



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

June 10, 2025, Board Workshop

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 except Chairman Charlotte D. Joyce. Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent, and Mr. Michael Fackler, Office of General Counsel, were also present. Board Member Willie arrived at 9:21 a.m.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. STUDENT SERVICES UPDATE

Dr. Anna DeWese, Executive Director of Student Discipline and Support Services, used the PowerPoint presentation, Student Services Update - Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Model Schools (see attached), to explain the following information:

- The data being reviewed is related to day 163 and applies only to traditional schools.
- The Culture and Climate Team receives the data every Sunday and the information is reviewed once a week.
- The type of support that is provided.
- The Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS) history and process.
- How the Florida PBIS lets the district know how they are supported by the University of South Florida.
- Each school has a PBIS Team.
- PBIS Model School types: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.
- Data has been tracked since the 2018/2019 school year.
- List of PBIS model schools recognized for the past 5 years.
- How to become a PBIS model school.

- 100% of Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) have been trained in the PBIS model. Not all schools in Florida are at 90%.
- Strategies for improvement.
- Student Options for Success (SOS) and Zeroing in on Prevention (ZIP).

Discussion involved:

- Dealing with a disruptive student who causes a classroom to be cleared out.
- Positive objectives and counseling programs.
- Discussion about culture and climate will take place at the Principal Institute.
- Work the MTSS program in a better way.
- Vaping has been included under drug use.
- The use of Whole School Training and other programs.
- Board Members can have conversations within the community to inform them about what the district is trying to do regarding PBIS.
- Trend data.
- Duplicating the gems across the whole district.
- Communication to parents and the community about what PBIS is.
- Lag in data, reviewing data to see where changes and incidents have taken place.
- Principals have access to the same data. Full training will be provided.
- Schools that are not on the PBIS list will still have an opportunity to have meetings for SOS and ZIP.
- Consequences for parents who do not participate in ZIP process.
- The presentation for SOS is provided by trained employees.
- Options to deal with problems that are consistent despite using the existing programs.

Ms. Wendolyn Dunlap, Executive Director of High School Acceleration Programs & Student Support Services, used the PowerPoint presentation, Student Services Update - Attendance (see attached) to share the following information:

- Shared the definition of truancy as defined by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE).
- Reviewed the attendance trends.
- Explained how Social Workers and Truancy Officers support the schools.
- A shoutout was given to schools that are doing some amazing things.
- Principals that are having success will share what has worked for them at the Principal Institute.
- A shoutout was given to Kimberly Brown, Principal; Veronica Mitchell, Social Worker, and Nikita Frazier, Truancy Officer for the work they are doing at Northwestern Legends. They have established a good relationship with the community and encouraged students to come to school.
- Full-Service HUBs.
- Actions taken when students do not attend school.
- Attendance Tier 1 interventions.
- The attendance MTSS was explained.
- The Truancy Process for the school levels was explained.
- Attendance Intervention.
- Re-engaged with the Youth Crisis Center (YCC), which provides families with more intense resources.
- The next steps for closing out the school year were explained.

Discussion involved:

- Suggestion to share any issues regarding attendance with District Lobbyist, Kortney Wesley, to present at the Legislative meeting.

- Communication with principals regarding HUBs.
- The HUBs are in high schools and 2 middle schools.
- Information about the location of the HUBs.
- Students miss class near the end of the school year due to no instruction in class.
- Things that can be done to redeem time in the class near the end of the school year.
- Community engagement and acknowledging students when they attend school is needed.
- Partnerships.
- Dr. Bernier shared accolades regarding Ms. Dunlap and her work to get YCC back onboard with the district.
- A definition of 'what it means to be present' is needed.
- Shout out to Judge Khalil.
- Becoming a part of a Foundation allows the Board Members the opportunity to work on acquiring funding and partnerships to assist the district.
- Address the situation regarding student absences and being able to make up schoolwork.
- Policy that enhances attendance.
- Policy versus procedure.
- Bring back request - The contractual pattern for programs that are supposed to assist with student attendance.
- There is a shift to make contracts more outcome based.
- The Cabinet Members are honing in on the new Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that the Board selected.
- Dealing with guardians who are not responsive.
- Department of Children and Family (DCF) involvement.

2. STUDENT PROGRESSION PLAN

Dr. Bernier mentioned that this presentation would be an item that the Board would be voting on.

Ms. Dunlap used the PowerPoint presentation, 2025-2026 Student Progression Plan Updates (see attached) to explain the following information:

- Requirements and procedures.
- Where the Student Progression Plan (SPP) can be found on the district's website was provided.
- The timeline of the SPP was explained.
- The changes to the SPP were explained.
- The 2025 Rule Development: Establishing Concordant and Comparative Scores for the Benchmark for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Assessments were explained and will be added to the 2025-2026 SPP.

