



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

April 1, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

Prior to the meeting being called to order, the San Pablo Ukulele Club performed under the direction of Mrs. Katharine Lewis.

Ms. Charlotte D. Joyce, Chairman
Ms. April A. Carney, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Reginald Blount
Ms. Melody A. Bolduc
Ms. Cindy Pearson
Mr. Anthony Ricardo
Mr. Darryl D. 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.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Invocation or Thought of the Day

The invocation was given by Samuel Joseph, Stanton College Preparatory School Sophomore.

The thought of the day was given by Caleb Riggins, Senior, Edward H. White School, 2025–26 Boys and Girls Youth of the Year for Duval County.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Jean Ribault MCJROTC Color Guard presented the colors before the reciting of the pledge of allegiance.

Recognitions/Presentations of Awards

Board Members

MAYPORT COASTAL SCIENCES MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Principal Aaron Lakatos shared a presentation on Mayport Coastal Sciences Middle School with everyone. The presentation included the following:

- Learning outside the scope of a textbook.
- The school builds bridges for connecting the love of learning with the appreciation of the coastal environment.
- Agricultural program highlights.
- The Robotics team were recognized as international champions due to their 3 year in a row winning.
- In 2010, the school became a magnet school.
- Community connections.
- The school is acknowledged as a nationally certified magnet school.

In conclusion, Principal Lakatos shared with everyone, that it is a privilege to serve as a beacon of learning, innovation, and community engagement, together creating opportunities to strengthen the fabric within the local community.

Vice-Chairman Carney shared the reasoning why it is was important to highlight Mayport Coastal Sciences Middle School, since April is the month of the military child, and she shared appreciation for their presence at the meeting.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD PROCLAMATION

Vickie Gutierrez, Coordinator, Communications, read the proclamation of the School Board of Duval County, Florida, to honor April 2025 as the month of the military child and April 15, 2025, as Purple Up! for the Military Kids' Day. Both bases represented by executive officers and base commanding officers from NAS JAX and Mayport along with military liaisons from both bases, were presented with framed copies of the proclamation. Sharwonda Peek, Assistant Superintendent, School Choice, and Marshawna Rivers, School Choice Specialist, assisted with the presentations.

Communications

THRIVE SCHOLARS

Bright individuals who will one day become our community's next generation of corporate, civic, and academic leaders, known as Thrive Scholars, were recognized for their hard work, dedication, and drive. The following was shared:

- Thrive Scholars is a unique, comprehensive program that prepares and supports high-achieving, low-income students of color.
- They're supported with more than 350 hours of rigorous, college-level instruction, selective college admissions guidance, personal mentoring, hard and soft skills development, career coaching, and a professional network that opens doors to opportunity.
- Through tailored support from their junior year of high school, through college, and into their first jobs. The goal is to ensure scholars achieve lifelong economic mobility and financial security.
- Thrive Scholars Jacksonville launched in 2022, welcoming its first cohort of Scholars in April 2023.
- The students of the 2025 cohort were welcomed and were identified as the following:
 1. Londyn Muhammad from Atlantic Coast High School
 2. Shama Suprisse from Darnell-Cookman

3. Caydence West from Douglas Anderson
4. Vivianna Rivera from Fletcher
5. Paxon School for Advanced Studies students Tristan Binns, Andres Castellon, Samuel Castellon, and Christopher Randolph
6. Stanton College Preparatory students Ishmael Goodridge and Olivia Hernandez
7. Zykeria Williams from First Coast High
8. Dulce Luna-Flores from Westside High
9. Netsury Lominy from Wolfson
10. Tykayla Kates from Ribault
11. Skylar Frazier and Dante Brewington from Mandarin
12. Cameron Burks from Riverside High.

The scholars were joined by their respective principals, Regional Superintendent Tim Simmons, Thrive Scholars founders Trisha and Jim London, and Executive Director Hannah Oberholtzer. All of the students were congratulated.

