



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

April 9, 2024, Board Workshop

Mr. Darryl Willie, Chairman
Ms. Charlotte D. Joyce, Vice-Chairman
Ms. April A. Carney
Dr. Kelly Coker
Dr. 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. Lori Hershey. Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent, and Mr. Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel, were also present. Vice-Chairman Charlotte D. Joyce arrived at 9:07 a.m. and Board Member Dr. Kelly Coker arrived at 9:22 a.m.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. PARTNER PRESENTATION BBBS

Sarah Alford, Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters, shared a presentation on the overview of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program with the Board (see attached). Discussion included the following:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) is the largest youth mentoring program in all 50 states.
- Owned locally with localized programs specific to the needs of the community.
- Lack of positive role models in the home.
- The program is youth focused, and all staff are comprehensively trained.
- BBBS feel that mentoring is a good way to assist with Florida's economic hardship.
- Economic stability in the community.
- General support crisis for young people.
- Young people need to have the basic survival needs to reach the self-actualization model.
- Child safety is number 1 for BBBS.
- Mentors from Corporate America are incentivized to spend time with the youth.
- Ways to create positive relationships with people in authority and uniform.
- Parents are actively involved in the mentoring program.
- Ensuring that families are linked up with additional resources when needed.
- Supplemental resource opportunities.

- Giving students real workforce exposure.
- Development of social skills.
- Free math tutoring.
- Grant contributions.
- Mentoring changes the attitude that young people exhibit at home.

Ms. Alford thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak with them.

- Board Members thanked Ms. Alford for the presentation.

2. PURCHASING AND OEO

Terrence Wright, Director, Purchasing Administration, and Paula Wright, Supervisor, Office of Economic Opportunity and former Duval County School Board Chair, shared a PowerPoint with the Board entitled "Purchasing Services" (see attached). Discussion included the following:

- The mission of the Purchasing Department is to ensure everything is done in a timely manner.
- Ensuring that all established laws, policies and procedures are followed.
- All procurement cardholders (p-card) are trained before receiving a card.
- The competitive solicitation process is request for proposals, request for qualifications, and invitations to negotiate.
- Any purchase over \$50,000 requires a competitive solicitation process.
- Demand Star and the advantages it provides to the district.
- Exceptions to purchases that do not require a competitive solicitation process.
- Direct negotiations.
- Monthly basis reporting to the Board Members.
- P-card rebates are redistributed back into the general fund.
- Various district employees sit on the evaluation committee to avoid having the same people on the committee all the time.
- The amount of money spent using the p-card is what generates the p-card rebates.
- Vendor options with Demand Star and bidding on contracts.
- Ensuring the district is getting the best deal possible.
- The most competitive bids.
- Contacting the end user.
- The possible need for policy as it relates to contracts being used for multiple years in a row.
- The negotiation of fees and how contracts are written.
- Vested vendors working on projects.
- Ensuring the consultant does not make too much money off of the district.
 - During solicitation process, ensure that the capped amount is included.
- Current \$50,000 purchases require board approval. Will that remain the same for the new Superintendent.
 - Board Members were encouraged to review what other districts are doing.
 - Systems are in place to ensure all PO's that need Board Approval are sent to the Board for approval.
- The review process and district policy.
 - Engaging the Audit Advisory Committee (AAC).
- The Competitive Solicitation Process.
 - Identify the need.

- Develop the scope.
 - The Purchasing department ensures that solicitations are not written in a way to exclude, avoid or limit competition.
- Some major contracts of the district have only received 1 proposal but the district has capabilities through Demand Star to see who downloaded the solicitation.
 - The district does not know who will submit a proposal until the due date.
- Limited amount of companies that can handle a district as large as Duval.
- Suggested more conversation be held around the best practices for vendors interested in doing work for the district.
 - Establishing a group to inquire of companies that downloaded the solicitation, why they did not submit a proposal in order to increase the number of bids received.
 - Vendors in Demand Star cannot see who downloaded a copy of the solicitation therefore that would not negate someone else from applying.
- Fidelity in our process.
 - Appeals and processes.
 - Check and balance within the process.
 - 72 hours to file a protest, once the recommendation of award is sent.
 - Protests are not anonymous.
 - The district is only required to post the recommendation of award however the purchasing department notifies all of the proposers in addition to the posting.
- The Board requested to receive a list of all sole source vendors and a list of contracts that only had one company to bid for the contract to include those with exempt status.
- Vendors do not have preferential status.
- The district is required to award the contract to the lowest price bidder.
 - During the evaluation process private scores are taken.
- There could be other issues such as insurance issues, etc. that could hinder a company from being awarded a contract.

