



Master Facility Plan Implementation

Tracking the impact of the voter approved half-penny sales surtax

May 21, 2025, Sales Surtax Oversight Committee Meeting

Committee Members Present

Lawrence Dennis, Dan Janson, Wanda Ford, Kay Hawkins, Amy Henderson, Mike Hightower, Stephanie Schaap, Ramon Day, Marion Tischler, Anita Vining

Ex-Officio, Non-Voting Members Present

Dr. Christopher Bernier

Welcome and Sales Surtax Oversight Committee Member Recognition & Reception

Chairman, Lawrence Dennis, welcomed everyone at 11:02 a.m. and briefed the group on today's meeting format. He then introduced Duval County School Board Chairman, Charlotte Joyce, and Superintendent, Dr. Christopher Bernier, to conduct the Committee Member Recognition ceremony to acknowledge outgoing committee members for their service. Mr. Dennis acknowledged and thanked

Board Chair Joyce greeted the group and acknowledged and thanked Board Member Willie, Board Member Ricardo, Board member Pearson, and Dr. Bernier for their attendance. She acknowledged district departments critical to the half-penny sales-surtax funding and re-introduced the Superintendent. Dr. Bernier greeted everyone and took a moment to recognize the district leadership staff in attendance and introduced Chief Operating Officer, Jim Culbert, and provided details of his new role. He then announced the distribution of recognition certificates for the following individuals:

- Members of the Sales Surtax Oversight Committee that have served two full terms and are recognized as founding members of this committee:
 - Allison Busuttil – Board Member Appointee – District 7
 - Lynette Clinch – Jacksonville Fraternal Order of Police
 - Hank O. Rogers – Jacksonville NAACP
 - Monique Tookes – Jacksonville Joint Planning Committee
- Members of the Sales Surtax Oversight Committee that served during the second cohort:
 - Sarah Troup – Board Member Appointee – District 3
 - Ashley Folladori – Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce
 - Chris Wood – Northeast Florida Builders Association

Dr. Bernier concluded the recognitions and turned the floor back over the Chair Dennis. He reflected on his time as chairman and a district employee and allowed Allison Busuttil to thank and acknowledge the committee. He then released everyone for a 30-minute reception.

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman, Lawrence Dennis concluded the reception at 11:48 a.m. and called the meeting to order at 11:52 a.m.

He announced there is not a Quorum and that the group can hold discussions about the agenda items, but no voting can take place to approve the items.

Approval of May 21, 2025, Agenda:

No motion was made because there was no quorum, and the committee held no discussions.

Vote: NOT PASSED

Approval of Minutes: April 16, 2025, Interim Meeting Minutes:

No motion was made because there was no quorum, and the committee held no discussions.

Vote: NOT PASSED

Public Comment

Vice-Chairman, Dan Janson, conducted the public comments portion of the meeting and announced the following individuals for public comment:

Susan Aertker gave public comments regarding a handout that reflects requested information she would like to see on the district dashboard on the DCPS website, committee members abilities regarding lobbying, and information referencing her public records request through the Charter School Office.

Items to be Discussed

Committee Feedback Update

Chair Dennis welcomed Chief of Staff, Michael Ramirez, and Executive Director of Professional Development, Dr. Zeina Spaulding, to provide the Oversight Committee with an update regarding their feedback activity on April 16th during the meeting. The group reviewed a PowerPoint, which included an overview of: Facilitated Discussions of what should be continued, Facilitated Discussions of what changes you would like to see, Maintenance and Challenges.

The following committee members held discussions: Ramon Day, Mike Hightower, Amy Henderson, Mike Hightower, Marion Tischler to provide feedback or address the information captured in the presentation regarding the following topics:

- Language change in slide 3 to say, "Legislative updates that inspects distribution of funds".
- Adding to slide 4 under membership – a licensed contractor from the Associated Builders & Contractors.
- That the dashboard be more communication focused and not technology based
- Capturing the dashboard information so committee members can easily reference or navigate the information and take back to their organization and constituents.

In closing, Chief Ramirez reiterated that the district wants to be responsive to the requests and concerns of this committee to make the support and information more accessible and understandable from a higher level with more detailed information to make this work smooth and seamless as the work grows with the half-penny sales-tax.

Operations Update

Chair Dennis welcomed and introduced the Executive Director of Construction and Design, Byron Page, who gave a PowerPoint Presentation, Sales Surtax Oversight Committee Briefing. Topics Included: Agenda, Sales-surtax Funding Metrics, Program Actions, Quarterly Progress Report, Program Metrics at a Glance, Summary Tables, Reports and Schedules, Jean Ribault High School, Southside Estates Elementary School, Hogan-Spring Glen Elementary, Sprin Park Elementary, Pickett Elementary, Mandarin High School, Duncan Fletcher high School, Sandalwood High School, Loretto Elementary, RL Brown Elementary, Badge Pass Improvement Project, Carter G. Wootson, and Active Project Schedules.

The following committee members held discussions with each other and with Mr. Page regarding the following topics: Ramon Day, Dan Janson, Amy Henderson, Mike Hightower, Stephanie Schaap, and Anita Vining:

- The architectural phase update of Fletcher High School regarding the work that has not continued as of recent – Mr page responded that was a project put on strategic pause, and work for that site is back in the design phase to revisit some of the plans and decision.
- Whether the district has considered holding on to some of the real estate based on population projections in the future.
- Plans regarding the Bartram area and the Duval side of Nocatee to accommodate up and coming neighborhoods.

Chief Operating Officer, Jim Culbert, and Chief Ramirez, responded that there have been ongoing meetings with the City of Jacksonville about utilizing their resources to look at projections and opportunities with properties the district owns as well as a real estate company that is providing input.

The Chairman has addressed the group and asked to extend the meeting to 1:15 p.m. While there is no quorum to vote, Coordinator, Megan Mihalik, confirmed that the meeting can extend for the group to finalize discussions at 1:15 p.m.

Finance Update

Chair Dennis welcomed and introduced Chief Financial Officer, Ron Fagan, who presented a PowerPoint presentation: Sales Surtax Oversight Committee – Financial Services and Charter Schools.

There were inquiries from the committee regarding certain up and coming areas around Jacksonville and new projects. Topics included:

- The Bartram Area.
- Rutledge Pearson - Design structure of one-off room – are the new plans correcting to utilize that space.
- Class size concerns being corrected in new construction

Next Meeting Date:

Chair Dennis advised the next meeting date for the Sales Surtax Oversight Committee will be on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Chair Dennis announced the adjournment of the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

Motion:

A motion and vote could not be taken because there was no quorum.

Vote: NOT PASSED

The meeting was adjourned at 1: 12 p.m.

Minutes were taken by Megan Mihalik, Coordinator to the Chief of Staff.

These minutes were approved at the September 17, 2025, Sales Surtax Oversight Committee Meeting.

***** In order to comply with the Americans with Disability Act, some attachments are not viewable here. To receive any attachments or presentations, please email Megan Mihalik, Coordinator to the Chief of Staff, at mihalikm@duvalschools.org*****