussed.

- Grades K-5 - Next Steps: ELA/Reading.
- Grades 6-8 Overall.
- Grades 6-8.
- Grades 9-12 Overall.
- Grades 9-12.

Discussion involved:

- Summer Boost Program.
- Outcome of students serviced by Varsity Tutoring.
- Breakdown of required retention vs parental request for retention.
- Retention of Kindergarten, 1st, 10th, and 11th grade students.
- Inquiry about reasons for good cause exemption. Concern about students graduating when not truly ready to graduate. Cut scores should be raised.
- Stand-alone reading proficiency will put a spotlight on 3rd grade reading.
- Reading as a continuum explained.
- Minimum requirements of students to graduate.
- Students being promoted when there is no good cause.
- Cut scores set by the state not by the district.
- High level and low level learners in a class.

3. HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL START TIMES

Dr. Kriznar explained that staff had been working on this topic now instead of later. Mrs. Thompson and Erika Harding, Assistant Superintendent, Chief of Operations, through a PowerPoint presentation (see attached), explained the implementation of HB733 Middle and High School Start Times.

- Impacts of the legislation.
- Concerns would center around transportation structure, level of services provided to students and families.
- Academic impact.
- Plan for communicating the requirements to the community.
- What the legislation requires today.
- Some considerations and some potential scenarios.
- Next steps moving forward.
- The requirement is effective July 2026.
- Communication requirements and all who are to be included.
- How the house bill affects transportation.
- If additional buses are needed, it will cost \$1 million dollars per bus.
- High schools serve as a hub for dedicated magnet which are at the middle and high school levels.

- Elementary magnets hub at other elementary schools.
- The advantages and disadvantages of each HB733 Scenario Analysis are explained.

Discussion involved:

- Daylight savings time.
- Transition to K-8 schools.
- Explore stacking so that all the K-8s are not the same tier.
- Teacher retention and concerns for teachers with families.
- Change children's behavior.
- Should not be state law, but local control.
- Seeking guidance from the FL Department of Education (FLDOE).
- Orange County Public Schools Time Survey results were shared.
- Start at the beginning of the calendar year to engage the community.

4. GOVERNANCE

Dr. Kriznar provided an update regarding AP Psychology:

- The state has approved AP Psychology in its entirety for all of Florida.
- The way the College Board has interpreted what the legislation says was explained.
- Some districts are moving forward.
- Teachers must submit their syllabus to the College Board who will approve or reject. Some districts are getting together to create the syllabus.
- DCPS has an option for every single school that is an accelerated weighted credit, that will earn college credits in Psychology.
- All DCPS high schools have an option that has already been approved.

Discussion involved:

- Staffing in the schools that normally don't teach IB or ACE.
- Cambridge Ace is the course that will be mostly used by the schools that do not have AP Psychology. Cambridge has offered to provide the teachers with training at a reasonable cost.
- At the end of the course, the students can still take the AP Psychology exam.
- Teachers need time to get the professional development that they need.
- AP Psychology opt-in.
- Appreciation for the multiple solutions for parents and students to work with.

Chairman Dr. Coker:

- Update pertaining to the search for a superintendent..

Board Member Joyce:

- Shared an overview of serving on the Rector Panel for cut scores.

Board Member Willie:

- Shared his thoughts about wanting the Board to take action around the historical standards. Created a letter instead of a resolution. Board Members may sign or not.

Board Member Hershey:

- Thanked Board Member Willie for providing a letter and not a resolution. Shared her thoughts about the letter.

Chairman Dr. Coker:

- Thanked Board Member Willie for the letter and shared her thoughts.

Board Member Jones:

- Thanked Board Member Willie and shared that he would speak with the Office of General Counsel (OGC) attorney because there was something he wanted to add to the letter.

Vice Chairman Pearson:

- Suggested that any edits for the letter go through OGC.

Chairman Dr. Coker agreed about OGC providing a final copy by close of business on August 15, 2023 and decision about signatures by August 17th.

Board Member Jones thanked Corey Wright, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability and Assessment, and Jill Fierle, Director of Career and Technical Engineering for outstanding interview on This Week.

Chairman Dr. Coker clarified that City Council would not be involved in the search of a superintendent and that any information pertaining to the search is on the webpage created by the Office of Communication.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 12:56 p.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: Warren A. Jones

Second: Lori Hershey

PASSED 7-0

Aye:

Warren A. Jones

Lori Hershey

Cindy Pearson

Kelly Coker

April A. Carney

Charlotte D. Joyce

Darryl Willie

Nay:

None

GC

Superintendent

Chairman