



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

April 23, 2024, Special Board Meeting

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. 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 9:03 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 23, 2024, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the April 23, 2024, Special Board Meeting Agenda as submitted on April 16, 2024.

Vote Results:

Motion: Kelly Coker

Second: Lori Hershey

No comments.

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

No public comment.

Topics to be Discussed

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

Andrea Messina, Chief Executive Officer, Florida School Boards Association (FSBA), introduced the rest of the FSBA Consultants: Dr. Bill Vogel, Mr. John Reichert, and Mr. Mike Gaudreau. She then explained the process.

Dr. Vogel shared information about each candidate:

1. Dr. Corwin Robinson
2. Dr. Sito Narcisse
3. Dr. Carlos Perez
4. Dr. Sylvia Mitchell
5. Dr. Ronnie Dotson
6. Dr. Christopher Dernier
7. Dr. George Stalliard
8. Dr. Donise Robinson
9. Adam Taylor
10. Dr. Melissa Barrow
11. Andrew Stenwall
12. Jeffrey Greenley
13. Dr. Michelle Nixon
14. Dr. Christopher Macaluso
15. Dr. Daniel Smith
16. Dr. Josiah Phillips
17. Dr. Roy Wilson
18. Dr. Cheryl Proctor
19. Dr. Howard Hepburn
20. Dr. Luis Solano
21. Shahnazz Boyd

Ms. Messina than spoke about the tally sheet that each Board Member has and requested for their selections:

Board Member Carney:

Applicants: 2, 6, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20

Board Member Dr. Hershey

Applicants: 5, 6, 9, 12, 15, 16, 20

Board Member Jones

Applicants: 2, 9, 15, 16, 18, 20

Board Member Pearson

Applicants: 3, 6, 9, 14, 15, 18, 20

Board Member Dr. Coker

Applicants: 6, 15, 16, 18, 20

Vice-Chairman Joyce

Applicants: 6, 15, 18, 20

Chairman Willie

Applicants: 2, 6, 15, 16, 18, 20

The process and discussions proceeded as follows:

- Ms. Messina tallied the selection of candidates provided by the Board Members, than shared with the Board the number of votes per candidate (high to low), and inquired if they wanted the candidate to move forward to the semi-finalist list.
- When it came to applicant #2 Dr. Sito Narcisse, Board Members expressed concern regarding him having meetings in town and the Board not being aware of it, therefore they could not support moving him forward to the semi-finalist list.
- Ms. Messina shared how candidates are encouraged through the process once they submit an application.
- The Board wanted to make sure the public understood why Dr. Narcisse was not moving to the semi-finalist list.
- Met with some groups and not with others. Don't want the groups that were not met with to feel disenfranchised from a process that the Board has been very open and public with regarding the process. Does not want anyone to think the Board was involved in anyway.
- Transparency with the Board.
- Community and community leaders are to engage in the process. Further interference can have an impact on the candidate.
- Board Member Carney withdrew her support of applicant #2.
- Board Members shared that the conversations that applicant #2 had may not have been illegal, but unethical and inappropriate.
- Board Member Dr. Coker expressed concern about the low number of students in the school district that applicant #9 Adam Taylor worked in, but shared that his resume was good and he had experience in the right positions.
- Board Member Pearson shared that applicant #9 had the right qualities and he met the minimum qualifications.
- Board Member Dr. Hershey shared that even though other districts may be smaller, they still undergo the same issues as the larger districts go through, and with good leadership can be successful.
- Board Member Dr. Coker added her support for applicant #9 Adam Taylor.
- Ms. Messina then shared where the semi-finalist pool currently stood. All applicants who had 4 or more Board Members who wanted to see them to be considered are as follows:
 - #6 Dr. Christopher Bernier
 - #9 Adam Taylor
 - #15 Dr. Daniel Smith
 - #16 Dr. Josiah Phillips
 - #18 Dr. Cheryl Proctor
 - #20 Dr. Luis Solano