2025 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation aims to recognize and honor academically talented students of the United States. These students represent an elite group of 15,000 nationwide who have excelled on their PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test and have a record of high academic performance. The students were recognized for their outstanding achievement, and they were named and celebrated as the National Merit Scholarship finalists. Each student was introduced by the principal of their attending school. They were as follows:

Duncan U. Fletcher High School (Principal Ledford)

1. Maxwell Fitzgerald
2. Justin Sreng

Mandarin High School (Principal Bravo)

1. Joshua Quansah

Paxon School for Advanced Studies (Principal Dr. Turner)

1. Samuel Castellon
2. Treyton Schnorbus

Sandalwood High School (Principal Dr. Hatcher)

1. Nina Rarey

Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies (Principal Begley)

1. Sean Ceragioli
2. Delaney Friday
3. Luke Gundersen
4. Ella Hutsell
5. Sophia Lin

Stanton College Preparatory School (Principal Majova)

1. Arnav Bidwai
2. Mitchell Chao
3. Leon Cheng
4. Rishi Chindalur

5. Tejapreetham Datla
6. Avishka Fulgavkar
7. Ahmed Gabal
8. Arshad Haque
9. Kenny Huang
10. Rowan Kershner
11. Emma Lee
12. Viraat Narisetty
13. Yancho Ovcharov
14. Prithish Shan
15. Zahara Shuemaker
16. Chaiyasaeng Suphakorn
17. Alan Tang
18. Ellie Thompson
19. Jason Whitney
20. Katie Wong

NATIONAL DUAL ENROLLMENT AVIATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR ERAU: ELIZABETH MICHAELS, DUNCAN U. FLETCHER HIGH SCHOOL

Team Duval has outstanding educators who are continuously recognized at the district, state, regional, and national level. Elizabeth Michaels from Duncan U. Fletcher High School was honored for being named the National Dual Enrollment Aviation Teacher of the Year for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU). Principal Dean Ledford, Keisha Epps, Dual Enrollment/Early College Specialist, and a portion of her students joined Ms. Michaels as she was honored for this tremendous accolade. The following was shared about Ms. Michaels.

- According to ERAU, Ms. Michaels is a dedicated teacher who's all about helping students take flight.
- She's been teaching Dual Enrollment Aviation and Engineering courses for ERAU at Duncan U. Fletcher High School since 2019, where her classes are in high demand.
- Beyond the classroom, Ms. Michaels is a big supporter of her students' dreams.
- She has helped many earn scholarships in aviation programs.
- Ms. Michaels received a Superintendent Coin of Excellence to highlight her amazing leadership and teaching.

HEROIC LIFE-SAVING STUDENTS, JEAN RIBAUTL HIGH SCHOOL

Team Duval students were honored for their heroic, life-saving efforts. They were joined by their Principal Dr. Gregory Bostic, Assistant Principal Andrea Talley-Brill, the rescued student Rafhael, Chief of School Police Jackson Short, Lt. Matthew Black, and Dr. Emily Fontane, who treated Rafhael at UF Shands, as they were honored and celebrated for their heroic, life-saving efforts by all in the room. The students were presented a token of appreciation honoring the rapid response and the administration of first aid. They also received a Superintendent Coin of Excellence and a standing ovation for their heroic actions. The following was also shared about that moment:

It all began on March 11, at around 2:40 in the afternoon at Jean Ribault High School. A group of students from the Ribault Soccer team were practicing and running drills on the field behind the school. After working up a sweat, one student, Rafhael Thorne, went to the school's pool area, and jumped in from the diving board. The cold water instantly caused Rafhael to become overcome with shock and immobilization. It was shortly after this that two students, Jonathan Yanes and Victor Abruna-Maldonado

entered the pool area and quickly realized their classmate needed help. They immediately jumped into action, pulling him out of the pool. After realizing Rafael was unresponsive and not breathing, they performed CPR and called 911. Rafael was successfully revived by Jonathan and Victor. He regained consciousness, began breathing on his own, and was able to walk to the ambulance, which transported him to UF Shands Hospital. Jonathan and Victor showed tremendous bravery and selflessness during this incident, and if not for them, this could have been a tragedy.

