



# Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

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**December 10, 2024, Board Workshop -REVISED**

Ms. Charlotte D. Joyce, Chairman  
Ms. April A. Carney, Vice-Chairman  
Ms. Melody A. Bolduc  
Mr. Reginald Blount  
Ms. Cynthia Pearson  
Mr. Anthony Ricardo  
Mr. Darryl Willie  
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. Board Member Cindy Pearson participated via telephone system.

## **Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

### **1. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS VIA INTERACTIVE VIDEO/TELEPHONE SYSTEMS**

No vote was needed based upon the Office of General Counsel's advice.

## **Items to be Discussed**

### **1. MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL START TIMES UPDATE**

### **2. ENROLLMENT ORGANIZATION – PART 2**

### **3. TRANSPORTATION UPDATE - PART 2**

Michael Ramirez, Chief of Staff, and Chayla Ferguson, Director, Transportation Services shared a PowerPoint presentation with everyone entitled "Transportation Update". Discussion included the following:

- November communication regarding transportation.
- Cost savings.
- Potential elimination of magnet transportation.
- Ridership.

- Different components to the family empowerment scholarship.
  - Eligibility.
  - No restrictions or funding caps.
  - Funding is paid directly to the families.
- Past discussions and things to consider regarding in house transportation.
  - Geographic surface areas.
  - Facilities and staff are needed along with equipment and buses.
- Cost breakdown.
- A year of transition.
- A suggestion was made by the Superintendent to have a separate workshop for transportation.
- Items that will have to be costed out.
- Cost of brand-new school buses.
- 850 buses are currently being contracted.
- Savings from eliminating magnet transportation.
- The goal is to eliminate all magnet transportation to save funding.
- Ensuring parents are aware of the possibility of eliminating magnet transportation.
- A request was made for the additional cost savings for a large urban area to be brought back to the Board.
- A request was made for the total percentage cost based upon the overall general fund to be brought back to the Board.
- Past experiences of no transportation for LaVilla students.
  - Creates equities with access to the program.
  - City Bus transportation to magnet programs.
- A lot of funding is spent on magnet transportation.
  - Audit Advisory Committee concerns were shared about the amount of funding Duval spends on magnet transportation.
- A request was made as a bring back to distinguish where the funds for the Family Empowerment Scholarship derive from.
- Consideration for phasing in house transportation to assist with spreading out the cost.
- The district does not own the buses that are currently being used.
  - The district pays a fee to the vendor that purchases the buses to be used in our district for transportation.
- Survey parents for those that would provide transportation versus those who would not provide transportation to magnet programs if the district does not provide transportation.
  - A bring back was requested for the possibility of working with Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) to create an alternate plan for magnet students.
- Board Member appreciation was shared for Dr. Bernier and the timing which allows the Board time to appeal to legislation for support.
- Delegation conversations regarding additional funds.
- Getting enough Exceptional Student Education (ESE) buses, attendants, and restraints for wheelchairs.
- Magnet transportation discussion will be brought back to the Board.
- QR codes are being used after town hall meetings to get input from parents.
- Direct contact with magnet families.
- Making sure the district does not do something that will cause a reverse effect.
  - Magnet transportation was used as a marketing factor in the past.
  - GSA contracts and having them sunset out.
  - Equity from magnet schools.
  - Neighborhood schools that are not as high performing.

- Putting magnet programs in neighborhood schools.
  - Financial impact.
  - All schools have the right to have the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum.
  - The ability to retain the students and families in our district.
- Creating efficiencies with ESE transportation.
- A bring back for the number of dedicated magnet students broken down by middle and high schools.
  - The amount of funds being spent on transportation for each magnet student was requested.
- If costs were reversed, the district would try to purchase buses and get its own drivers.
  - Defining cost savings is important.
- Purpose of town hall meetings.
- Appreciation was shared for Dr. Bernier bringing the conversation to the table.
- Dr. Bernier will provide the Board with what the top 10 districts are doing regarding transportation.
- Deep dive into what it would look like for the district to bring magnet programs into neighborhood schools.
- Amazing Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.
  - Critical components.
  - Ensuring principals, teachers and staff buy into the magnet programs in their schools.
- Ways to reimagine the way magnet students are being transported.
  - Reasonable driving distance.
  - Magnet programs in more than one location.
- Timeline, messaging, and effects.
- Transportation is an operational issue.
- A request was made as a bring back for the historical timeline and path of magnet transportation.
  - When transportation was provided and why?
  - Enrollment projections during that time.

#### 4. GOVERNANCE

The following items were discussed during Governance:

- Monthly board meetings and highlights.
- Committee assignments.
- Available District Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and School Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting dates.
  - Board Member attendance was requested.
- The Board Office Staff will work with Board Members to ensure they are aware of the meeting dates for their committee assignments.
- Superintendent's Evaluation.
  - Board Members' responsibility.
  - The evaluation is linked to strategic planning.
  - Mid-Year evaluation communication.
  - Evaluation aligning to the Superintendent contract.
  - The evaluation instrument must be approved by June of every year.
  - Things that need to be updated due to assessment changes.
  - Deeper discussions to dive into data.
  - A request was made for OGC to give guidance regarding the Superintendent's evaluation.
  - Possible policy changes that may be needed.

- The will of the Board regarding the evaluation subcommittee working on the superintendent's evaluation or the entire board.
- A request was made for a January workshop to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation tool and strategic plan.
- As it relates to the strategic plan, there is a need for a review of everything to ensure that the vision and mission of the district still aligns to the needs of the district.
  - Strategic planning drives the work of the Board and the Superintendent.
  - Progress report out.
  - Monitoring plan.
  - Information from existing employee surveys should be shared with the Board.
- When a new evaluation should be in place.
- Thoughts on having the Superintendent's Midyear performance evaluation based upon the contract and performance.
  - OGC has requested to have a look at the contract and policy to ensure alignment.
- An inquiry was made regarding the rating category on the evaluation tool.
  - A request was made for a guide on the rating.

## Adjournment

### 1. ADJOURNMENT

#### **Motion:**

**That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 10:59 a.m.**

#### **Vote Results:**

**Motion:** April A. Carney

**Second:** Reginald Blount

**PASSED - 7-0**

#### **Aye:**

April A. Carney

Reginald Blount

Melody A. Bolduc

Darryl Willie

Cindy Pearson

Charlotte D. Joyce

Anthony Ricardo

#### **Nay:**

None

MA

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Superintendent

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Chairman