- Board Members shared their thoughts and concerns regarding applicant #12 Jeffrey Greenley. This applicant did not move forward.
- Ms. Messina inquired as to whether the Board wanted to consider moving the following applicants:
 - #3 Dr. Carlos Perez
 - #5 Dr. Ronnie Dotson
 - #14 Dr. Christopher Macaluso
- Board Member Pearson shared why she selected applicants #3 and 14.
- Board Member Dr. Hershey shared why she selected applicant #5.
- Chairman Willie expressed that based on the comments, to move forward with the semi-finalist list as is.
- Ms. Messina reiterated who was on the semi-finalist list and then they required a motion to adopt the semi-finalist.

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board select the semi-finalists for the position of Superintendent of Schools from the lists of applicants.

Vote Results:

Motion: April A. Carney

Second: Warren A. Jones

PASSED 7-0

Aye:

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

Nay:

None

Motion

That the Duval County School Board move to approve the selected semi-finalists:

- #6 Dr. Christopher Bernier
- #9 Adam Taylor
- #15 Dr. Daniel Smith
- #16 Dr. Josiah Phillips
- #18 Dr. Cheryl Proctor
- #20 Dr. Luis Solano

Vote Results:

Motion: Kelly Coker

Second: Warren A. Jones

PASSED 7-0

Aye:

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

Nay:

None

- Ms. Messina explained what the consultants would be doing with regards to the applicants who were not selected, and what would be done regarding the applicants who were selected and what is expected of them.
- The timeline was reviewed and the vetting process was explained.
- The Board Members want the letter that goes to the semi-finalist to be put on the district's website.
- Public access to seeing the candidates' responses.
- Dr. Tracy Pierce, Chief Officer of Communications, shared the process of making information available for the public per ADA accessibility. Ms. Messina stated that she would have the candidates to provide the information in Word and to turn on the CC on their video.
- The questions were created by having a one-on-one conversation with each Board Member.
- The Focus Group.
- There is a need to make sure there will be extra seats in the room for the public. There are a number of non-profit partners who are not on the list who are interested in attending the event and would like to meet the candidates.
- The schedule of the finalists.
- The qualities of the superintendent will be turned into questions for the Focus Group to use when meeting the finalists.
- Dr. Reichert reviewed the interview schedule.
- Concerns were shared about not having input from the students with the candidates. Would like to see the candidates interact with the students.
- There will be different student groups at all the events: ROTC; JAGS will be greeting and interacting; showcasing at the event; on the QR code, build question to identify students.
- Board Member Dr. Coker suggested to have the head of JAGS or a representative on the Focus Group.
- Meet and greet schedule.
- Interview schedule reviewed.
- Candidates are not kept separate.
- Discussion regarding livestreaming, where the livestreaming would take place, and people having access to the livestream. Mr. Wright stated that that he would make it work. He also added that there was conversation about the meetings not being livestreamed, but recorded, so that other candidates will not have the ability to view while it is occurring.
- The JAGS Rep will have to go through the Sunshine training.

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the Focus Group for the Superintendent search as amended.

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte D. Joyce

Second: Cindy Pearson

PASSED 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Warren A. Jones

Charlotte D. Joyce

Darryl Willie

Kelly Coker

Cynthia Pearson

April A. Carney

Nay:

None

Ms. Messina informed the Board Members about the possibility of receiving emails from detractors and supporters regarding the six applicants that they have chosen to move forward as the semi-finalist. She advised them to just thank them for their input and leave it at that. FSBA will be doing all research on each candidate.

Ms. Messina provided information on when they would be back and what would be taking place in between that time.

The meeting recessed at 10:41 a.m.

2. FLORIDA ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT THINKING PROGRESS MONITORING ASSESSMENT 2 DATA

The meeting reconvened 11:01 a.m.

