



# Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

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## May 23, 2024, Special Board Meeting -REVISED

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, was not present. Mr. Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel, was present.

### Call Meeting to Order

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

### Approval of Agenda

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

#### Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the May 23, 2024, Special Board Meeting Agenda as submitted on May 16, 2024, with the following changes:

- Selection of the candidate for Superintendent of Schools - Item Amended
- New Superintendent Contract - Item Added
- Current Superintendent Contract - Item Withdrawn
- One-Mill Referendum Status Update - Item Withdrawn

#### Vote Results:

**Motion:** Charlotte D. Joyce

**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

## **Public Comment**

There were 9 members of the public that signed up to speak. Each of them were given 3 minutes to speak. Chairman Willie thanked everyone who shared public comments as well as members of the public who sent emails, made phone calls and shared their interest.

## **Topics to be Discussed**

### **1. SELECTION OF THE CANDIDATE FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

#### **Motion:**

**~~That the Duval County School Board offer employment as Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools to one of the finalists and authorize the Office of General Counsel to negotiate an employment agreement for Board approval. That the School Board offer the position of Superintendent to ( ) and authorize contract negotiations to begin, led by Chair Willie and Attorney Poole.~~**

Board members engaged in 2 rounds of discussion sharing their thought process behind their decision to choose a new superintendent. Discussion included the following:

- Appreciation was shared for all 21 candidates who applied for the position, those that visited the schools, and participated in the meet and greet. Appreciation was also shared for the Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) consultants and the work they performed, as well as appreciation was shared for district staff and the role they played in the Superintendent's search.
- Pros and Cons.
- Highly qualified candidates.
- Community input.
- Deciding who would be the best fit for what Duval County Public Schools needs given the situations the district is faced with.
- Unity, professionalism, ability to lead with transparency.
- Student Focus.
- Master Facility Plan.
- No partisan politics.
- Appreciation was shared for Dr. Kriznar stepping in and leading with grace.
- Support, encourage and pray for the new Superintendent.
- Identify strengths to move the district.
- Appreciation was shared for Chairman Willie's leadership throughout the process.
- Ensuring the right candidate is chosen.
- Strengths and weaknesses of each candidate.
- District challenges and concerns.
- Working experience comparison between the 2 candidates.

- Both candidates are respected and liked within their communities.
- English Language Learner community support for Dr. Bernier.
- Florida schools in comparison to Virginia schools.
- NAACP support for Dr. Bernier.
- Loudoun county parent feedback.
- Title IX concerns.
- Ensuring that the district holds onto the staff.
- Data review.
- Tallahassee connection concerns.
- The best fit for Duval.
- Immediate impact versus 3-5 years from now.
- Florida experience.
- Superintendent experience.
- Diversity of Support

**Motion: That the School Board offer the position of Superintendent to Dr. Christopher Bernier and authorize contract negotiations to begin, led by Chair Willie and Attorney Poole.**

**Vote Results:**

**Motion:** April A. Carney

**Second:** Lori Hershey

**No further discussion.**

**PASSED - 7-0**

**Aye:**

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

**Nay:**

None

Dr. Christopher Bernier was congratulated as being appointed to be the next Duval County Public Schools Superintendent.

## **2. NEW SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT**

Mr. Poole shared a brief overview of the recommendation for the new superintendent contract. Discussion included the following:

- The contract for the new superintendent needs to be performance-based and based upon the Board's priorities.
- The possibility of Dr. Bernier's early arrival.
- MOU contract.

*The meeting was recessed at 10:34 a.m. for Chairman Willie to contact Dr. Bernier to congratulate him as the new Superintendent.*

*The meeting resumed at 10:45 a.m.*

- Dr. Bernier was congratulated publicly via phone. Afterwards, he thanked everyone for the opportunity.

3. CURRENT SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT

4. ONE-MILL REFERENDUM STATUS UPDATES

**Adjournment**

1. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:**

**That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 a.m.**

**Vote Results:**

**Motion:** Kelly Coker

**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

MA

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Superintendent

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Chairman