



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

December 12, 2023, Board Workshop

Mr. Darryl Willie, Chairman
Ms. Charlotte D. Joyce, Vice-Chairman
Ms. April A. Carney
Dr. Kelly Coker
Ms. Lori Hershey
Mr. Warren A. Jones
Ms. Cindy Pearson
Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present except Board Member Dr. Kelly Coker. Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent, and Mr. Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. STUDENT SUPPORTS UPDATE

Scott Schneider, Chief Officer, Chief of Schools, and Paula Renfro, Chief Officer, Academic Services, shared a PowerPoint presentation on student supports updates (see attached).

Discussion included the following:

- Comprehensive reading framework.
- Varsity Tutor contract.
- New options are being implemented.
- Tier 2 and 3 additional interventions.
- Regional specialists not only use the pull-out intervention method, but they also use the push-in method as well.
- Regional specialists also lead professional development.
- Clarity on the number of licenses being utilized.
- Focus gives the option to identify students who are accessing tutoring, the school they attend, and then track their progress and student growth. A request was made to see this data.
- MGT and Turnaround Solutions and the effects on current school grades that were just released.
- Since 2020, the school district has increased by 11% per the guiding principle 4.2.
- The master schedule reviews are completed to determine the best method to meet the needs of the students.

2. STUDENT ATTENDANCE UPDATES

Katrina Taylor, Director, Full Service Schools presented a PowerPoint presentation on student attendance updates (see attached).

Discussion included the following:

- The low percentage of chronic absences for 2023-2024 was contributed to department restructuring.
- State reporting of absences.
- The percentage of students absent 20 or more days was explained for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.
- A request was made to get the chronic absenteeism data more specific to show the schools that have the highest amount of absenteeism, the school grade, and the total number of student enrollment.
- The district costs for providing resources to those schools.
- Identifying barriers that prevent the student from coming to school.
- Resources are provided to assist with barriers.
- Clarity was given on a full day absenteeism at the high school and elementary levels.
- Clarification was requested about the attendance verification process.
- Attendance trends and principal communication.
- Tardies do not result in an absence, but schools are encouraged to speak with parents to see if assistance is needed.
- Digital recovery for make-up work is available, but students still miss instruction when they are not present in school.
- Decisions behind non-prosecution of truancy cases.
- Calendar Committee reconsideration of half days during the last week of school.

3. GOVERNANCE

Discussion included the following:

- Content of some public comments during board meetings and the effects on anyone underage that is in attendance or listening virtually.
- The book review process and ways the concerned community members can handle their concerns regarding the content of any material in the books.
- The Board is responsible for knowing what books are in the classroom.
- The Department of Education (DOE) has a running book list on their website that the District should be monitoring weekly.

Board Member Warren A. Jones arrived at 10:09 a.m.

- Developing ways to work with the public, listen to them and ensure the integrity of the space. Ways to balance, get feedback, and take action.
- Communication with district leadership to be more proactive.
- Clarity about books on the DOE list and the reviews that need to be completed.
- Clarity on Point Of Order during a board meeting.
- Tallahassee updates on deregulation bills.
- Communication about Pinellas County Sheriff Gualtieri coming to speak with the Board.
- Doing what is in the best interest of the students.
- Board transparency.

- Advantages of having Sherriff Gualtieri come to speak with the Board including an opportunity to build a partnership.
- Board consensus.
- A request was made for the Board Chairman to receive the information to be presented by Sherriff Gualtieri beforehand to ensure a more robust conversation.
- Proactiveness of the District as it relates to the list of books that can be problematic.
- Book review process explanation. Periodic updates will be sent to the Board as reviews take place.
- Spreadsheet of books that Board Members received.
- Shared insight about other school boards and how they are dealing with issues with books.
- Schools circulation rates.
- Follow up on public comment as it relates to district communication to school safety expectations.
- Actions implemented to ensure safety measures are working properly.
- Feedback was shared about safety measures being implemented in District 7 schools.
- A shout-out was given to Dr. Kriznar for the support that she gives when visiting schools.
- An update was requested from OGC on the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Investigation.
- Available options once the final report is released.
- A draft timeline was shared for hiring a new Internal Board Auditor. The Board inquired if they could have the job posting closing date extended.
- District options used when the job was posted.
- Updates were provided to the Board concerning the upcoming CBRE presentation. The report will not be ready for the upcoming Board Workshop. Inquiries were made to the Board as to how they would like to proceed.

The meeting was recessed at 11:36 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 11:52 a.m.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING*

Pursuant to section 447.605(1), Florida Statutes, any portion of this meeting related to collective bargaining is confidential and exempt and will be closed to the public.

The meeting was reopened to the public at 12:33 p.m. after the Executive Session ended.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

MA

Superintendent

Chairman