



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

April 15, 2025, Agenda Committee Meeting

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 9:04 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. DRAFT AGENDA REVIEW - MAY 6, 2025

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION STUDENT SERVICES CONTRACTED STAFF

Dr. Christopher Bernier joined in the discussion on the following:

- A summary of the item was explained, including an overview of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and Individual Education Plans (IEP).
- How funding for IDEA students is received and a breakdown of the amounts.
- Cost of third-party staffing.
- A request for a comparison of our staff salaries versus other districts.
- If a charter school does not provide these services, the district must.
- A request to expose Career and Technical Education (CTE) students to these positions as possible majors in college.

APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH SPECTRUM CENTER, INC. DBA: CHANCELIGHT EDUCATION

Dr. Bernier, Paula Renfro, Chief Officer, Academic Services, and Amy Valentine, Executive Director, Exceptional Education/Student Services, joined in the discussion on the following:

- A cost comparison for our own district and other districts was requested.
- A request for professional development within our district.

- Academic outcomes were explained.
- A bring back of the scale scores was requested.

2024-2025 COJ DRIVER EDUCATION SAFETY TRUST FUND AGREEMENT (REIMBURSABLE GRANT)

Dr. Bernier, Scott Schneider, Chief of Schools, and Darrin Williams, Director, Community Education & Extended Day Programs, joined in the discussion on the following:

- Increase in students taking UBER versus driving.
- Increase in attendance and population for the program.
- The need for additional teachers for this program.
- Classes are open to homeschool students as well as Duval County students.

APPROVAL OF THE DISTRICT 2025-2028 ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL) PLAN

- Appreciation was expressed to school-based staff for exceeding the state average for graduation rates and all the efforts of our ELL students.

EXECUTION OF CHARTER RENEWAL CONTRACT (CHARTER) FOR SAN JOSE PRIMARY

Dr. Bernier and Eugene Hays, Director, School Choice, joined in the discussion on the following:

- Concerns were expressed regarding the school grades in comparison to other local schools in the area.
- Changes in state law have shifted the approval grade to a D. It was advised that the district could continue to work with legislative sessions regarding discussions on their grades.
- A request for who owns the building was made.
- A request for school comparisons with future items was made.
- Progress Monitoring Assessment (PMA) 1 and PMA2 results will be provided to the Board.

EXECUTION OF CHARTER RENEWAL CONTRACT (CHARTER) FOR KIPP V.O.I.C.E. ACADEMY

- Concerns were expressed about the school's three recent D grades.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS - DIRECTOR, FACILITIES ACCOUNTING & FINANCIAL SERVICES

Dr. Bernier and Erika Harding, Assistant Superintendent, Chief Operations joined in the discussion on the following:

- This is a job description, not a hire and has no financial impact.
- This is an attempt to bring the position in house and reduce Jacobs' contract.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH TEACH FOR AMERICA FOR 2025-20226 THROUGH 2027-2028

Dr. Bernier and Jacqueline Watkins, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, joined in the discussion on the following:

- First year core member teacher's salaries and third-party fees were discussed.
- A list of all incentives paid to teachers was requested.
- A list of all the companies used to recruit teachers was requested, as well as the retention rate and costs.
- Loan forgiveness was explained.

The meeting recessed at 10:35 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

APPROVAL OF SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH DCPS AND SAMARITAN SOFTWARE, LLC.

Dr. Bernier and Ms. Watkins joined in the discussion on the following:

- Risk concerns were explained.
- Extension of contract through June 2026. A request for the dates of the original contract was made.

PROPERTY INSURANCE

Dr. Bernier, Ms. Watkins and Ms. Harding joined in the discussion of the following:

- Appreciation expressed to Dr. Bernier and staff for successfully renegotiating the contract for a lower amount.
- The district as well as others across the state are not insured at 100%.
- The cost of rebuilding Ribault High School was given in comparison to the amount of coverage.

ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS - MARCH 2025

Dr. Bernier and Ronald Fagan, Chief Financial Officer, joined in the discussion on the following:

- Money from Jacksonville Public Education Foundation (JPEF) for renaming schools.
- The transfer from services was explained.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FEBRUARY 2025

Dr. Bernier and Mr. Fagan joined in the discussion on the following:

- An overview of the financial statement was given by Mr. Fagan.
- Food services and free lunches were explained.
- Federal funding for 2026-2027 and possible cuts were explained.

SECURE EMAIL GATEWAY

Dr. Bernier and Jim Culbert, Chief, Technology Services joined in the discussion on the following:

- A request for the length of the contract be placed in the recommendation.

APPTEGY COMMUNICATION SOLUTION

Dr. Bernier, Mr. Culbert and Tracy Pierce, Chief Officer, Enrollment Marketing, Communication, joined in the discussion on the following:

- Additional expenses incurred in the first year's contract.
- Approved platform for communication by teachers.
- Email communication issues.
- The vendor has been very responsive to requests.
- Tools are available to translate English-speaking phone calls to the desired language by email.

