



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

October 1, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

The Riverside Singing Generals from Riverside High School performed. They were directed by Mr. Andrew "AJ" Neaher.

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 6:02 p.m.

Invocation or Thought of the Day

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone was asked to pause for a moment of silence for those affected by Hurricane Helene.

Recognitions/Presentations of Awards

Acknowledgments were made for the amazing young people from various Duval County Public Schools that came to meet with the Board Chairman prior to the meeting.

Board Members

SPRING PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRESENTATION

A PowerPoint Presentation about Spring Park Elementary and the work being done there was shared with everyone by School Principal Davina Parker. Student testimonials were even shared during the

presentation. The students used the skills learned to combat hunger, in which they were able to raise funds to feed 800 families.

Board Member Cindy Pearson, shared that though there are many things to say about this school, the one thing she captured from the presentation is that the staff are modeling the behavior that they want to see in the students. She also touched on staff collaboration, joint planning and the strength of Spring Park Elementary.

Chairman Willie shared that the personality of Spring Park Elementary shines.

Communications

~~2024 COGNIA SYSTEM OF DISTINCTION AWARD~~

PARTNER RECOGNITION: OCEANWAY CHURCH COLLABORATION WITH OCEANWAY MIDDLE

Oceanway Church and Oceanway Middle School collaborated on a "Big Give" project. A video recap of the most recent "Big Give" was shared with everyone and Dr. Bernier, along with Chairman Willie, gave out gift bags to Oceanway's Lead Pastors Al and Jinny Force, as well as Oceanway Middle School's Principal Elizabeth Stansel, in appreciation for their support. Things shared during the presentation included:

- Each month, Team Duval aims to recognize one amazing partner who they are grateful to work with.
- Highlights on the special partnership between Oceanway Middle and the Oceanway Church.
- For six years, the Big Give has served as a collaboration between Oceanway Church and Oceanway Middle School.
- This annual event is designed to support student success for back-to-school.
- This year, more than 200 volunteers provided school supplies, fresh haircuts for students, fun, food, and a trunk-load of groceries for local families.
- More than 1,000 parents and students participated in the event, receiving more than 700 bags of school supplies, 150 haircuts, and 379 bundles of groceries.
- Additionally, Oceanway Church crafted gift baskets for every staff member at the school for them to have in their room when they came in for the first day of school.
- They also refreshed the front-of-school landscaping and refurbished the school's front office waiting area making it more inviting for families and visitors.

NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC ART WINNERS

Team Duval's talented artists, who have brought home 14 medals and honors from the National Scholastic Arts and Writing Awards were recognized and congratulated for their great accomplishments. The following was shared.

- The amazing artists – who recipients of gold, silver, and honorable mentions – represent four Team Duval schools.
- Students who received a gold medal will have their work placed on display in New York City at the national exhibitions and portfolio awards.
- Some may even receive cash prizes.
- Many of our student winners from LaVilla School of the Arts, Paxon School of Advanced Studies,

and Duncan U. Fletcher High School have transitioned to either high school or college, but their principals and educators were acknowledged.

- Their principals are Dean Ledford of Duncan U. Fletcher, Dr. Royce Turner of Paxon School of Advanced Studies, and Kimberly Harrison of LaVilla School of the Arts.
- The educators are Nicole DeFeo, Cheryl Lunger, Mai Keisling, and Jeffry Hueber.
- Those who have not graduated were recognized along with their current principal, Mr. Tim Feagins of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.
 - Honorable Mentions:
 - Lawson Lewis for portfolio *The Youth Lens*
 - Alahna Vallone for portfolio *Godhood & Girlhood*
 - Kobi Dawes
 - James Armstrong
 - Silver Medalists:
 - Georgia Witt for portfolio *Lost in Translation*
 - Elsie Kerns
 - Alla Ivanstov
 - Nora Morrow
 - Shanwill Wang
 - England Townsend
 - Dayvia Johnson
 - Kierra Reese, who received four silver medals
 - Gold Medalists:
 - Jermani Goodwine
 - Samantha Lee-Duffell

