



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

May 13, 2025, Board Workshop - REVISED

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 Ms. Taylor Philips, Office of General Counsel, were also present. *Board Member Willie arrived at 9:05 a.m.*

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL START TIMES UPDATE

Dr. Bernier provided a brief update for the Board Members and the public:

- A look into House Bill (HB) 733 - Middle School and High School Start Times.
- A survey of the community was conducted to get an understanding of their feelings on the change to school start times.

Michael Ramirez used a PowerPoint presentation (see attached) to share information about the following:

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- There were 27,000 responses from the survey.
- Community feedback overview.
- Qualitative feedback from the community.
- The positive, neutral, and negative sentiments as it pertains to scheduling.
- Legislative Update on Senate Bill (SB) 296.
 - An explanation for what will happen if the bill is passed.
 - This bill would also apply to charter schools.
- The Impact Bargaining Session resulted in a successful outcome to address concerns related to the secondary schedule change for 2025-2026 school year.
- An explanation for next steps.

Discussion involved:

- Legislative approval has already taken place. Items are now waiting for the governor's signature.
- The staff is prepared to change all operations that will be affected.
- Due to high schools getting out 15 minutes earlier, it allows 15 minutes to recycle the buses and get them to elementary schools.
- If there are no teachers who choose to accept the stipend, there will be a rotation for duty for all teachers created by the principal.
- It is believed that the stipend will attract teachers to handle the extra responsibilities.
- The stipend is per semester.
- Teachers' planning time.
- Per SB 296, the district will have to submit a report annually starting June 1, 2026.
- Elections cause the legislative body to turn over, so this item could circle back later.
- Make sure the district communicates with the community and finds funds for operation.
- Bring back: The cost of the stipend based on the number of teachers who sign up.
- The stipend would come from the School Safety fund.
- Cap for stipend and signing up for the special duty assignment.
- Stipend applies to secondary schools, not elementary schools.

2. BUDGET UPDATE

Dr. Bernier shared accolades with the Board regarding Ron Fagan, Chief Financial Officer. He also briefly mentioned what Mr. Fagan would be presenting.

Mr. Fagan used a PowerPoint presentation (see attached) to explain the following:

- Certificate of Participation (COPS) Refunding.
 - Bond Ratings.
 - Pricing - Selling of Our Bonds.
- Proposed House and Senate Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) Budgets.
- Property Values and Millage Rate.
- Budget Considerations and Timeline.
- Financial Trends.
- Building the 2025-2026 General Budget.

Discussion involved:

- A coupon is the interest rate.
- Cost of bonds.
- Underwriters.
- Financial provisions from the Senate and House for Family Empowerment Scholarships.
- 0.4% increase in Florida Retirement System (FRS).
- Full-Time Equivalent (FTE).
- Bring back: The number of charter schools offering Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses.
- Teacher Salary Increase Allocation (TISA).
- Increase in funds provided to Family Empowerment Scholarships by the House. Not aware of what the Senate provides.
- Families leaving traditional schools.
- Property Tax versus Sales Tax.

- The General Fund Five-Year Trend.
- How the ending fund balance impacts the General Fund Budget for the next year.
- Budgets are always estimates. There are budgets and there are actuals.
- 85% of the budget is tied up in salaries and benefits.
- Running school buildings that are too small in enrollment.
- The district needs to be right-sized based on the revenue intake to make sure that it matches the outcomes.
- Enrollment Marketing Department.
- The status of the items under 'Decisions Up for Consideration'.
- Budget cuts.
- Bring back: Communication with big districts regarding funding for their large contracts.
- Budget and student outcomes.
- Creating policy around the budget.
- Balancing the budget.
- Comprehensive enrollment study.
- Heat maps and national statistics regarding families moving.
- Renewal of interest in the same neighborhoods. The district uses the city's Geographic Information System (GIS) data and real estate information to track families moving into Duval County.

3. GOVERNANCE

Dr. Bernier introduced Taylor Phillips, Office of General Counsel attorney.

Board Member Willie:

- Parameters around a policy for the budget.

Vice-Chairman Carney:

- Property tax and sales tax.

Board Member Pearson:

- Requested information regarding the Board attorney.
 - Chairman Joyce responded to Board Member Pearson's request regarding the Board attorney.

4. SAFETY AND SECURITY

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board adjourn the meeting 11:48 a.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: Anthony Ricardo

Second: Reginald Blount

PASSED 7-0

Aye:

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

Nay:

None

GC

Superintendent

Chairman