DCPS TOP CHEF AWARD RECOGNITION

Last month, the Duval County Public Schools' Administration building hosted its first-ever men's cook-off and bake-off to raise money for the United Way of Northeast Florida. Ten men submitted their prized recipes into the competition, each vying for the opportunity to be named the district's Top Chef. The chefs that participated were Bruce Scheeley, Evan Daniels, William Brown, Oscar Harris, Jose Acevedo, Jim Culbert, Scott Schneider, Corey Wright, Michael Ramirez & Dr. Bernier. All the chefs present at the meeting were asked to come up front for recognition. Evan Daniels, Director of Gear Up, reigned supreme with his peach cobbler, becoming our first ever Top Chef Winner. His baked goods raised over \$150 alone and he also walked away with a trophy that he'll keep for one year. Mr. Daniels was congratulated as being a winner for this worthy cause. The United Way Northeast Florida's Relationship Development Manager, Kristy McBee, joined for the recognition.

The following was also shared regarding the event:

- The event was a success, raising over \$800!
- As a valued partner, the United Way of Northeast Florida offers services through our Full-Service Schools, benefiting families in need by providing additional resources, help, and creating inspiring environments for engaging learning environments.

Approval of Agenda

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 1, 2025, AGENDA

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the April 1, 2025, agenda as submitted on March 25, 2025, with the following changes:

BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:

- **MONTH OF MILITARY CHILD PROCLAMATION - ITEM ADDED, ATTACHMENT ADDED**

COMMUNICATIONS:

- **HEROIC LIFE-SAVING STUDENTS, JEAN RIBAUT HIGH SCHOOL - ITEM ADDED**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- **APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 1, 2024, AGENDA - ITEM AMENDED**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - ITEM AMENDED**

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES - STAFFING

- **HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES EMPLOYEE TRANSACTIONS - ATTACHMENT UPDATED**

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES - PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- **EMPLOYEE TERMINATION - RASHAD JONES - ITEM REMOVED**

DISCUSSION

CHIEF OF STAFF:

- **PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 2 BOARD POLICY - ITEM AMENDED**
- **PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 6 BOARD POLICY - ITEM AMENDED**

BOARD MEMBER TRAVEL:

- **BOARD MEMBER TRAVEL - ITEM AMENDED**

Vote Results:

Motion: April A. Carney

Second: Anthony Ricardo

No Discussion.

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Charlotte D. Joyce

April A. Carney

Reginald Blount

Melody A. Bolduc

Cindy Pearson

Anthony Ricardo

Darryl D. Willie

Nay:

None

Chairperson's Report

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairman Joyce shared a PowerPoint presentation on the following items below. Jill Fierle, Director, Career and Technical Education, joined in the presentation and was thanked for her assistance.

- Highlights on learning opportunities offered at 11 Duval County Public Schools (DCPS).
- Transportation, Distribution, Logistics and Manufacturing Offerings in DCPS.
- Partnerships and Student Opportunities.
- A QR code or a Career and Technical Education guide to assist with providing more information.
- Upcoming Dates and Items of Interest.

Superintendent's Reports

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Bernier shared a PowerPoint presentation on the following:

- A recap of March events.
- Sale of the District Building. Professional sale signs will be placed.
- An update on the Legislative Session.
- The Youth Mental Health Conference - I'm a Star Foundation.
- LISTEN Initiative at Andrew Jackson High School.
- State Accountability Testing Schedule.
- 2025 School-Related Employee of the Year.
- Summer Camp Registration.
- Month of the Military Child.
- Purple Star Schools.

Department Reports

No report.

Sales Surtax Oversight Committee Report

Sales Surtax Oversight Committee Chairman Lawrence Dennis shared the following:

- Committee report.
- Shared appreciation for the Board Members and Superintendent's attendance during the meetings.
- Draft annual report updates.
- Discussions regarding the scope of work.
- Overview and updates on project dashboard.
- Appreciation to the Board for allowing him the opportunity to report.

Chairman Joyce thanked Mr. Dennis for his work on the committee.

Comments from Elected Officials

None.

Public Comment

Thirty-eight members of the public signed up to speak but there were only 37 speaker cards submitted. They were given 2 minutes each to speak. Nine members of the public waived their speaking time.

Comments from Parent Organizations

None.

Comments from District Student Government Association

None.