Ms. Wright joined the presentation sharing information with the Board on the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). Discussion included the following:

- When schools succeed, students succeed and when students succeed a thriving community is created.
- Growth of small and minority businesses strengthens the community.
 - Increasing the number of small businesses as they tend to hire local residents.
- The OEO Office does not accept emailed documents.
- Certification last for 2 years.
 - Recertification is a short list and all original documents to be certified are not required.
- Companies that paid to receive the bid are sent to small businesses so they can reach out to the company if they choose to.
- Participation goals are established.
- Giving small businesses the opportunity to earn a contract.
- Diverse pool of OEO vendors.
- Compared to other counties, Duval certifies their vendors but other counties use the city's approved vendors.
- Developing an educational arm.
 - Providing professional development to the OEO Vendors.
- The OEO department would like to get as many people as possible to learn how to do business with the District.

- The OEO department desires to host a workshop in partnership with board members to reach businesses in the community.
 - Creation of a video to share how the 1/2 cent sales tax helps.
 - Power of connection with CTE (Career and Technical Education) Programs.
- First Coast Business Alliance monthly meetings.
- Working for the betterment of the entire community and how that impacts student achievement.
- Job site information booths are being placed on construction sites for community members to have access to apply for jobs in their communities.
- The number of people that applied for a job on the Rutledge Pearson construction site and were hired.
 - Trying to discover a method to keep up with the number of those applying for a job on site.
 - Having someone that speaks dual language or the option to use a QR code.
 - Trying to make the process better.
- Ensuring true full fidelity for minority owned businesses.
 - Site Monitoring by the OEO department to ensure that the OEO vendor is actually on site doing the work.
 - The vendors are notified via email of this process.
- Ms. Wright was thanked for her work, charisma and passion.
- Building relationships to converse.
- Problems are documented by the prime completing a form.
 - Meetings are held to get the views from the prime and the subviews to get a clear understanding.
- There is no cost to certify.
- Reciprocity agreement should be available.
- Companies must be certified with the OEO department and they must be prequalified for the Facilities department.
- Subcontractors can't bid unless they go through a background check.
- The prime agrees to pay a certain portion which supports upfront costs for small businesses.
- An employee cannot do business with their employer.
- As it relates to exempt purchases and direct negotiations, the Board can impose more rigorous requirements than the statute imposes.
- Board policy in connection with Florida Statutes.
 - The wording in board policy is the same as Florida Statute.
- Chairman Willie committed to the Board Engagement request from the OEO department.

The meeting recessed at 11:27 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 11:39 a.m.

3. WORKFORCE READINESS: DUVAL READY

Jill Fierle, Director, Career & Technical Education, shared a PowerPoint presentation with the Board entitled "Duval Ready, Diploma Designation" (see attached). Discussion included the following:

- Focusing on post-secondary readiness.
- Progress monitoring conversations with designees.
- Next steps for the Board to make the program bigger and better.
 - The need to pivot on innovation.
 - Reviewing existing facilities while building new facilities.
 - Cap grant to be industry relevant and competitive to other districts.

- Review the needs of the district.
 - Change expectations.
 - Embrace opportunities provided by the state.
- Creativity with teachers is a big barrier.
- Partnerships and teacher retention.
- Jax USA is a very involved partnership.
- Being prepared for 10 years from now while building new facilities.
- Involvement in creating CTE Programs.
 - Lot of collaboration
 - Focus on feeder patterns.
- Programs to prepare students for high schools.
- Genesys Works will be an intricate piece as it will connect employers to students.
- Anticipated number of students in class of 2024 that will receive a badge.
- CTE sets Duval apart.
 - As a Board, make sure the public is aware of the available opportunities.
- Business connections for Duval Ready students.
- Appreciation was shared for Mr. Wright and Ms. Fierle.
- Importance of businesses knowing that they can recruit directly from the schools.
- Recruiting challenges for CTE Teachers.
 - Supplementing pay through partners.
 - Academies sponsored by businesses.
 - VyStar and JEA provides supplements for teachers.
 - Years of experience opens up a bigger pool of candidates for teaching.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

Ron Fagan, Chief Officer, Financial, shared a presentation with the Board (see attached). Discussion included the following:

