

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

July 21, 2015
Tuesday, 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, met in special session at 5:16 p.m., Tuesday, July 21, 2015, in the Board Room of the Kathleen C. Wright Administrative Center, 600 Southeast Third Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Present were: Donna P. Korn, Chair (absent); Dr. Rosalind Osgood, Vice Chair; Members Robin Bartleman, Heather P. Brinkworth, Abby M. Freedman (absent), Patricia Good, Laurie Rich Levinson, Ann Murray (absent), Nora Rupert (absent); Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent; and J. Paul Carland, II, Esq.

Call to Order The call to order was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Change to the Agenda The Superintendent announced a change in the Agenda, pertaining to Revised Item 1. Advertisement of the Tentative District Budget and Millage Levy for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Close Agenda Upon motion by Mrs. Good, seconded by Mrs. Brinkworth and carried, the Agenda was approved and declared closed. Mrs. Freedman, Ms. Korn, Ms. Murray, and Mrs. Rupert were absent. (5-0 vote)

Superintendent's Recommendations:

1. Advertisement of the Tentative District Budget and Millage Levy for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (Approved)

Motion was made by Mrs. Good, seconded by Mrs. Brinkworth and carried, to approve the advertisement of the Tentative District Budget and Millage Levy for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Mrs. Freedman, Ms. Korn, Ms. Murray, and Mrs. Rupert were absent. (5-0 vote)

The Superintendent wanted to share some perspective on the Levy and its impact on taxpayers and the District's fiscal situation. The state increased K-12 funding this year and Broward County Public Schools would be receiving approximately \$76 million of that funding. The actual increase was approximately \$56 million when the need to accommodate additional student growth increases that were projected was factored in.

Over the past several years, the District has been one of the lowest administrative-cost districts in the State of Florida out of 67 districts. In the previous year before, this District was actually the lowest administrative-cost district in the state. This year Broward County ranked third from the bottom and will continue to maximize its investments in the classroom.

The tax rate, which was great news for the taxpayers and community, went down from last year. Most residential taxpayers will pay less in school taxes this year. The District successfully issued the first General Obligation Bond (GOB) a few weeks ago. The process was lengthy to secure the bond and it was completed in June 2015 when the bond funds became available. Even with the issuance of the GOB, residential taxpayers would pay less for school taxes this year. For example, a homeowner who had a single-family home with a taxable value of \$200,000 would pay \$20 less in school taxes this year. He was proud the District continued to move forward and thanked the community and taxpayers for voting to approve the GOB and for investing in the children. The Superintendent thanked the Board, finance department, and others for their leadership in this area.

No discussion from the Board was held on this item.

2. The School Board of Broward County, Florida 2015-2016 Organizational Chart Job Descriptions: (POSTPONED 6/23/15 RSBM - Regarding C-024 Only) (Not Approved)

Motion was made by Mrs. Good, seconded by Mrs. Brinkworth to approve the job descriptions associated with The School Board of Broward County, Florida 2015-2016 Organizational Chart. Mrs. Freedman, Ms. Korn, Ms. Murray, and Mrs. Rupert were absent. (0-5 vote)

No discussion was held on this item.

3. Amendment to the 2015-2016 Organizational Chart: Pages 7 & 15 (POSTPONED 6/23/15 RSBM - Regarding Page 15 Only) (Not Approved)

Motion was made by Mrs. Good, seconded by Mrs. Brinkworth to approve the changes to pages 7 and 15 of the 2015-2016 Organizational Chart. Mrs. Freedman, Ms. Korn, Ms. Murray, and Mrs. Rupert were absent. (0-5 vote)

No discussion was held on this item.

4. Amendment to the 2015-2016 Organizational Chart: Pages 9 & 15 (Approved as Amended)

Motion was made by Mrs. Good, seconded by Mrs. Brinkworth and carried, to approve the recommended changes to pages 9 and 15 of the 2015-2016 Organizational Chart 2015-2016. Mrs. Freedman, Ms. Korn, Ms. Murray, and Mrs. Rupert were absent. (5-0 vote)

Mrs. Good appreciated Mr. Runcie meeting with individuals from the fire community to ensure the Board would be able to deal with changes in the organizational chart in a manner that dealt with everyone's concerns. She asked if Mr. Runcie would provide some insight as to the dialog that took place.

Mr. Runcie stated he and staff followed through on the requests. They set up a meeting with the Chief Fire Officials and had a great conversation. It allowed them the opportunity to strengthen the relationship and everyone understood the District's commitment to safety, in particular, fire safety. It is a major component of the District's investment and capital as part of the bond program. During the meeting they quickly came to an understanding as to what everyone wanted to do and to ensure the District had a resource that was a solid point person who would keep this area in top of mind, who could maintain the quality of the relationship needed with fire officials and firefighting committee. Mr. Runcie thanked them for the push, for collaborating, and for continuing to work with the District as it moves forward into the future.

Jeffrey Moquin, Chief of Staff, agreed with Mr. Runcie and said the Superintendent's recommendation would create a single point of authority for all issues related to fire safety.

Mrs. Good thanked both the Superintendent and Chief of Staff and stated she agreed. She felt by having those meetings there would be a better end product for the District, which was exactly what happened. She appreciated all those involved who met with the Superintendent and Chief of Staff to address some of the Board's concerns.