Discussion involved:

- The General Equivalency Diploma (GED) counts against the grad rate of a school.
- Consider discussing bringing back the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT).
- Reasons for the shifts in tests and raising the score.
- Bring back - Information on the new cut scores for the new graduating class.
- The Classic Learning Test (CLT) has been successful for our students, even those who have special needs.
- A certificate of completion will no longer exist. Waiting for the Department of Education (DOE) to confirm.
- The GED will take the place of the certificate of completion.

- Students can take any of the Concordant and Comparative Tests to graduate.
- Tests are provided by the district.
- Health Education courses for middle school students.

3. MENTAL HEALTH PLAN

Ms. Dunlap used the PowerPoint presentation, Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) Mental Health Assistance Allocation Plan (MHAA) (see attached) to explain the following information:

- FLDOE started providing funding after the Parkland incident.
- FLDOE provides a framework for the district to use and follow.
- Funding partners: United Way and Kids Hope Alliance.
- The District Assurances were explained.
- An explanation was provided regarding Board Policy 8.22 - Mental Health of Students.
- Parental consent is required first for a student to receive services.
- The three areas the district focuses on for the District Program Implementation.
- Roles and responsibilities: 3 tiers.
- The number of Mental Health Providers working for the district was shared.
- Full-Service School Hubs Data.
- A student can be seen for a maximum of six months. If more service is needed, the student is referred to an outside agency.
- DCPS has provided the required FLDOE training to 88% of the staff.
- 31 charter schools have opted into DCPS' program for services.
- An explanation of the items that will be added to the plan during the 2025-2026 school year was provided.
- A reminder of whom the funding partners are and what they will be providing in the upcoming school year was explained.
- Explanation of the MHAA anticipated funds and expenditures: 4 sections.
- 2025-2026 Timeline.

Discussion involved:

- If a student turns 18, and still lives with their parents, the student can give consent to include the parents.
- GROW clubs are run by students with sponsors.
- Adequate staffing for the School-Based Mental Health Providers pyramid.
- School Psychologists are paid out of IDEA funding, and the district will strive to work on the shortage of School Psychologists.
- Bring back request - Kids Hope Alliance (KHA) funding now and in the future.
- GROW clubs are about students helping students to break up the stigma about mental health, not a counseling program.
- Bring back request - The real costs of what the district is providing for the charter schools that have opted in for the services.
- Bring back request - The psychologists' caseload per school.
- Bring back request- Duplication of contracts, and how they impact the ratio.
- Bring back request - Provide a list of the schools that will have a GROW club.

4. STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Dr. DeWese used the PowerPoint presentation 2025-2026 Code of Student Conduct Proposed Changes (see attached) to explain the changes to the secondary codes:

Level 1 Revisions and discussions:

- An explanation of the Work Groups was provided.
- It was explained that parents do not count as outside services when it comes to delivering food to their students.
- There is going to be language from legislation regarding cell phones.
- Appreciation for the term 'restorative practice' being changed to 'student intervention'.

Level 2 Revisions and discussions:

- An explanation was provided about the issue of body piercing and tattooing.
- An explanation about why student identification was added to the Code of Conduct.
- A Board Policy is being created for the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- Defining what instigation is.
- There is a code for every type of situation or fight that takes place.
- Consider referring repeat offenders who are consistently in fights be recommended for expulsion.
- Students who fight more than 3 times are referred to the Hearing Office to be assigned for alternative placement.
- (ZZZ) means district level infractions. Other combinations of letters in () are reported to Law Enforcement and the Office of Safe Schools, because they are School Environment Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) events.

Level II Matrix Revisions and discussion:

- For the secondary levels, mandatory removal of a parking pass for the 3rd and 4th occurrences means permanent removal.
- Students who sign out of school.

Level III Revisions and discussions:

- A threat to a school has a separate code.
- Fights during extracurricular activities.

Discussion:

- Vaping is taking place system-wide.
- Level 2 Matrix Revision under the 2nd and 3rd Occurrences - change wording from 'may' to 'shall'.
- Importance of school safety: conversation about students leaving for lunch.

5. GOVERNANCE

- Board Member Pearson requested an update regarding the hiring of the Board attorney. Michael Fackler, Office of General Counsel Attorney, responded to the request.
- Board Member Pearson mentioned that she will be attending the Florida School Board Association (FSBA) conference and will share information with the other Board Members when she returns.
- Board Member Willie made an additional inquiry regarding the hiring of the Board attorney. Mr. Fackler responded.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board adjourn the meeting at 12:41 p.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: Anthony Ricardo

Second: Cindy Pearson

PASSED 6-0

Aye:

April A. Carney

Reginald Blount

Melody A. Blount

Cindy Pearson

Anthony Ricardo

Darryl D. Willie

Nay:

None

GC

Superintendent

Chairman