



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

September 16, 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. 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 12:17 p.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Kortney Wesley, Director, Governmental Relations provided a presentation on the proposed 2025-2026 Duval County Legislative Platform items. She and Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent, joined in the discussion on the following:

Recommendations:

1. Local Authority for Independent Legal Counsel.
2. Increased Funding for Transportation Services.
3. Funding Florida's Model for Student Protection 24/7 School Safety Monitoring (The Fusion Center).

Other Considerations:

1. Empowering Local Decision-Making in Educational Facility Planning.
2. Protecting Public School Integrity: Establishing a Categorical for Scholarship-Funded Students.
3. Establish Enrollment Stabilization Mechanisms.
4. Equitable Funding for ESE and ELLs.
5. Modernization Teaching for the AI Era.
6. Investing in Early Learning Success: Funding and Developmental Pause in VPK.
7. Increase Educational Innovation and Reduce Regulatory Burdens.

Taylor Phillips, Office of General Counsel, arrived at 1:30 p.m.

Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel, left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

2. ACE PROCESS

Sharwonda Peek, Assistant Superintendent, School Choice Pathways presented a PowerPoint presentation Academic and Community Excellence (ACE). She and Dr. Bernier joined in the discussion on the following:

- Community Engagement: Structure & Outcome.
- What is ACE.
- ACE Working Group Membership.
- The ACE Process.
- Relevance to Other Policies.

3. ACCELERATION ACADEMIES

Sharwonda Peek, Assistant Superintendent, presented a PowerPoint Presentation Acceleration Academies. She and Dr. Bernier joined in the discussion on the following:

- Mission, Vision and Approach of Acceleration Academies.
- Trusted Partner to Help Schools & Students Thrive.
- Acceleration Academies Locations.
- Community Impact.
- Strategic Plan.
- Where the disengaged students are located throughout the district.
- Accreditation.

4. GOVERNANCE

The following items were discussed during governance:

- Mathew Gilbert track renaming.
- AI class offered by University of North Florida (UNF).
- Appreciation expressed to Chief Jackson Short, School Police, for the work on the situations outside Fletcher Middle School. Appreciation was also expressed for work done in regard to traffic issues at Mandarin High School. Appreciation was also expressed to both Beaches Mayors for using funds for temporary crosswalks and for working for official crosswalks.
- Request to review the punch out list for substandard work on projects. Dr. Bernier will have Mr. Page identify and correct those items. Implementing financial penalties for not doing the work correctly.
- Appreciation expressed to Dr. Bernier and Mr. Ramirez for the work regarding volunteers and background checks, and the potential creation of clean and clear processes.
- Request to continually review the consolidations and confirm if they actually saved the district money.
- October is wear pink and tennis shoes month in honor of those who are and have been fighting breast cancer to let them know they are not in the struggle alone. A request to wear pink at the October Board Meeting.
- J-bill update.
- Joint City Council Meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2025.
- Safety & security in Board Rooms.
- Cafeteria inspections.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: Anthony Ricardo

Second: Cindy Pearson

PASSED: 7-0

Aye:

Charlotte D. Joyce

April A. Carney

Melody A. Bolduc

Reginald Blount

Cindy Pearson

Anthony Ricardo

Darryl D. Willie

Nay:

None

CR

Superintendent

Chairman