Approval of Agenda

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the October 1, 2024, agenda as submitted on September 24, 2024, with the following changes:

Communications:

- **2024 Cognia System of Distinction Award - Item Removed**

Approval of Agenda:

- **Approval of Agenda - Item Amended**

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

- **District Five-Year Capital Plan 2024/2025–2028/2029 - Item Amended, Attachments Updated - Pulled for Discussion - Pearson, Carney**
- **Money Pickup Services - ITB-031-24/LM - Attachment Updated**

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

- **Exclusive Healthier Beverage Contract RFP - 13-24/DB - Item Removed**

Vote Results:

Motion: Warren A. Jones

Second: Charlotte D. Joyce

No Discussion.

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Lori Hershey

Warren A. Jones

Charlotte D. Joyce

Darryl Willie

Kelly Coker

Cynthia Pearson

April A. Carney

Nay:

None

Chairperson's Report

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Board Chairman, Darryl Willie shared a PowerPoint Presentation on an overview of the Board focus. The following topics were presented:

- The Master Facility Plan update.
- The ITN building relocation.
- September 2024 events.
- An overview of upcoming dates and items of interest.

Superintendent's Reports

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

Superintendent, Dr. Christopher Bernier shared a PowerPoint presentation on the following topics:

- September events.
- Bus driver update.
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
- Disability Awareness Month.

- Hispanic Heritage month.
- Important updates and recognitions.
- 5-Year Capital Plan update.

In addition, Dr. Bernier shared appreciation for everyone that has assisted the district with getting more bus drivers as well as those that assisted with getting the schools back opened for normal operation post storm.

He also gave a shout-out to Benjamin Wade, Social Studies Teacher, Dupont Middle for his swift actions in saving the life of a child by administering the Heimlich Maneuver.

In conclusion, Dr. Bernier shared that he is committed to the capital plan and, more importantly, he is committed to following Board Policy.

Department Reports

Sales Surtax Oversight Committee Report

Lawrence Dennis, Sales Surtax Committee Chairman, shared a thorough report with everyone on the progress of the Sales Surtax Committee. Appreciation was shared by Chairman Willie for the thoroughness of the report. The report included the following:

- Brief summaries of past meetings.
- Committee involvement in implementing changes to Policy 9.66.
- Status updates on the Master Facility Plan.
- Congratulations to the newly elected committee Vice-Chair.
- Committee membership changes.
- The next quarterly committee meeting date.

Comments from Elected Officials

None.

Public Comment

21 members of the public signed up to speak during the meeting, and they were given 2 minutes each to speak. All of them spoke except 1 individual, whom waived her time to speak when her name was called. There were 9 members of the public that signed up to waive their speaking time.

Comments from Parent Organizations

Michael Hawk, District Advisory Council (DAC) Chairman shared an update on the council and the next meeting date. He shared his excitement for the 2024-2025 year and his desire to see the projects through to completion. He continued sharing his appreciation for those that have assisted with the setting up of meetings and ensuring that members of the council have what they need as well as their appreciation for Board Members and the work that they do.

Tiffanie Graham, Duval County Council Parent Teacher Association (DCCPTA) president, shared a brief

update with the Board on the work of the PTA.

Comments from District Student Government Association

None.

Comments from Employee Organizations

Tammie Brooks-Evans, DTU President, shared an update with the Board on the following:

- Florida Blue and Baptist have reached an agreement.
- Teacher concerns.
- Testing changes.
- Student burnout from testing.
- School consolidations and closings and caution against creating public school deserts.
 - The need for accessibility.
 - Families that do not have transportation and attendance issues.
 - Schultz center and the use of it for training.
 - What belongs to the district and what does not belong to the district.
- Things important to district faculty and staff.
 - Creating what is best for employees represented.
- World Teacher Day.