Comments from Employee Organizations

The following representative(s) spoke during the meeting:

- Tammie Brooks-Evans, President, DTU
- Elton Brown, President, AFSCME
- Frank Delone, IBEW

Approval of Minutes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

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

- **March 4, 2025, Regular Board Meeting**
- **March 11, 2025, Agenda Committee Meeting**
- **March 11, 2025, Board Workshop**
- **March 12, 2025, Special Board Meeting - Student Expulsion Hearing(s)**
- **March 25, 2025, Board Workshop**
- **March 26, 2025, Policy Handbook Review Committee Meeting - Item Added**

Vote Results:

Motion: Cindy Pearson

Second: Darryl D. Willie

No Discussion.

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Charlotte D. Joyce

April A. Carney

Reginald Blount

Melody A. Bolduc

Cindy Pearson

Anthony Ricardo

Darryl D. Willie

Nay:

None.

Approval of Consent Agenda

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the Consent Agenda.

Vote Results:

Motion: Melody A. Bolduc

Second: Anthony Ricardo

No Discussion.

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Charlotte D. Joyce

April A. Carney

Reginald Blount

Melody A. Bolduc

Cindy Pearson

Anthony Ricardo

Darryl D. Willie

Nay:

None.

Consent Agenda

Academic Services

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH TURNAROUND SOLUTIONS, INC.
2. APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH MGT IMPACT SOLUTIONS, LLC

Human Resource Services - Staffing

3. HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES EMPLOYEE TRANSACTIONS
4. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS - SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT THREAT MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR
5. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS - SUPERVISOR, SCHOOL SAFETY COMPLIANCE
6. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS - DIRECTOR, SCHOOL ENROLLMENT DEVELOPMENT

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

7. ~~EMPLOYEE TERMINATION – RASHAD JONES~~

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

8. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS FEBRUARY 2025

9. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JANUARY 2025

10. REFUNDING CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION (COPS) RESOLUTION

Information Technology

11. FACILITRON ONLINE FACILITY RENTALS

12. OPTIV SECURITY, INC. (OKTA FOR ENHANCED SECURITY AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT)

Operations - Real Estate, Planning and Programming

13. APPROVE THE GRANT OF A TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT BETWEEN THE SCHOOL BOARD OF DUVAL COUNTY AND THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE FOR THE KINGS STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, SIDEWALK REPAIR AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE

14. SALE OF SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY - 10 ACRES OF VACANT LAND IN DINSMORE, LOCATED NEAR PLUMMER ROAD, REAL ESTATE NUMBER 002566-0000, PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

15. PREQUALIFICATIONS OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

16. CHANGE ORDER REPORT

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

18. EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDING CODE INSPECTION SERVICES - YEAR 2 OF 4 RENEWALS - RFP NO. 18-23/TW

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

19. SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT

20. FEBRUARY 2025 PURCHASE REPORT

21. RENEWAL – NONPROFIT SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE – FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT COMPANY, RFP NO.21-23/TW.

Discussion

Board Members

Academic Services

22. DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHALLENGED MATERIAL, "IDENTICAL" BY ELLEN HOPKINS

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the recommendation made by the District Material Review Committee on the challenged material, Identical by Ellen Hopkins.

Vote Results:

Motion: April A. Carney

Second: Melody A. Bolduc

Discussion:

Mr. Poole shared clarification with the Board Members as to what it would mean if they chose to retain the motion for use of the book because the review committee's recommendation is to keep the book on the shelf.

Board Member Willie shared an appreciation for the opportunity to speak and also shared with everyone that book banning is outdated and students still have access through other methods. He shared concerns regarding the precedence that would be set by the Board, and he encouraged the Board to have balance and honor the families and communities and young adults that are dealing with some of these issues all while possessing an understanding of what they are dealing with. He also shared appreciation for everyone's opinion and offered an amendment to the recommendation to allow the book in a restricted area with parental access.

Motion to Amend:

That the Duval County School Board approve the recommendation to allow the book back, access in a restricted area, with parental permission ~~restore the book behind the circulation desk and allow only with written parent permission~~ on the challenged material, Identical by Ellen Hopkins.

Vote Results:

Motion: Darryl D. Willie

Second: None.

Motion Died.

