



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

October 8, 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. Cynthia Pearson
Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present. Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent, and Mr. Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:13 a.m.

Chairman Willie acknowledged the approaching storm and encouraged everyone to be safe.

Items to be Discussed

1. PARTNER PRESENTATION: CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

The Honorable Rebecca Couch, former Duval County Board Chair and Board Member, current Associate Vice President, Community Partnership Schools and Chris Stone, Senior Director, Community Partnership Schools shared a presentation with everyone entitled "Children's Home Society of Florida Community Partnership Schools" (see attached). Discussion included the following:

- Appreciation for the presentation and the work being done was shared by various board members.
- An invitation was extended to the Board Members for a tour of the program.
- Various ways in which Community Partnership Schools have been able to provide assistance.
 - Back to school drives.
 - Wellness Clinic.
 - Agape Clinic.
- Differences in how the program would look at elementary, middle and high school levels.
- Adding community partnerships to schools.
- Initiation of the Apoga study.
- A Board Member request was made to have other schools added to the program.

- Matthew Gilbert is currently being worked on.
- Appreciation was shared for Mrs. Couch and Mr. Stone's leadership and the presentation shared.

2. TECHNOLOGY PLAN

A presentation was shared by Jim Culbert, Chief Officer, Technology Services, entitled "2024-2025 Technology Plan"(see attached). Discussion included the following:

- SAP updates.
 - The importance of SAP Rise.
- Duval County Public Schools was the first public sector district to move into SAP Rise.
- Moving to the next steps of SuccessFactor.
- All Highlands Elementary School teachers use their interactive monitors.
- All Gifted classrooms have a dedicated monitor and cart of computers.
- The new parent resource center with AI education.
- Development of guides on how to use AI in the classroom effectively.
- Mobile media carts are being brought back to assist with morning announcements.
 - Currently, the media carts are being tested in 5 different schools.
- Minecraft lab.
 - New lab coming soon at Westside Middle.
 - Working closely with the schools that have the labs.
 - Labs will be used for field trips on "A" days and full-time classes will be offered on "B" days.
 - Experiments can be done in Minecraft labs.
- District savings.
- Free DCPS laptops are still available for those in need.
- Student summer intern program.
 - 100 students are brought in during the summer.
 - Some of those students graduate and are able to pursue IT careers within the district.
- Appreciation for the internet speed improvements for student computers was shared with Mr. Culbert.
 - The slow speed had an emotional effect on students as it relates to testing and their ability to complete their test.
- Removal of IT Barriers.
- East sports expansions.
 - The work being done with Career Technical Education (CTE).
 - Labs put together for CTE purposes during the day and then, in the evening, they are used for sports.
- Incoming new board members were encouraged to take advantage of the mine craft tour.
- The Minecraft lab is more than a game.
 - Equipping students in a fun way to learn skills like coding that comes from the Minecraft lab.
 - Teaching students skills that will benefit them for a lifetime.
 - Giving students who are not on a sports team a place to belong.
- Scholarship options.
- The safety of the district's data.
- The transition of whiteboards to interactive monitors.
 - Transition challenges.
 - A better job could have been done at Rutledge Pearson with ensuring all teachers knew how to use the interactive monitors.
 - Sometimes, teachers do not know how to use the monitors.

- Ensuring that every teacher knows how to use the monitors by offering training.
 - Shout out to Highlands Elementary teachers as they all use their interactive monitors.
- The reason behind moving into a ThrillShare space.
 - Everything rolled into one.
 - Used as websites and apps and gives flexibility and ease of access for parents.
 - Blooms was not effective.
- Technology moves us to higher education achievement.
- Technology research and where the district is moving.
- Appreciation for the vision of the current and past board was shared.