Approval of Minutes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following Board minutes:

- **September 3, 2024, Regular Board Meeting**
- **September 5, 2024, Special Board Meeting**
- **September 16, 2024, Member to Member Meeting - WJ & DW**
- **September 17, 2024, Agenda Committee Meeting**
- **September 17, 2024, Board Workshop**
- **September 18, 2024, Policy Handbook Review Committee Meeting**

Vote Results:

Motion: April A. Carney

Second: Cynthia Pearson

No Discussion.

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

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

Nay:
None

Approval of Consent Agenda

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion:
That the Duval County School Board approve the Consent Agenda.

Vote Results:
Motion: Cynthia Pearson
Second: Warren A. Jones

No Discussion.

PASSED - 7-0

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

Nay:
None

Consent Agenda

Academic Services

1. TURNAROUND OPTION PLANS (TOP) STEP 2
2. APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS
3. PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CATALOG
4. APPROVAL OF AMIRA LEARNING

Human Resource Services - Staffing

- 5. HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES EMPLOYEE TRANSACTIONS
- 6. APPROVAL OF OUT-OF-FIELD TEACHERS
- 7. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS – DCPS JROTC INSTRUCTOR

Human Resource Services - Compensation

- 8. SETTLEMENT WITH THE DUVAL TEACHERS UNITED (DTU) FOR THE 2024-2025 TEACHER CONTRACT
- 9. SETTLEMENT WITH THE DUVAL TEACHERS UNITED (DTU) FOR THE 2024-2025 PARAPROFESSIONALS CONTRACT
- 10. SETTLEMENT WITH THE DUVAL TEACHERS UNITED (DTU) FOR THE 2024-2025 UNITED OFFICE PERSONNEL OF DUVAL (UOPD) CONTRACT
- 11. APPROVAL OF NON-BARGAINING UNIT SALARY SCHEDULES FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

- 12. GENERAL BANKING SERVICES RFP NO. 01-17/TW AMENDMENT RENEWAL
- 13. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS - AUGUST 2024
- 14. MONEY PICKUP SERVICES ITB-031-24/LM

Operations - Real Estate, Planning and Programming

- 15. APPROVAL OF PROJECT PRIORITY LIST AND EXPENDITURE OF CAPITAL OUTLAY AND DEBT SERVICE (CO & DS) FUNDS
- 16. DECLARE CARTER G. WOODSON ELEMENTARY NO. 166, LOCATED AT 2334 BUTLER AVENUE, AS SURPLUS PROPERTY UNSUITABLE AND UNNECESSARY FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

17. PREQUALIFICATIONS OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

18. CHANGE ORDER REPORT

19. PERIODIC REPORT OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETIONS AND FINAL INSPECTIONS OF MAJOR MAINTENANCE AND MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDER \$1,000,000

20. PERIODIC REPORT OF PHASE III DRAWING COMPLETIONS FOR MAJOR MAINTENANCE AND MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDER \$1,000,000

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

21. SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT

22. ~~EXCLUSIVE HEALTHIER BEVERAGE CONTRACT RFP 13-24/DB~~

23. AUGUST 2024 PURCHASE REPORT

Discussion

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

24. SCHOOL DISTRICT FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN 2024/2025–2028/2029

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the amended School District Five Year Capital Plan as required by Section 1013.35, Florida Statutes.

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte D. Joyce

Second: Warren A. Jones

Discussion:

Board Member Pearson:

- Clarify what the item is and next steps.
- Dr. Bernier's report
- Acknowledged that revising the MFP has been a lengthy and sometimes messy process.
- Disappointment for schools that moved from a new build to closing.
- Thanked the parents and community members who engaged through community meetings, emails, public comment and the focus group.
- A bright spot in this process has been the emergence of parent advocates who are seeing not only their local school situation but also the bigger DCPS picture.
- Thank you to the staff who have shepherded the process and addressed questions from board

members, community members and the local press. They have absorbed much of the dissatisfaction with the proposals and with the process.