Through a PowerPoint presentation, Paula Renfro, Chief of Academics and Scott Schneider, Chief of Schools reviewed the PM2 Reading & Math Results. The results include charter schools also.

Ms. Renfro explained information pertaining to the Retrofit Scores on the first page and Corey Wright, Chief of Staff, provided additional information pertaining to all the data.

- State Comparison 2023-24 - PM2 ELA - Early Literacy/Reading
- PM2ELA 2023–24 Highlights
- ELA PM2 District Prior Year Comparison

Discussion:

- Charter School information is included because it is a part of the district's school grade.
- Expressed that the reading data for Duval County is really concerning to her.
- A lot of money has been spent on resources.
- How the two offices are working together, and what is being done to make improvements?

- Do other districts around the state operate the way Duval does?
- The role of curriculum and instruction, division of schools, and others as it pertains to student performance was explained.
- Ms. Renfro provided additional context as to what her team is doing and why.
- Reading Interventionist.
- Inquiry about being willing to use something from the past that may have worked.
- The district has started studying larger urban districts in Florida that have a lot of success. Collier and Miami-Dade use the Prescriptive Program, which is from the district level to the school level. Duval has started to work on that to ensure fidelity of implementation to ensure we have the right curriculum available.
- Ms. Renfro explained why she stopped using Reading Interventionists.
- Mr. Schneider spoke about autonomy.
- State information for other Florida school districts.
- There has to be a way to address the attendance problem in order to address the reading proficiency.
- Need to stop cutting human capital.
- The influx of English learning students and teachers do not know how to speak their language.

Ms. Renfro continued presentation:

- ELA District Demographics
- ELA Breakout - Charter & DCPS

Discussion:

- Capturing the data due to transitioning from grade 5 to grade 6 on charter side vs bigger school.
- Dr. Kriznar provided a brief explanation about there being a gap, and a drop in student performance when students change grades.
- Request for data on K-5 charter vs K-8, comparing schools that are most similar to one another, Title 1 and non-Title 1, socio-economic status, and add Westview K-8.
- Suggestion that Duval consider using the Prescriptive Program which is free.

Ms. Renfro and Mr. Schneider continued presentation:

- Performance Support - Professional Development
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support - Interventions
- State Comparison 2023-24 - PM2 Math
- PM2 Math Highlights
- Math PM2 District Prior Year Comparison Math District Demographics
- Math Breakout - Charter & DCPS

Discussion:

- An explanation about the 7th grade math data between charter and DCPS was explained.
- A request for percentage of 7th grade receiving algebra credit, and percentage of 8th algebra and geometry credit. Include the pass-rate for all.

Ms. Renfro and Mr. Schneider continued presentation:

- Interventions - Math

Board Member Dr. Hershey departed at 12:29 p.m.

Discussion:

- The evaluation process for students who need services. The ESE department has been working hard to assist the teachers with the students.
- Classroom management systems being improved.
- Making sure something is in place to meet the needs of the students and the teacher.
- Better communication between middle school staff and elementary staff when students are transitioning from elementary to middle school, and class sizes.
- Best format for schools with high ELA populations.
- Since the pandemic, newcomers are not reading or writing in their native language, and they are coming to learn English. This is a different challenge to a greater degree than what the district has encountered pre-pandemic and how they are creating the supports for the students and their families.
- The complexity of the situation is that the situation is now across the entire district, not just in one district.
- Bring back a list of ELA supports, when the contracts were signed, how much they are, what is working, what is not working, apply to those that are working
- How much goes into the overhead as an organization, how much goes to personnel, materials, and resources that are actually in the school,
- Ms. Renfro shared that that the district is in the 2nd year of 7th and 9th grade mathematics and going into the blended learning.
- Dr. Kriznar stated that she encourages staff when creating an agenda item to list how much an organization might bring to the table.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting 12:47 p.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: Kelly Coker

Second: April A. Carney

PASSED 6-0

Aye:

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

Nay:

None

GC

Superintendent

Chairman