3. ENROLLMENT UPDATE

A presentation entitled "Student Enrollment and Continuity" was shared with everyone by Corey Wright, Assistant Superintendent, Accountability and Assessment (see attached). Discussion included the following:

- Lots of feedback was received.
 - Change of using the word "retention" to "continuity" to avoid conflicts when identifying students that are failing.
- The decline in enrollment reflects where the student is enrolled in school and not necessarily the area in which the student lives.
- The enrollment study has been pretty close to the projected enrollment.
- Continuity trends.
 - It consists of students that ended the school year in a district operated school and returned to a district operated school the next year. The same scenario is true for charter schools as well.
 - Positive trends.
- Students who attend a public middle school are likely to stay in public schools.
 - The key is to target kindergarten aged students to get them in.
- Districts with enrollment increase.
 - For districts 6 & 7, it could be attributed to new developments in those areas.
 - The need to pull data to see what is actually going on in those districts.
 - The need to determine where the students were in previous years.
- What's happening in the schools that students are choosing to attend.
- School Improvement Plans.
 - School leadership.
 - Commitment to be all in.
 - Movement of Unsatisfactory teachers.
 - District certificated employees stepping in.
- Master Facility Plan.
- District Leadership.
- Causation.
 - Communication from families that transitioned outside the public school sector.
 - School consolidations and closures.
 - Trends and marketing.
- Correct predictions for ensuring the new schools are being built at the correct size.
 - Things being done and what those things mean to student enrollment in the schools.
- Data-driven enrollment.
- Almost all schools manage the entire enrollment process.
- Common ways of handling shot records and other student records to avoid barriers.

- Customer service is very critical.
- Working with the Early Learning Coalition and the DCPS communications department.
- The district has transitioned from 2 operators to 6 operators that can provide assistance.
- Business practices.
- Identifying strategies to make the district more competitive when it comes to marketing.
- Making families aware that the district is trying to make the system better.
 - The district still has a lot of work to do.
- Ensuring School Principals are empowered to assist with the enrollment process.
- The frustrations that the community has experienced were acknowledged.
- Principal support.
 - Making sure principals know the line of communication.
 - Support is provided to Principals via the Superintendent's talks.
- Parents and families are choosing DCPS. However, they are frustrated about the level of service that they are receiving.
 - Customer service is the reason many people are not enrolling their students.
- Appreciation was shared for Dr. Pierce and the work being done.
- Bilingual language communication with parents and families.
- Parents that need to register their students in 2 different schools.
- Thrillshare is language oriented.
- Translate Live is being used to assist in the enrollment process as well.
- IT is also working on a device to assist the School Choice Office in assisting with language barriers.
- Front Office Staff and programs to develop staff with customer service skills.
- The absence of School Choice Expos and School Showcases.
 - Neighborhood elementary schools are not getting the love they should.
 - School Expos have helped to increase student enrollment in the past.
 - School Expos have contributed to a lot more traffic and opportunities to market the schools.
 - Expos have helped to build expectations, but now the district no longer sponsors them.
 - Onsite school tours are effective for some schools.
- The Board Members receive a lot of communication about enrollment.
- Ways the district can spend funds in the right places.
- Deep dives into program reviews.
 - Magnet guidelines need to be met. Otherwise, some schools may be demagnetized.
 - Right sizing the district.
 - Revenue for sustaining magnet programs.
 - Some schools are not generating anything in the lottery.
- A request was made for the district to review magnet schools with decreased enrollment and compare the enrollment to what it was when the district hosted expos versus now.
- Program modification.
- Magnet Continuity.
- The Board Members were encouraged to take the opportunity presented for the QLess appointment.
- Survey data.
- Cultural shifts.
- The Goal is the budget line.
- ACE process and gifted and talented programs.
 - Review of the Board Policy as it relates to the ACE Process.
 - Operational Process.
- For the first time, district 7 has a feeder pattern into accelerated learning.
- Involving technology into the district process.

- Marketing.
 - The use of the District Advisory Committees (DAC) and the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) audiences to assist with marketing.
- A request was made to bring back a list of schools that have a waitlist and which traditional middle schools have pieces of the specialized programs.
- CTE classes have become very popular.
 - Making sure the schools have specialized academies so that options are available to every student.
- The Board was reminded of their role to oversee.