- Our community has more difficult conversations coming. In my mind, this was always going to be a three-part conversation addressing facilities, programs and transportation.
- Please stay engaged on the school level and on the district level.

Board Member Carney:

- Thanked Dr. Bernier for his presentation.
- Appreciation was shared for the District 2 community and their advocacy.
- Agreement to stand with Anchor Academy to find the best solution for the families.
- Mayport families were encouraged to get involved.
- A request was made for Active Duty members' to share their concerns.
- Sea Breeze Elementary and deferred maintenance that needs to be taken care of.
- The process has been long, but it is necessary to right size the district.

Board Member Dr. Hershey:

- No need for tough conversations regarding school consolidations.
- The importance of understanding this is only the beginning.
- The importance of understanding what is offered in the schools.
- The Board is not voting on boundary changes.
- Potential pathways to align.
- Ensure access for all districts to have the pathways and programs needed to help students.

Vice-Chair Joyce:

- One-on-one with Dr. Bernier.
- The plan proposal concerns regarding boundaries and closures.
- The current list versus 2 months ago.
- Effective communication on what is being voted on.
- Appreciation was shared for the one on one with Dr. Bernier, his leadership and the superintendent's report as it helped the community to understand.

Board Member Dr. Coker:

- The sentiments for appreciation of Dr. Bernier was echoed.
- Concerns about policies not being where they need to be.
- She promised the voters that she would listen to all the dialog before voting.
- Tonight's vote will take the district one step closer to affecting communities in ways that they should not be affected.
- Cannot vote for the interim item as there are concerns about accuracy.
 - 2 hours before the meeting, an adjustment was made to the item.
 - Hopefully, in the next 2 weeks, she can get to another place concerning the item.

Board Member Jones:

- Appreciation was shared for Dr. Bernier and his leadership, as well as the excellent explanation given of what was to be voted on.
- Appreciation was shared for those in attendance at the community meetings.
- Parents and teachers do not know what is going to happen. Fear of the unknown.
- Pandemic effects.
- Loss of voter confidence due to adjustments in the plan.
- Pandemic and legislative changes in funding are the reasons the district is facing this situation.
- Concerns from the Raines community due to the upcoming changes in the board members.
- Appreciation shared for those that shared their concerns during the meeting.
- Do not want to see educational deserts created.

Chairman Willie:

- Appreciation shared for everyone's comments.
- Budget concerns.
- Saving money.
- Projected cost savings.
 - Estimated cost savings based upon consolidations, range from 8-10 million dollars, but there is no true way to know the exact amount until the schools are closed. The numbers could fluctuate.
- Current Capital Plan.
 - General dollars are spent on operating schools.
- Location of schools.
- Conflicting reports.
- Advantages of having school signage for advertising purposes.
- Marketing strategies play a big part in correlation to school location.
- The Capital Plan and consolidation of schools.
 - Ensuring the process is in place.
 - Commitment to keeping students with common interests and educators together.
 - Commitment to keeping communities together.

Discussion continued among the different board members. Topics of discussion included the following:

- Annual board review of the 5-year plan.
- A timeline for the community with regard to the process of closing schools.
- Community annual expectations.
- Teachers and staff are already thinking about other places to seek employment.
 - Fear of the district having a major shortfall of teachers due to school closings and consolidations.
 - Message conveyed to staff to "Stay with the District" because the decisions are not final.
 - The board's desires were shared with the Superintendent.
 - Board commitments.
- Strategic Funding.

- Staff compensation.
- Ways to increase the fund balance.
- The need for the district to establish a financial condition, so the district can be financed correctly and have enough funds in the reserves.
- A reminder to parents and students that students need to be present for Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) week to ensure they are counted.
- The capital plan is fluid and will be adjusted based upon student enrollment.
- Justification for schools staying open.
 - Pending board policies regarding boundaries.

Chairman Willie thanked the community for showing up and addressing the Board. He also thanked district staff and encouraged Dr. Bernier to lean on the amazing staff that the district has. He concluded by thanking the Board for the discussion.