A second amendment to the original motion was made by Board Member Pearson as follows:

Motion to Amend:

That the Duval County School Board amend the recommendation made by the District Material Review Committee on the challenged material, Identical₁, by Ellen Hopkins to restore behind circulation desk to be checked out only with written parent permission.

Vote Results:

Motion: Cindy Pearson

Second: Darryl D. Willie

Discussion:

Vice-Chairman Carney reminded everyone that the book is available in the public library and if a parent wants the student to read it, they can access it from the public library or order it from Amazon. She continued that this material should not be used to provide therapy. She also shared that the literature should not be funded by taxpayers' dollars.

Board Member Blount shared his concerns and also shared that he has received lots of emails with regard to this book and his biggest concern is what is the norm and what will be next. He continued sharing that the book could be traumatizing and detrimental to some and that the Duval County School Board (DCSB) should not promote or allow controversial material.

Board Member Bolduc shared that she had received emails sharing concerns about the book and, in response to some of those emails, she asked for a specific reason why the constituents felt the way that they did. Some responses included that the book might help those who have had similar experiences to deal with their situation. She continued sharing that the book is not for mental health counseling and there are people who would like to share their real-life experiences, in which a book is not needed for this. She concluded sharing that children should not be guiding each other by the use of this book, and she doesn't see any value in offering this book in Duval County Public Schools.

The amendment was read again by Chairman Joyce.

Board Member Willie shared that parental rights should be supported. Therefore, he feels the amendment should be supported.

Chairman Joyce shared appreciation for the commentary on this item. She continued sharing that there is limited shelf space and even if all books are made accessible, no one could possibly read all of them.

The board discussion continued.

Board Office Staff read the motion to amend on the floor.

Failed - 1-6**Aye:**

Darryl D. Willie

Nay:

Charlotte D. Joyce

April A. Carney

Reginald Blount

Melody A. Bolduc
Cindy Pearson
Anthony Ricardo

The Board returned to the original motion.

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the recommendation made by the District Material Review Committee on the challenged material, Identical by Ellen Hopkins.

Vote Results:

Motion: April A. Carney

Second: Melody A. Bolduc

Discussion:

Board Member Blount raised concerns about the direction we are heading in regarding the removal of inappropriate materials.

Board Member Willie inquired about the next steps and what would happen after the Board votes. Per OGC, if the Board votes yes, then the book stays on the shelf, but if the Board votes no, then there will be no future use of the book "Identical".

Board Member Pearson offered another amendment to permanently remove the book from DCPS materials.

Motion to Amend:

That the Duval County School Board approve the recommendation to permanently remove the book, "Identical" by Ellen Hopkins from DCPS materials.

Vote Results:

Motion: Cindy Pearson

Second: Darryl D. Willie

Discussion:

Board Member Ricardo shared appreciation for the discussion and the entire process. He continued sharing the book is in violation of state statutes, and it should be kept off of the shelves.

Vice-Chairman Carney thanked Board Member Pearson for the options and inquired what permanently removed looks like as well as how the Board would know the books have been removed. Per Dr. Bernier, permanently removed, means removing all copies of the book as well as any that have been purchased and also identifying the locations of them to ensure verification of removal. Dr. Bernier also shared that educators will be made aware that the book has been removed, so if there are any personal copies of the book, those can be removed as well.

Vice-Chair Carney also shared concerns about having an accurate count of the books in the Destiny system.

Board Member Willie shared with the Board that they should have read the book, and the decision should be made based upon appropriate age.

Chairman Joyce shared her stance with the Board regarding this item.

Passed - 6-1

Aye:

Charlotte D. Joyce
April A. Carney
Reginald Blount
Melody A. Bolduc
Cindy Pearson
Anthony Ricardo

Nay:

Darryl D. Willie

Motion as amended:

Vote Results:

Motion: April A. Carney

Second: Melody A. Bolduc

Passed - 6-1

Aye:

Charlotte D. Joyce
April A. Carney
Reginald Blount
Melody A. Bolduc
Cindy Pearson
Anthony Ricardo

Nay:

Darryl D. Willie

Chief of Staff

23. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 2 BOARD POLICY

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board conduct a public hearing and adopt the recommended revisions to the following policies in School Board Manual Chapter 2:

Policy 2.26. Board Meeting Protocol and Format. Policy 2.26 is proposed to allow spokespeople from designated parent organizations, groups, and committees to speak for seven (7) minutes.