4. GOVERNANCE

Governance discussions included the following:

- The one on one meetings between the Superintendent and each of the Board Members have been meaningful and helpful.
- The importance of the meetings for the current board and future boards.
 - Sharing things from the one on ones with all Board Members at the discussion table.
- Ensuring the Board is healthy.
- Getting a handle on the continual stories surrounding Douglas Anderson (D.A.).
 - Concerns about what is being done as a district to highlight and celebrate the good things that are happening at D.A.
 - The need for the district to ensure the community, parents and students that the school is important to the district and that the district will get through this.
- Crisis management.
- Students getting injured going to and from school.
- An evaluation of the school bus stops was requested.
- There should be a coordinated effort between the district and the city to ensure pedestrian safety.
- A District 11 city council member took \$40,000 of his budget to ensure student safety for students in District 7.
- Chairman Willie thanked Board Member Dr. Lori Hershey for her service and her comments as her term will end in November 2024.
- Pedestrian walking problems in Jacksonville.
 - Communications with city council members.
 - Every Board member was encouraged to reach out to their city council member regarding student safety.
 - Available grants.
 - Better pedestrian access to the schools.
 - Analyze data.
 - Community awareness regarding the problem areas.
- Reflections shared on the student killed.
 - Working in collaboration with the community and police department.
 - The City of Jacksonville's approved budget.
 - Extremely dangerous areas where students are walking to school.
 - The school board and City of Jacksonville partnership regarding pedestrians and student safety.
- A draft resolution regarding student safety was shared for the board's consideration.
 - Opinions were shared regarding the draft resolution.
 - Preferences were shared for having a letter from the Board sent to the City of Jacksonville.

- Convening a task force would be more for the City of Jacksonville versus the (DCSB) Duval County School Board.
 - The need for an urgent response.
 - The use of First Coast Connect.
 - A more in depth meaning of the resolution was shared.
- The need for the Board to be specific about what they want as it relates to student safety.
- Realizing what the Board can do and cannot do.
- Appreciation was shared for Board Member Pearson bringing the draft resolution to the Board.
- Educating parents and students on road safety.
 - Getting community groups and law enforcement to come in and assist.
- The designing of unsafe roads.
- Things that can be done.
 - A letter needs to go to the mayor, councilman, as well as state and delegation members.
- DCSB to work with City Council to identify a joint resolution.
 - Safe routes to schools.
 - Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) target zone initiatives.
 - Areas with no sidewalks.
 - The need to analyze the walking conditions.
- Multiple fold approach.
- Infrastructure improvements are needed.
- Teaching about traffic safety.
- Details regarding the 7 student accidents has been requested.
- A suggestion was made for the draft resolution, to have the wording changed in regard to the convening a task force to ensure that the Superintendent is not trying to do something that he is not authorized to do.
- A suggestion was made to have the last line of the draft resolution removed.
- To accommodate the urgency of the matter, a letter should be written by the Superintendent and not the Board Chairman.
- Some council members may not know how many students have been hit.
- Addressing the press.
- Parent and family communication.
 - Timeliness of communication to ensure the message resonates.
- A board member request was made to receive an update during the next board workshop.
- Public announcement.
- A request was made for the Board Chairman to work with the city council to schedule a joint meeting.
 - It's about the safety of our students.
- The Board Members were advised if they have any edits to the draft resolution to please submit them to the Office of General Counsel.
- Concerns were shared about school closings.
 - Board Policy surrounding the process for school closings.
 - Traffic studies.
 - Tough decisions have to be made.
 - Losing community support.
 - The community is concerned that their voices are not being heard.
- Clarification was requested from the Board of whom the letter should be sent to.
- Clarification shared on the role of the Board Chairman.
- Every Board Member should sign the resolution.
- Storm updates and the storm recovery process was shared with everyone.

- An update on the IBA position.
 - Options to reopen the job for more applicants.
 - A request and suggestion was made to have the job applicant pool reopened.
 - How can the voice of the board members elect be included?
 - The board members elect would not be able to vote or formally engage in the process.
 - Concerns were shared about the loss of applicants.
 - The last applicant declined the offer.
 - The job must be posted for a minimum of 10 days.
 - The Human Resource Department will notify the current applicant of where the Board is during this process.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte D. Joyce

Second: Cindy Pearson

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

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

Nay:

None

MA

Superintendent

Chairman