



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

October 18, 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. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent

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

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the agenda as submitted on October 3, 2023.

Vote Results:

Motion: Warren A. Jones

Second: Lori Hershey

No discussion.

PASSED 7-0

Aye:

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

Nay:
None

Public Comment

The following spoke during public comment:

- Robert Stafford
- Wells Todd
- Amy Donofrio
- Dr. Seal Pilsbury

Topics to be Discussed

1. DISCUSS AND FINALIZE THE SEMI-FINALISTS FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Consulting Superintendent search team:

Andrea Messina, Chief Executive Officer for the Florida School Board Association (FSBA)

Dr. Bill Vogel, Retired Superintendent of Florida

John Reichert, Retired Executive Director of Human Resources in Florida

Ms. Messina explained the process.

Dr. Vogel reviewed the 10 semi-finalists for superintendent:

1. Scott Schneider
2. Dr. Clifford Burns
3. Dr. Garrick Askew
4. Adam Taylor
5. Dr. Corwin Robinson
6. Dr. Annie Cruetz-Samuels
7. Dr. Marianne Simon
8. Dr. Cheryl Proctor
9. Robert Cox
10. Dr. Michael Kemp

Chairman Dr. Coker requested for the explanation as to why the applicants were read in this particular order. Mr. Vogel responded that the applicants were listed by number according to the date that their applications were received. He added that the interviews are also handled with this same method.

Ms. Messina inquired if there were any questions for Dr. Vogel.

Discussion involved:

- Candidates who fell under the minimum qualifications.
- Candidate #4 can possibly be considered.
- A few concerns of potential candidates were the start date being in the middle of the school year and the upcoming election of the board members.
- Applying to be a superintendent today is different than applying to be a superintendent yesterday.
- Having a larger pool of candidates is an advantage of changing the start date.

- The possibility of losing candidates who have already applied is a disadvantage of changing the start date.
- Comparing the superintendent search of 2018, having 70 applicants vs. the superintendent search today, and only having 10 applicants, is concerning.
- If the Board is requesting an extension of the advertisement, the surveys and forms that have already been completed are still available. Would not have to repeat this process.
- If re-advertising, the advertisement can be done earlier and for a longer length of time,
- The Board has the option to extend Dr. Kriznar's contract, to re-advertise, pass or reconsider the applicants at a later date.
- Board Members Hershey and Jones' experience with a superintendent's search was shared.
- Support for extending Dr. Kriznar's contract and depending on the length of the contract, revisit the superintendent search later.
- As barriers are removed, there is a better opportunity for more applicants.
- Consider starting to accept applications around February or March 2024 and possibly stretch it out to Spring Break.
- Inquiry about how other districts have dealt with this type of situation.
- Ms. Messina shared her recommendation to the Board.
- Length of contract extension could be considered.
- The start date could be June 1, 2024. Another option might be to start at the election June 2025.
- Language for Dr. Kriznar's contract regarding extension of the contract.
- The pros and cons of having a start date of June 2025 vs. a start date of June 2024 are explained.
- Material collected today for search would be considered old. May want to do another online option to update the information.
- Need to do another pre-search interview due to having a new Board.
- Update the survey.
- Status of five-year strategic plan.
- The chances of getting better candidates if the date is extended to June 2024.
- The number of superintendent searches between now and June 2024.
- Waiting on the decision of the judge for the current court case regarding Districts 4 & 6.
- Appreciation shared with FSBA for their work.
- Concern about the number of applicants.
- The superintendent search for 2018 was during an election year.
- Take time to get the right candidate. Do right by the Board, the superintendent, and the community.
- Looking for a larger applicant pool to pull from.
- Satisfaction with Dr. Kriznar's work was expressed.
- Looking for applicants who have the experience to lead the 20th largest district in the US.
- The current pool does not have the experience as the current superintendent.
- Looking for applicants who have the leadership experience to lead an urban school district or a school district that has more than 25,000 students, and has faced some of the challenges that urban school districts face.
- Need to face all that Duval has gone through.
- Next step for extending Dr. Kriznar's contract.
- Florida Statute Ch. 120 - Administrative Code was read regarding 'good cause' and what the Board desires to do.
- Worked on motion language.
- Ms. Messina inquired if the Board wanted all the current applicants to be considered or reapply.
- Notify the candidates who did not qualify.
- Can the Board legally notify the candidate without taking a vote on what is going to be done?

- Clarification is needed regarding the motion to determine whether the Board wants to consider those who have already applied.
- Make a decision to those who do not meet the minimum qualifications.
- How things would look to new applicants if the Board didn't start fresh.
- Confidence expressed in FSBA as a consultant for the superintendent search.
- The candidates who have applied if really interested, will not have a problem reapplying.
- Request for amendment to be restated as suggested by FSBA consultants.
- Suggestion to use the word 'suspend' instead of 'advertise' as a part of the amended motion.
- Inquiry if suspended means having a clean plate.
- Pending motion was explained.

Amended Motion:

That the Duval County School Board suspend superintendent search and readvertise at a later date.

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte D. Joyce

Second: Lori Hershey

PASSED 7-0

Aye:

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

Nay:

None

2. EXTENSION OF CURRENT SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT

Discussion involved:

- What the Board desires to do regarding Dr. Kriznar's contract.
- A motion was made to extend Dr. Kriznar's contract to June 30, 2024.
- Inquiry if the contract was to be with the same terms and conditions.
- Request for the motion to be recited with the additional terminology. Board Member Jones seconded.

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board extend the current Superintendent's contract with the same terms and conditions through June 30, 2024.

Vote Results:

Motion: Lori Hershey

Second: Warren A. Jones

Discussion involved:

- The start date of the new superintendent and an overlap of employment.
- Give the new superintendent the opportunity to close out for the summer from former district.

PASSED 7-0

Aye:

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

Nay:

None

Adjournment

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board adjourn the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte D. Joyce

Second: Cindy Pearson

No discussion.

PASSED 7-0

Aye:

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

Nay:

None

GC

Superintendent

Chairman