Public hearing opened.

Public hearing closed.

Vote Results:

Motion: Melody A. Bolduc

Second: Anthony Ricardo

No comments.

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Charlotte D. Joyce

April A. Carney

Reginald Blount

Melody A. Bolduc

Cindy Pearson

Anthony Ricardo

Darryl D. Willie

Nay:

None.

24. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 6 BOARD POLICIES

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board conduct a public hearing and adopt the recommended revisions to the following policies in School Board Manual Chapter 2:

Recommended changes to Chapter 6 policies include the following:

- **6.12 Employment of Athletic Coaches Who Are Not Full-Time Employees of the School Board.** Proposed to align with Florida Statute 1012.55(2) and adds that additional requirements for hiring may include the holding and maintaining CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) certifications.
- **6.45 Personnel Files.** Proposed update notes that employees may review their own personnel file upon request.
- **6.57 Annual Leave Updates.** The proposed update notes the change of name of the employee self-service portal from ESS to Smart View.
- **6.61 Bereavement Leave.** The proposed update notes the change of name of the employee self-service portal from ESS to Smart View.
- **6.67 Temporary Duty Elsewhere.** The proposed update allows an employee to be temporarily assigned away from his/her regularly assigned duties and place of employment in conjunction with or pending an investigation with the school district or any applicable reporting authority.
- **6.73 Suspension and Dismissal.** The policy is proposed to include supervisors and administrators in the District's one-year mandatory probationary period.
- **6.78 Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP).** The policy is proposed to change the payment of sick schedule for the DROP program, consistent with legislative updates.

Public hearing opened.

Public hearing closed.

Vote Results:

Motion: Melody A. Bolduc

Second: Reginald Blount

No Comments.

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Charlotte D. Joyce

April A. Carney

Reginald Blount

Melody A. Bolduc

Cindy Pearson

Anthony Ricardo

Darryl D. Willie

Nay:

None

General

Emergency Agenda Items

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:

- **June 24-27, 2025 - Covington, KY - School Boards for Academic Excellence (sbae) Summer Break Conference - Joyce, Carney, Blount, and Ricardo.**

Vote Results:

Motion: Anthony Ricardo

Second: Reginald Blount

Comments:

Board Member Pearson shared that the Board should pay attention to travel, and, per Board Policy chapter 2, they should report back to the public if taxpayers' money is spent to show fiscal responsibility. She continued sharing her concerns about how travel has been handled during the last couple of meetings. She also shared concerns regarding her speaking up in relation to the travel and being retaliated against, resulting in her not being able to go on trips that the district could benefit from.

Vice-Chairman Carney shared that none of the board members should feel intimidated about travel when it benefits the district and the board. She continued sharing that the School Boards for Academic Excellence (sbae) organization does not require a membership fee. Therefore, what it costs for 1 FSBA membership

could be used to send 4 board members to sbae conferences. Both FSBA and sbae organizations have beneficial information for the board members. Therefore, Vice-Chairman Carney believes it is important for board members to educate themselves.

Board Member Bolduc recognized Board Member Pearson for a job well done with regard to legislative work. She also acknowledged the fact that Board Member Willie's trip to the Council of the Great City Schools was for committee work and not a conference.

Board Member Willie shared that the Board is in an interesting spot with travel and that things are a bit perplexing. He continued and made a request for the Board to have a conversation regarding travel to ensure the taxpayers understand what is happening with the money.

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Charlotte D. Joyce
April A. Carney
Reginald Blount
Melody A. Bolduc
Cindy Pearson
Anthony Ricardo
Darryl D. Willie

Nay:

None.

Superintendent's Travel

SUPERINTENDENT'S TRAVEL

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following Superintendent's travel:

- **April 10, 2025, Kissimmee, FL - Florida Association of District School Superintendent's (FADSS) 2025 Osceola County Regional/Feeder Pattern.**

Vote Results:

Motion: April A. Carney

Second: Melody A. Bolduc

Discussion:

None.

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Charlotte D. Joyce
April A. Carney
Reginald Blount

Melody A. Bolduc
Cindy Pearson
Anthony Ricardo
Darryl D. Willie

Nay:
None.

