



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

May 7, 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 2:01 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 7, 2024, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the May 7, 2024, Agenda as submitted on April 29, 2024, with the following changes:

- **Select Finalists for Superintendent of Schools - Agenda Item Amended.**

Vote Results:

Motion: Kelly Coker

Second: Cynthia Pearson

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

There was no public comment.

Topics to be Discussed

1. SELECT FINALISTS FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve 2 or more of the following individuals as finalists for Superintendent of Schools:

- **Dr. Christopher Bernier**
- **Adam Taylor**
- **Dr. Daniel Smith**
- **Dr. Josiah Phillips**
- **Dr. Cheryl Proctor**
- **~~Dr. Luis Solano (Withdrew)~~**

Vote Results:

Motion: Cynthia Pearson

Second: Charlotte D. Joyce

Comments:

Andrea Messina, Chief Executive Officer, Florida School Boards Association (FSBA), shared the purpose of their attendance in today's meeting was to walk the Board Members through the process of selecting the finalists for which the Board Members desire to conduct interviews with. Logistics and structural organization of the interview process was shared with the Board as well. The Board was provided with the questions and written responses for each candidate by Duval County Public Schools district staff.

Ms. Messina shared with everyone that a QR code was provided so that the public could provide feedback to the Board as well as there are other upcoming opportunities for the public to provide feedback to the Board Members. Once the feedback opportunities have ended, FSBA will provide a report to the Board on the feedback submitted by the public.

Each Board Member was given a Superintendent Search Tally sheet and shared their candidate choices as follows:

- Board Member Dr. Lori Hershey chose applicant numbers 6 & 15.
- Board Member Dr. Kelly Coker chose applicant numbers 6 & 15.
- Board Member Warren A. Jones chose applicant numbers 6, 15, & 18.
- Board Member April A. Carney chose applicant numbers 6 & 15.
- Board Member Cindy Pearson chose applicant numbers 6 & 15.
- Vice-Chairman Charlotte D. Joyce chose applicant numbers 6 & 15.
- Chairman Darryl Willie chose applicant numbers 6, 15, & 18.

Based upon the Board selections, Dr. Christopher Bernier and Dr. Daniel Smith were selected to be brought in for Board interviews.

Per Board Member Jones, he included Dr. Cheryl Proctor as one of his selections to ensure the Board had an extra applicant chosen, just in case someone dropped out. His thoughts were if the Board had at least 3 choices then there would not be a chance of the superintendent search process starting all over again.

Vice-Chairman Joyce disagreed with having a 3rd person interviewed as she felt it would reduce the time the Board Members needed to spend with each candidate.

Protocol was established by FSBA sharing with the Board that the interview time would be adjusted based upon the number of applicants.

A Board Member inquired if FSBA was aware if either of the 2 applicants had applied anywhere else. FSBA was unaware.

The majority of the Board's desire was to have 2 applicants interview for the position of the Superintendent of Schools.

Motion to Amend:

That the Duval County School Board approve Dr. Christopher Bernier and Dr. Daniel Smith as finalists for Superintendent of Schools:

Vote Results:

Motion: Warren A. Jones

Second: Kelly Coker

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Warren A. Jones

Kelly Coker

Charolotte D. Joyce

April A. Carney

Darryl Willie

Cindy Pearson

Nay:

None

Discussion:

- John Reichert, FSBA Consultant, explained the Superintendent Search Interview schedule to the Board including a brief summary of events.
- Chairman Willie was asked to give a "Welcome" during the community meet and greet.
- There were no board member concerns with the one on one interviews.
- The Board was informed that Room 613 would be the holding space and other conference rooms such as 639 and the Superintendent's conference room along with the Chairman's office would be available for Board Members that felt their personal offices were too small for one on one interviews.

- The Board was informed they are allowed to sit in on the community group interviews but they were also advised by FSBA that it would not be fair to sit in on one interview and not the other.
- All meetings at the Schultz Center are open to the public.
- The meetings with cabinet members (district leadership) is not open to the public.
- FSBA staff will be responsible for keeping things moving during the meet and greet.
- Clarity was requested on the community meet and greet and whether teachers and school leadership would have a designated time to meet the candidates.
- A request was made to have interpreters at the events.
- The will of the Board was shared regarding a designated time/space for district employees and teachers to meet the candidates.
- Board Members shared that since communication had already gone out they did not want to create confusion for the public.
- Board suggestions were shared as to how they could handle designating time/space for district employees to meet the candidates.
- Ms. Messina joined in explaining the interview process further.
 - Board members were asked to sign up for one of the Board interview question themes in which FSBA would create 5-7 questions for the Board Members to ask the candidates.
 - Board Members chose the following themes provided by FSBA:
 - Board Member Dr. Hershey - Personal Leadership
 - Board Member Willie - Student Supports/Instructional Leadership
 - Board Member Dr. Coker - Highly Effective Educators and Staff
 - Board Member Pearson - High Quality Partnerships
 - Board Member Joyce - Fiscal Transparency, Responsibility, and Efficient Business Operations
 - Board Member Carney - Culture and Climate/Safe and Orderly Environment
 - Board Member Jones - Duval
- Community Focus Groups have chosen questions as well.
- Ms. Messina will be with the Board Members in their interviews.
- Dr. Bill Vogel will be with the Focus Group in their interviews.
- Mr. Reichert will be with the Cabinet Members (district leadership) in their interviews.
- Chairman Willie shared with everyone that he hopes the community will come out and embrace the process as well as ask questions. He also thanked district staff and FSBA for their work and assistance through this process.
- An inquiry was made about the specific time in which the Board Members would need to be present at the Schultz on May 13, 2024.
- An inquiry was made about the Boards interaction at the scheduled events.
- Office of General Counsel shared insight regarding things that the Board Members and Focus Group should be mindful of.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: April A. Carney

Second: Cynthia Pearson

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

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

Nay:

None

MA

Superintendent

Chairman