



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

October 17, 2025, Facility Naming 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 except Chairman Charlotte D. Joyce, Vice-Chairman April A. Carney, Melody A. Bolduc, Cindy Pearson, Anthony Ricardo, and Darryl D. Willie. Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent, and Mr. William Spillias, Office of General Counsel, were not present. *Principal Latonya Parker arrived at 2:18 p.m.*

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Board Member Reginald Blount.

Committee Members Present:

- Westine Lodge, Daughter of Bob Hayes
- Sam Newbie, Former City Council President, and President of Bob Hayes, Inc.
- Ansonio Mitchell, Coach and Dean of Students, Matthew W. Gilbert Middle School
- Jackie Simmons, Duval County Public Schools Executive Director, Middle School Region
- Tammie Talley, Duval County Public Schools Athletic Director
- Michael Ramirez, Duval County Public Schools, Chief of Staff
- Board Member Reginald Blount, Duval County School Board Member District 5
- Monica Adams, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Board Members
- Latonya Parker, Principal, Matthew W. Gilbert Middle School

Public Comment

None.

Items to be Discussed

1. REVIEW AND CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO NAME THE TRACK AT MATTHEW W. GILBERT MIDDLE SCHOOL

The recommendation for naming the track at Matthew W. Gilbert Middle School, "Bob Hayes Track" was made by Former Senator Tony Hill. Mr. Hill was not present at the meeting. However, the floor was opened for discussion, and the following was shared about Mr. Hayes:

- He was a pillar in the community prior to his death in 2002.
- He graduated from Matthew Gilbert, which was a high school at the time and was part of the very first football team that won a state championship for the Florida Interscholastic Athletic Association (FIAA).
- The only individual to win a Superbowl ring and 2 Olympic Gold Medals.
- He was inducted into the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSSA) Hall of Fame in 2023.
- He was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 2009.
- Thoughts of this being a good idea for Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) to have the track named after Mr. Hayes since he participated as a student athlete on the Matthew Gilbert track.
- He was honored with both the Legend Center on Soutel Drive in Jacksonville, FL and a City of Jacksonville (COJ) park bearing his name.
- Tammie Talley, Athletic Director, DCPS, shared that it would be an honor to have Mr. Hayes' name on one of the facilities and that she was 100% in support of it.
- Specifications for how the name would be displayed.
- Former Principal of Matthew W. Gilbert, Middle School, Executive Director Jackie Simmons, shared that he was pleased and in support 100 % for having Mr. Hayes memorialized in the place where he moved and walked.
- Mr. Hayes contributed to the community tremendously.
- History shared regarding the Bob Hayes Track Meet.
 - Largest one-day track meet in the country.
 - The track meet has outgrown Raines High School. Therefore, it was moved to the University of North Florida (UNF).
 - Thoughts surrounding the culture change due to moving the location of the track meet to UNF.
 - Ms. Lodge shared the track meet started on the east side of Jacksonville.
 - Bob Hayes started in 1964 with 5 schools and has increased Pre-Covid to over 250 high schools.
 - Next level plans.
 - Appreciation was shared for everyone that is part of the organization and all of those that help to carry out the vision.
 - Reasons why the track meet was moved to UNF.
 - When the track meet was at Raines High School, the city contributed \$80,000.
 - When the track was moved to UNF, the city's contribution increased to \$180,000.
 - The number of teams has increased to include a team from Jamaica and the Bahamas.
 - The event is now an invitational event, and it is state-qualified.
 - Thirteen (13) track scholarships were given out last year.
 - The goal is to give more educational scholarships.
- Mr. Coleman became involved because Coach Day was his coach when he was in high school.
- Bob Hayes was the only human in history to win a gold medal, a Superbowl ring, and be inducted into the Hall of Fame.
- Raines High School is still the host of the Bob Hayes track meet even though they are hosting it at UNF. Raines High School receives a check every year from the proceeds.
- DCPS works with UNF every year and is very accommodating as it relates to hosting athletic events.

- Principal Parker shared an estimate for the work to be done.
- Possible recommendations from another company.
- Superintendent assistance.
- School Board Policy regarding funding these types of projects.
- The date for the actual ceremony needs to be confirmed with Principal Parker.
- The item for the name change can be placed on the November 4, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Agenda for approval.
- The dedication will be based on when the item is approved by the Board.

Motion: That the Facility Naming Committee name the Matthew W. Gilbert track after Bob Hayes.

Vote Results:

Motion: Tammie Talley

Second: Jackie Simmons

Comments: None.

The committee unanimously approved the proposal.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

MA

Superintendent

Chairman