PASSED - 6-1

Aye:

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

Nay:

Kelly Coker

Board Member Travel

BOARD MEMBER TRAVEL

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board confirm the travel listed is for official Board business and that it complies with the rules of the State Board of Education:

- **December 2-6, 2024 - Tampa Bay, FL - Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) / Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) 79th Annual Joint Conference - Willie, Joyce, Pearson and Carney.**

Vote Results:

Motion: Charlotte D. Joyce

Second: Warren A. Jones

No Discussion.

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

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

Nay:

None

Superintendent's Travel

None.

Dr. Bernier shared that his previously approved travel dates had changed due to the hurricane. Per OGC, since it was originally approved, though the dates have changed, his travel expenditure is still approved.

For The Record

Board Member Dr. Hershey gave a shout out to Councilman Arias for assisting with putting in signage to assist with student safety for Bartram Springs students and shared appreciation for community members that got involved to ensure this was taken care of.

Board Member Dr. Coker acknowledged the principals and teachers for being focused. She continued thanking Dr. Bernier and Board Member Jones for attending the ribbon cutting ceremony, and she thanked Chairman Willie for always recognizing breast cancer awareness month.

Board Member Jones sent prayers to all the families uprooted from their homes in the Carolinas as well as the young lady at Ed White that was injured. He also gave a shout-out to Nico, Southeast Youth of the Year 2024-2025. He shared appreciation for those that worked during the storm and for the staff that opened the shelters. He concluded by reminding Chairman Willie that this would be his last opportunity to require him to wear the Ribault shirt.

Board Member Carney wished all the homecoming court participants the best of luck and acknowledged Atlantic Beaches 85th Birthday celebration. She acknowledged San Pablo Elementary's "Walk to School Day". She also shared that the Neptune Beach Elementary school is raising funds for a track. She continued acknowledging "Screenagers" at Fletcher High and the 50 parents that participated. Appreciation was shared for Drug Free Duval for putting the event on. She shared appreciation for those that assisted with getting her daughter home and encouraged everyone if they know someone stranded due to the storm, please go to [Floridadisaster.org](https://www.floridadisaster.org) to get assistance as Operation Blue Ridge was created for this reason.

Board Member Pearson shared appreciation for Jax Jaguars for the football clinic for elementary students hosted at Englewood High School. Also, for co-hosting a food distribution event with Feeding NE Florida at Englewood High School. She thanked DCPS and COJ emergency management staff for providing shelter from the storm and JEA for restoring power to district schools so that students could return to class on Monday. She attended the COSSBA Federal Advocacy Conference in DC, reporting back that their group met with all but one office in the Florida Delegation, advocating to preserve or increase funding for IDEA, Title I, Title II, mental

health services and E-rate. IDEA \$121 million gap. She concluded by sharing information from the FSBA Board of Directors and Legislative Agenda meeting, first draft on Friday; common themes from around the state; DCPS has contributed several good ideas for consideration.

Vice-Chair Joyce acknowledged school shootings, sharing that it is unfortunate that it is still happening but she sends prayers out to the community. She reminded the Duval families that the district is vigilant and there are real consequences for students that make threats. She concluded by thanking Chairman Willie for his advocacy regarding breast cancer awareness.

Chairman Willie shared his experience of sitting with the group of young people from various schools throughout the district prior to the meeting and how it shows the importance of public schools. He reminded everyone that once Board Member Jones rolls off the Board he will represent both Ribault and Raines. He continued sharing, it is amazing to see both communities come together in a safe environment. He highlighted Stanton for its blue ribbon status. He encouraged everyone to continue being relentless. The board will continue to kick cancer as long as he is on the Board. He announced to everyone that Board members Coker, Hershey and Jones would be celebrated in November as that would be their last meeting before they roll off the board. In conclusion, he encouraged everyone to stay safe and take care of themselves.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: April A. Carney

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

MA

Superintendent

Chairman