Referring to the job descriptions, Mrs. Brinkworth questioned if that would be addressed at this meeting.

Mr. Moquin replied, no. After meeting with the Fire Chiefs Association several weeks ago and recognizing the job descriptions were policy, they needed to advertise them appropriately. He had them with him as an exhibit but there would not be enough time to actually have the Board vote on them. This item would be to vote on the organizational structure itself. The job descriptions as indicated to the Board, were originally being brought to the Board on August 4, 2015 but it will be August 18, 2015 based on the ability to have the 14-day notice. The job descriptions before the Board as exhibits only will come to the Board at the August 18, 2015 meeting for official action.

Mrs. Brinkworth asked that staff review beforehand to clean up any errors.

Mr. Runcie responded that he would have staff reach out to her to discuss needed corrections.

Mrs. Bartleman thanked the Superintendent for amending his organizational chart and she supports this change.

The Chair received input from the audience on this item.

Mrs. Bartleman remarked the Grand Jury Report stated the Chief Building Official reported to the Superintendent of Facilities at that time and then there was a different reporting line based on the Grand Jury's recommendation. The same would stand true for this position as well. Mrs. Bartleman asked if that was considered and how it would be handled.

Mr. Moquin replied it was considered and that they discussed this with staff. They felt the Chief Fire Official and Chief Building Official being licensed, had the sole authority to make the interpretation of code and in this particular case, fire code. In speaking to the Chief Building Official on this issue, this unit would not be issuing permits or Certificates of Occupancy (COO); that function would continue to reside with the Chief Building Official and the building department who would be performing the plan review aspect from a fire code compliance standpoint. He believed there was still a separation of duties that were recommended because it would be the Chief Building Official solely, issuing permits and COOs.

Mrs. Bartleman asked if the Chief Fire Official did not report to the Chief Facilities Officer if he/she would report to the Chief Building Official. Although she understood the explanation, this was a recommendation pointed out and she did not feel 100% comfortable.

Mr. Moquin believed the concern was addressed and having it in the Facilities division provided other benefits in terms of working with all of those projects that are going on relative to fire, sprinkler, and safety, as well as the new environmental health safety unit. The ability to have them in the same division creates synergies that staff felt was in the District's best interest while the other issue around separation of duties, was addressed because the Chief Building Official remains a report to the Chief of Staff.

Mrs. Bartleman questioned if the Chief Fire Official would be in charge of inspecting the plans and work.

Mr. Moquin responded they would do plan reviews relative to adherence to the fire code, which would be a component to plan review. There are other disciplines of plan review that would remain within the building department and it would ultimately be the Chief Building Official issuing the permit.

Mrs. Bartleman inquired if the Chief Facilities Officer, who was in charge of all the planners, would be the Chief Fire Official's boss and the watchdog over those plans.

Mrs. Good wanted to clarify that the Chief Fire Official would continue to handle duties of fire review; however, the Chief Building Official, who reports to the Chief of Staff, would continue to be the permitting officer. Mrs. Good asked what the difference was in reporting for the Chief Fire Official before and now.

Mr. Moquin replied the Director of Safety and Chief Fire Official reported to various units. At one point, the Director of Safety and Chief Fire Official reported to the Chief Facilities Officer. He wanted to distinguish though, at that time, they were not responsible for performing the plan review. They did jointly perform the sanitation and health inspections that were required to perform at each of the District's facilities each year while reporting to the Chief Facilities Officer.

Mrs. Good asked if Mr. Moquin felt it would handle that concern as it was before the Board.

Mr. Moquin remarked he felt there was still a separation of duties and a check and balance. Ultimately, if the Chief Building Official and the Chief Fire Official were to approve something, they still have to uphold the fire safety code as well. If they were not comfortable it, they would not issue a permit to move forward.

Mrs. Good inquired what would happen if the Chief Fire Official and Chief Building Official disagreed. One reports to Chief of Staff and the other reports to the Chief Facilities Officer.

Mr. Moquin responded that was one of the issues with having two different distinct people; there could be two different interpretations. In preliminary discussions, if that were to exist, they would reach out to the state or other authority for assistance in a resolution to the matter. If it were a fire issue, the State Fire Marshall would be contacted to ask for interpretation.

Mrs. Good asked what the benefits would be with a dash line from the Chief Fire Official to the Superintendent on the organizational chart.

Mr. Runcie said that was a fine recommendation. Anyone in the organization would have access to the Superintendent. He has an open door policy to address any issues in the organization. Mr. Runcie stated he would be willing to add a dash line to underscore that opportunity would always exist and ensure there were proper levels of accountability and avenues to raise issues.

Mrs. Good consulted with the General Counsel how to accomplish adding a dash line to the organizational chart.

Mr. Carland's advice was to simply amend page 9 of the organizational chart to add a dash line from the Chief Fire Official to the Superintendent.

Motion to Amend (Carried)

Motion was made by Mrs. Good, seconded by Mrs. Brinkworth and carried, to amend the Organizational Chart by adding a dash line from the Chief Fire Official to the Superintendent of Schools. Mrs. Freedman, Ms. Korn, Ms. Murray, and Mrs. Rupert were absent. (5-0 vote)

Adjournment This meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m., by way of motion by Mrs. Good, seconded by Mrs. Rich Levinson and acclamation of the Board. Mrs. Freedman, Ms. Korn, Ms. Murray, and Mrs. Rupert were absent.

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