For The Record

Board members shared the following:

Board Member Ricardo:

- Appreciation for Board Member Pearson's comments regarding Board travel.
- Summary of March travel to Tallahassee, FL for the FSBA conference.
 - Training for Board Members to operate as effectively as possible.
 - Meetings with several legislators and representatives of the Duval group to discuss their proposals.
- Special thanks was shared for Kortney Wesley, Director, Governmental Relations, and her assistance provided with arranging the Board Members' meetings with legislators.
- Florida statutes in regard to the book "Identical".
- As an elected official, he is committed to following the letter and intent of the state laws and statutes for the well-being of our students.
- Appreciation was shared for the time and effort that the Challenge Committee spent reviewing the material.

Board Member Willie:

- Thanked the board for the communication regarding the challenged book.
- Encouraged the board to be ready for the next and have the same level of dialog.
- Shared appreciation for the amendments.
- Shared appreciation for Erika Harding, Assistant Superintendent, Chief of Operations, for her work with the Magnolia Gardens Community.
- Recognition of Jean Ribault Middle and High Schools as blue zone schools.
- Commended Leon Mungin, Highlands Middle School Principal, for his hard work at the school.
- Summary of Tallahassee visit.
- Appreciation shared for Ms. Wesley, who assisted with the scheduling of those meetings.
- The number of bills that the Board needs to focus on.

Board Member Pearson:

- Condolences were expressed for the family of Ms. Evelyn Mobley. Ms. Mobley passed away but was a DCPS employee for more than 50 years.
- Congratulations to Dr. Marilyn Barnwell, Alfred I. duPont Middle School Principal and Dr. Heather Albritton, Director, Health, and Physical Education for receiving their doctorate degree.
- Well wishes to Alexa Merriweather, a Douglas Anderson student, who made it through the first episode of American Idol.
- Appreciation was shared for the DCPS partners, Feeding Northeast Florida, for supplying boxes of food to help students bridge the gap during spring break. The Elks Lodge #221 for recognizing Michael Steinhardt, DASOTA, Educator of the Year. Read USA for sponsoring upcoming book fairs.
- Updates on senate bills and education budgets.

- Parental action requested to reach out to all members of Duval Delegation. Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) is attached to student success.

Board Member Blount:

- FSBA conference update shared.
- HB123 and SB140.
- Thanked Kortney Wesley for the information shared.
- Kudos to Dr. Talya Taylor, Principal of West Riverside. She was recognized for her excitement and being a good principal.
- Letter received from Senator Bean. Board Member Blount nominated Paxon School for the Advanced Studies Band, for the opportunity to travel to D.C.

Board Member Bolduc:

- Thanks to the parents that reached out advocating for their students and for their involvement.
- Travel update.
- Legislators' meeting update.
- Thanked Dr. Bernier and staff.
- Congratulations to Dr. Pierce in his new role as the Chief Officer, Enrollment Marketing.
- Appreciation shared for Dr. Bernier and Mr. Ramirez regarding the sale of the building process.
- Appreciation was shared for the Sales Surtax and Audit Advisory Committee volunteers and their participation.
- Shout out to Sarah Bravo, Mandarin High Principal, for her excellent leadership.
- The Be Safe, Be Seen Campaign was reiterated. The community was asked to watch for students and slow down.

Vice-Chairman Carney:

- Appreciation shared for Mayport Coastal Sciences. Impressed with what is transpiring in the school.
- Honoring military children by wearing purple.
- Acknowledgment of all Purple Schools.
- Thanked Fletcher High for being present at the meeting.
- Book review committee and book challenges. The Board and the committee may not agree on everything, but every book challenge will be taken into consideration individually.
- Appreciation was shared with the Board for the dialog on the book challenge.
- Remain committed to transparency with the community and taxpayers.

Chairman Joyce:

- DCPS has amazing students that are doing amazing things.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 p.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: April A. Carney

Second: Cindy Pearson

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Charlotte D. Joyce
April A. Carney
Reginald Blount
Melody A. Bolduc
Cindy Pearson
Anthony Ricardo
Darryl D. Willie

Nay:

None

MA

Superintendent

Chairman