APPROVE LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND MIDTOWN CENTRE OFFICE, LLC. FOR 8,361 SF OFFICE SPACE AT 4030 BOULEVARD CENTER DRIVE (MIDTOWN BUILDING 4400) FOR THE ESE PROGRAM

Dr. Bernier and Ms. Harding joined in the discussion on the following:

- School use changes were explained.
- Co-location was explained.
- Lease payments versus property owned for the relocation of the staff.
- Public access to the department.
- A request for a fair market value of the proposed rental space.
- A request to have the item come before the board for the renewal process.
- 1-year lease with 4 annual renewals. Landlord needs 90 days' notice of vacating.

DECLARE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 220, LOCATED AT 8801 LAKE PLACID DRIVE EAST, AS SURPLUS PROPERTY UNSUITABLE AND UNNECESSARY FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

Dr. Bernier joined in the discussion on the following:

- A request for communication with the community to continue with this process.
- The state determines the use of the buildings.
- Mineral rights.
- Agreements to include a temporary certificate of occupancy (TCO) within 18–24 months or the down payment comes back to the district and is used to tear down the building.

DECLARE PINE ESTATES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NO. 250, LOCATED AT 10741 PINE ESTATE ROAD EAST, AS SURPLUS PROPERTY UNSUITABLE AND UNNECESSARY FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

Dr. Bernier joined in the discussion on the following:

- Appreciation was expressed for the process and protocol and especially the posture the district is now taking regarding real estate.

CHANGE ORDER REPORT

Dr. Bernier and Ms. Harding joined in the discussion on the following:

- Appreciation was expressed for the recent changes to the report as requested.
- Safety and security upgrades.

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

Dr. Bernier and Ms. Harding joined in the discussion on the following:

- Football field bleacher replacement at Eugene Butler.
- This was part of the 1 mill Arts and Athletics plan, and the number will be provided in a bring back.
- The size of Eugene Butler is large enough to be viable.

CASTALDI ANALYSIS FOR HOGAN SPRING GLEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION APPROVAL

Dr. Bernier joined in the discussion on the following:

- Possible salvage in the building.
- Memorabilia and historical preservation.
- Continuity of new school.

ADOPT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES FIVE YEAR WORK PROGRAM 2024/2025 - 2029/2030

Dr. Bernier and Ms. Harding joined in the discussion on the following:

- Report submitted to the state annually for maintenance work for the school year not associated with major projects or new builds.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, GSA 4, AND GSA 5 CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH STUDENT TRANSPORTATION OF AMERICA

Dr. Bernier and Ms. Harding joined in the discussion on the following:

- The reason Student Transportation of America (STA) is having trouble hiring school bus drivers/assistants was shared.
- An explanation on who provides transportation for the missed or late routes was shared.
- Incentive signing bonuses.
- Exit interviews.
- Retention of drivers.
- Issues for military personnel when the buses are late.
- Penalties waived for school years 2021-2022; 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.
- The implementation plan from STA will be provided to the Board.
- A request to bring this back every year as a review of performance.
- A bring back request of what has been spent each year on this contract.

MARCH 2025 PURCHASE REPORT

Dr. Bernier joined in the discussion on the following:

- Sourcewell contracts and other ways of obtaining contracts were explained.
- Funding sources were explained. A request to show millage amounts versus others.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT J.P.

Mr. Poole joined in the discussion on the following:

- Information regarding this item was discussed in a previous Shade Meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 2 BOARD POLICIES AND SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION INSTRUMENT

Dr. Bernier, Ms. Renfro and Ms. Sams joined in the discussion on the following:

- Appreciation was expressed for the work on this policy.
- The timelines were explained.
- A request for 4.10(4)(d) "gender" subjective - request to word "single-sex environment". Updates will be made.

- Item 4.10(9)(c) taught in a health curriculum course number with this standard, it has to be taught by a certified teacher.

The meeting recessed at 1:05pm.

The meeting reconvened at 1:24pm.

- 4.10(IX)(f) requested to read "all information required by the Florida Statute."
- 4.30 protected status was explained. Concerns were expressed about the volunteer committee members' information.
- A request for the template to include what is absolutely required. Will check with the state to confirm.
- Appointees should come from their particular district.
- Quorum.
- A major factor in the delay previously was the parents not physically showing up for training.
- The timeline of the review committee was explained.

PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 5 BOARD POLICIES:

Dr. Bernier, and Mr. Poole joined in the discussion on the following:

- Confidentiality of an individual's information.
- Immigration information is not allowed by law.

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

Dr. Bernier, and Ms. Sams joined in the discussion on the following:

- Policy 6.83 and 6.84 are aligned to the Florida Rules of Professional Conduct for Educators.

PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE: REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 7 BOARD POLICIES:

- A bring back request for minority businesses information.

Comments from Elected Officials

Public Comment

There was 1 public comment speaker.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 2:29 pm.

Vote Results:

Motion: April A. Carney

Second: Darryl D. Willie

PASSED: 7 - 0

Aye:

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

Nay:

None

CR

Superintendent

Chairman