



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

September 16, 2024, Member to Member Meeting - WJ & DW

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 except Board Members April Carney, Dr. Kelly Coker, Dr. Lori Hershey, Charlotte Joyce, and Cindy Pearson. Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent, and Mr. Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel, were not present.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. HISTORIC MARKERS ON SCHOOL SITES

The following people attended the meeting and joined in on the discussion regarding the historic markers on school sites:

- Board Member Warren A. Jones, Duval County School Board Member, District 5
- Dr. Alan Bliss, President of the Jacksonville Historical Society
- Mr. Lloyd Washington, President of the Durkeeville Historical Society
- Mr. Micheal Ramirez, Duval County Public Schools, Chief of Staff
- Mr. Darryl Willie, Duval County School Board Chairman, District 4
- Ms. Kortney Wesley, Director, Governmental Relations
- Dr. Brenda Simmons-Hutchins, Independent Educational Consultant
- Mr. Thomas Waters, Director of the Neighborhoods, Department of the City of Jacksonville

Board Member Jones thanked everyone for being present and shared how this discussion came about.

The discussion included the following:

- The loss of the historical schools and what those schools mean to the community.
- How to honor schools that were built for African American students that are now being closed.
- Schools that were named after prominent members of the community.
- Any schools being closed can have a significant impact on the neighborhood.
 - How to recognize those schools.
- Creating historical markers with different designs.
 - How to get historical information on school markers because people need to know the history behind the schools closing.
 - Monument signs with QR codes.
- Funding assistance.
- Feedback was shared about students at Stanton that could assist with research on school history.
- District policy language to ensure future schools that are closed get a historical marker.
- The selling of properties and the historical markers.
 - Completion of inventory for schools with historical markers.
 - Creation of a disposition plan to include the immediate placing of a historical marker on the property.
 - Agreement from private property owners.
 - Including historical markers in the sale agreement.
- Transfer of property ownership and keeping a record in the school system and/or Jacksonville Public Libraries.
 - Bibliographies in the historical collection of the library.
 - The City of Jacksonville maintains a historical marker list.
- The use of the QR code could assist with the maintaining of records as the information would be preserved on the internet and would not be lost or stolen.
 - Website maintenance will be needed.
- History must be preserved.
- Cost associated with historical markers.
 - Single pole markers.
 - State standard markers.
- Ownership for maintenance of websites.
- State standard markers are more durable.
- Ensuring that district policy includes language that covers the cost of taking care of the historical markers.
- Completing inventory to see current historical markers and markers that are needed.
- Student research for historical markers.
- Cost associated with QR codes.
 - Risk associated with QR codes.
 - Ensuring information can be changed as technology changes.
 - University of North Florida historical and architectural teams.
- Ensuring students of the schools are able to participate in the work of creating the historical markers.
- The best option for historical marker placement.
- The responsibility for maintenance of historical markers.
 - Consistency among the historical markers.
- Past history that dealt with historical markers.
- Things that could affect the development of properties.

- All historical marker sites have not been identified.
- The Segregated Duval: The Black Public Schools of 1955-56 and The Negro Schools of Duval County 1955–1956 articles were shared.
- Who will pilot this project for the placement of historical markers?
 - Duval County School Board should lead the project, but stakeholders should have input.
 - Bring in partners for the project.
 - A policy needs to be drafted.
 - Information should be housed on the district's website.
 - Trial it with a cluster of schools to see how it goes.
 - Create a policy to retroactively go back to other schools.
 - Seek legal advice.
 - Identify schools to be closed and sold.
- Feedback was shared on district policy.
- Potential roadblocks.
- Potential things that should be included in district policy.
- A lot of schools were built and designed by African Americans that were not signed off by them.

Board Member Jones thanked everyone for their time and work.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

MA

Superintendent

Chairman