- Financial Overview
- Changes in the burn rate.
- The charter schools' average enrollment is increasing.
- Family Empowerment scholarship.
 - The number of students that have left the district due to moving, family empowerment scholarships, homeschool or charter school enrollment.
- The Board was encouraged to review the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) for the last 5 years.
- If students receiving the family empowerment scholarships return to DCPS for the survey period, then DCPS will receive funding for those students.
- Request for a bring back on which students DCPS is losing.
 - The district needs to discover how to combat the loss of students as it relates to student enrollment.
- Projections for next year.
- Family empowerment for home school students does not have the same accountability measures as DCPS.
- A request was made to receive the total funding in a school and how much of those funds are being used to educate students.
 - The amount it takes to run a school.
 - The amount of students in the school.
- When closing schools, the district should factor in the 3rd party vendors that are supporting the

schools.

- Independent Businesses cannot be forced to give financial documents.
- Boosters supply a financial report to the school principal.
- 93% of the estimated 1-Mill revenue has been spent.
- Even if charter schools do not spend their funds they get to keep them.
 - Reports on how the funds are being spent.
 - Charter funds are dispersed based upon proportions and FTE.
- Sales surtax is based upon calendar year and the one-mill is based upon fiscal year.
- Every student that occupies a building is counted in FTE.
- Virtual schools are not a part of the capital outlay.
- A Board Member request was made to receive the difference between capital outlay and FTE.
- State and local funding.
- Legislation passed about capital sharing.
- Possible reasons for leaving the average salary of a teacher at \$47,000.00.
- Using the fund balance to help offset next year's budget.
- Understanding how the district's budget got to this point.
 - Inability to connect the dots.
 - An awareness of how one thing affects the other.
- Board Members thanked Mr. Fagan and Dr. Kriznar for their work and being consistent in making the challenging calls.
- Teacher salary increases within 4 years.
- Benefit rate increases.
- Teacher salary increases pushed by the State.
- A Board Member request was made that the district take time to explain to the community what is going on with the budget during the community meetings.
- A Board Member request was made to receive the property tax revenue per FTE broken down by Board Member district.
- Constituent suggestions.
- Misleading factors about funds coming from property tax.
 - People in the neighborhood that have paid but they have not received the benefit.
- Ensuring all schools receive the same experience.
- All Board Members want to meet students where they are.
- Underutilized schools and the data surrounding them.
 - Sharing the data with the community.
- Student achievement is important.

5. GOVERNANCE

Items discussed included the following:

- The Master Facility Plan (MFP) discussion for the April 16, 2024, Board Workshop.
 - Plans to share follow-up information from the March meeting.
 - Establishing a timeline.
 - Upcoming decisions to be made.
 - Decisions on the number of meetings.
 - Impacts on current MFP.
 - Longer projects are paused, but funds are still being spent.
 - Repairs that are being put off in schools because they are supposed to be getting a new

- school.
 - The ability to add extra community meetings to accommodate constituents.
 - The number of students in a school that is suggested to close and where those students will go if the school is closed.
 - Ensuring the community has the information they need.
- Appreciation was shared for Chairman Willie's leadership.
- Suggestions that only one board member attends the DTU Chat and Chew at a time.
- International Water Safety Day.
 - Suggested that the Board create a resolution to show support and to encourage the public to keep students safe.
 - Highlighting the programs that offer free swim lessons provided by the city.
 - The Board will work with the city and the district's communication department on the suggested items.
- The City Council and Duval County School Board (DCSB) will meet on May 8, 2024.
 - Desires to hear about the MFP.
 - May 8, 2024 meeting suggestions.
 - An outline of the meeting was requested.
- Safety walks around the schools.
- City of Jacksonville school safety meetings and Board Member participation.
 - A request was made to have those meetings moved to a more suitable time so that Board Members are able to attend.
- Appreciation was shared for Board Member Dr. Coker and her past leadership of the Board.
- Details on the upcoming community meet and greet event.
 - The menu is being worked on.
 - Opinions were shared about the Jaguar Stadium Venue that will be used.
 - Chairman Willie shared appreciation the Jaguars' support.
- IBA position
 - The applicant window was closed.
 - Out of 4 applicants only 2 qualify.
 - The Board was asked to review the resumes shared.
 - Inquiries about the AAC members participation in the interview process to provide feedback to the Board Members.
- A summary of the process implemented for this position was shared by the district's Human Resource department.
- Statutes based upon hiring.
- Possible options after candidates have been interviewed by the Board.
- Virtual interviews will be implemented.
- Chairman Willie requested research to be done to see if a consultant could be utilized.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

MA

Superintendent

Chairman