



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

March 10, 2026, 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. William Spillias, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting to Order

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

Items to be Discussed

1. BE SAFE. BE SEEN. — UPDATE

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE – YOUTH TRAFFIC SAFETY STEERING COMMITTEE (YTSSC)

Dr. Bernier introduced Kortney Wesley, Director, Governmental Relations, and Dr. Heather Albritton, Director, Wellness.

Ms. Wesley and Dr. Albritton used a PowerPoint Presentation (see attached) to share information on the following:

- Resolution 2025-05 – A Resolution of the School Board of Duval County, Florida Regarding Pedestrian Safety.
- How Did We Get Here?
- Shared Commitment.
- Traffic Garden Installation.
- Community Action Plan.
- Youth Traffic Safety Steering Committee (YTSSC) Ideas:
 - Legislation is going through regarding E-Bike and Scooter Safety - SB382 Micromobility Devices.
- Tentative Goals & Supporting Objectives.

- Upcoming Timelines.
 - Chairman Joyce requested that all the Board Members receive an invite for the committee meetings that will be taking place with City Council.
 - Add the topic 'Update on Be Safe, Be Seen.' on the agenda for the upcoming joint meeting between Duval County School Board (DCSB) and City Council in April.
- DCPS and City of Jacksonville (COJ) have submitted grant applications to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to provide supplemental funding to support the work of the task force in the implementation of the community action plan.
- DCPS has also submitted a proposal to present the work of the task force partners at the National Safe Routes of School convention in Minneapolis, MN in October 2026.
- Raising awareness of everyone.

Discussion involved:

- Acknowledgment was shared regarding Dr. Albritton and Ms. Wesley taking on the extra duties of handling the Be Safe. Be Seen Project.
- Information about student input, the data tracking, and partnerships was appreciated.
- Local agencies, specifically FDOT, have been helpful.
- Challenges with getting crosswalks in certain areas of the city due to policies and procedures.
- Discussions that are being held with the Safety Committee.
- Best practices in other counties regarding crosswalks or school zones.
- The purpose of the application submissions by DCPS and COJ was explained.
- DCPS has a seat on the Capital Improvement Projects Committee with the city.
- Interpretation of the state statute regarding crossing zones.
- Vice-Chair Carney suggested having the Beaches Mayors or law enforcement from the beaches' municipalities join the meeting in April for the discussion.
- It is important to also do an education piece in addition to getting a crosswalk.
- North Florida, Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) and COJ monitor citywide traffic incidents. DCPS School Police Chief Jackson Short, and his team have a separate internal system for monitoring specific students in DCPS.
- All DCPS students need to be safe, not just some.
- Priority list for the Capital Improvement Project Committee.
- Easements.
- Walk audits are done before and after school.
- Age groups that are targeted for bike programs.
- Costs for Traffic Garden installations. The Traffic Garden will eventually become part of the district's standard operating procedures.

2. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE: IMPROVE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY & FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dr. Bernier introduced Jim Culbert, Chief Operating Officer.

Mr. Culbert used a PowerPoint Presentation (see attached), to share the following information:

- District Strategic Plan Key Performance Indicators (KPI) (2025-2029).
- Budget Performance & Achievement – Hogan-Spring Glen.
 - An explanation was provided about how reduction was achieved.
- Expanding Competitive Leverage.
- Structural Cost Controls.

- Building Internal Capacity & Eliminating Markups.
- Contractor Performance & Accountability.
- Results and Next Steps.

Discussion involved:

- Operational efficiency.
- There are some projects scheduled for later that might be moved forward if the district continues to right size.
- Information was shared about the costs of the facing on the schools.
- A brief explanation was provided about the computerized program Kahua.
- Working on a reduction in the use of outside contractors.
- A request was made about the savings that are being made.
- Modifications by the architects.
- Prototype models for schools must be used for three years.
- Design builds.
- If a contractor is local or out-of-state, they are contractually required to use local subcontractors to make sure the money that the half penny sales tax is spent locally with our vendors.
- Oversight of subcontractors.
- The appearance of the new school: a dupe versus a high-quality building.
- There is a desire for the media center to look like a real library.
- There have been conversations with the Baldwin staff and community about what they want in their new school.
- The materials that will be used for Fletcher's new Marine Science wing.
- Architectural renderings will be shared at the next meeting at the beaches.
- Baldwin is unique due to it being a middle school mixed with a high school.
- Projects that have been deferred are now being moved up.
- Staffing capacity.
- Dr. Bernier shared why Mr. Culbert was recommended to be over Operations.
- Using the right people to build cost-effective schools.
- Explaining the new process to vendors.
- Prompt pay.
- Look into a change in policy so to have more control over the contractors.
- A brief explanation was provided about the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) and contingencies.
- The Florida building codes require buildings to be built to hurricane standard.
- A brief explanation was provided as to what determines if a school will be built to shelter people, which has additional codes and requires more funding.
- Non-traditional schools do not have to adhere to the hurricane standards for their buildings.
- State Requirement for Educational Facilities (SREF) is a recommendation, not a standard.
- An explanation about SREF was provided.
- Other buildings that local municipalities may use as hurricane shelters.
- Groundbreaking dates. (Bring Back)
- A suggestion about having a conversation regarding the building code, hurricane shelters, and SREF was made.
- Have a policy regarding the city contributing financially if they are requesting that certain new builds be built as shelters.

Recessed at 10:57 a.m.

Reconvened at 11:06 a.m.

3. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES: ATTENDANCE & DISCIPLINE

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: ATTENDANCE AND FOSTERING SAFE LEARNING & WORKFORCE ENVIRONMENTS

Dr. Bernier shared the bring back request of the Board and some additional information:

- Demographic data.
- Additional discipline data.
- How some of the data related to students who both behaved and misbehaved and how the district reacts to it.
- Interventions that are possible in each category.
- Stated that the principals who were in attendance would be sharing the practices used at their school pertaining to attendance, productions, and disciplines.

Dr. Bernier introduced Katrina Taylor, Director, Behavior Support Services, and Dr. Anna Dewese, Executive Director, Student Discipline & Support Services, who used a PowerPoint presentation (see attached), to explain the following:

- Attendance KPI.
- Attendance.
 - Our Focus.
 - Outcomes & Measures of Success.
 - Outcomes & Measures of Success of Specialized Populations.
 - How We Track Success.
 - Principals have access to the daily attendance segment report that comes out every Sunday and the attendance dashboard.
 - Working with Information Technology to create a platform that will upload the school-based Attendance Intervention Meeting (AIT) meetings, the district-based AIT meetings, and the truancy petition data. This is a potential bring back for the Fall as the 25/26 data is reviewed.
 - Truancy petitions.
 - Recognizing Achievements & Moving Forward.
 - Shared the schools in each district that have had improvements in attendance.

Discussion involved:

- A half percent of students totals about a hundred students.

Dr. Dewese shared the following:

- Fostering Safe Learning & Workforce Environments: KPI.
- Discipline:
 - The top 10 infractions are for comprehensive schools only, not charter schools.
 - A request for the referral numbers was made.
- Safe Learning Environment - focused on 24/25 and 25/26.
- District Summary - what is being done to support the schools.
- Three principals were introduced so they could share how things work at their schools:
 - Kimberly Brown, Principal of Northwestern Legends.
 - David Errio, Principal of Westside Middle School.
 - Chris Koek, Principal of Riverside High School.
- An explanation about the difference between referrals for Class One and Class Four was provided.

- Students who repeatedly receive a referral.
- A request was made for the breakdown of students with and without a referral; and the students who had referrals, a breakdown of the number of referrals for each level. (Bring Back)
- A request was made for the breakdown to be done by schools. (Bring Back)
- The reason for fewer infractions. (Bring Back)
- The Annual Code of Conduct Review.
- A draft of the Student Code of Conduct will be presented to the Board Members in May.
- Alternative programming.

Principal presentations:

Kimberly Brown, Principal of Northwestern Legends shared the following:

- 'A leader is only as good as the team'. She gave acknowledgment to her team and students.
- The number of students without referrals has increased.
- The kind of things that have been done at Northwestern Legends to aid with attendance and decreasing referrals.

David Errio, Principal of Westside Middle School, shared the following:

- The length of time he has been at Westside Middle School.
- The changes in student population.
- The kind of things that have been done at Westside Middle School to aid with attendance and decreasing referrals.
- Response to the inquiry about seven-period days and the behavior of students.

Chris Koek, Principal of Riverside High School shared the following:

- The kind of things that have been done at Riverside School to aid with attendance and decreasing referrals.
- Information about the support circles which are led by students, and teachers volunteer to supervise them.
- When a student receives a referral, they have to write a reflection about their behavior.

Discussion continued:

- Building new schools and having the best sight lines to monitor students.
- The possibility that enrollment is dropping due to discipline problems in schools.
- Coding infractions.
- Consequences for behavior and interventions.
- Alternative methods that are being used.
- Bullying and harassment - the district is losing students because the children don't feel safe.
- The difference between bullying and harassment was explained along with the definition of each was provided.
- A request for data on the number of students who stayed or departed due to bullying or harassment (Bring Back).
- If a student has an Individualized Educational Program (IEP), they are treated differently. A request was made for data on the number of new IEPs being administered and previous discipline records (Bring Back).
- The district is required by the Florida Statute to offer parents of the victim student the HOPE Scholarship.
- An explanation of how IEPs are created was provided.
- Professional development training for teachers on de-escalating techniques.

- Conversation took place about bullying and harassment being a crime.
- Data on arrest for bullying and harassment (Bring Back).

4. GOVERNANCE

Board Member Blount:

- How contracts are handled.
- Recommended that large contracts be reviewed by the Audit Advisory Committee (AAC) first, specifically the selling of surplus properties.

Discussion involved:

- A suggestion was made to get a copy of a contract and have the Board Member's AAC representative review it.
- The public may be misinterpreting the role of the Board or requesting the Board to look more closely at things on a governance level.
- Having the knowledge prior to voting of why a particular company was selected, who else came to the table, and the intention of what would be done with the property.
- An explanation of what would be expected of the AAC to do as it pertains to large contracts.
- A request for Dr. Bernier to come up with some ideas regarding the requests that were being made (Bring Back).
- A request was made to have just a summary with specific information about the sale of a building versus having the entire contract.

Board Member Pearson:

- Made a Board Member Request about receiving what she calls the Property Status Tracker, to be placed in the Weekly Board Update.
- Made a Board Member Request for Student Yield Development - data from new developments in her district. As a follow-up, she also wanted to know how many students the district was getting from each address.
- Made a Board Member Request for information about the school lottery and the waiting list.

Vice-Chairman Carney:

- Shared an update on Anchor Academy and Mayport Elementary Schools' merger:
 - Grant program to get funding for additional renovations: State and federal level.

Board Member Willie:

- School lottery.
- Schools that are in high demand.
- One-mil.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: Melody A. Bolduc

Second: Darryl D. Willie

PASSED: 7 - 0

Aye:

Charlotte D. Joyce

April A. Carney

Melody A. Bolduc

Reginald Blount

Cindy Pearson

Anthony Ricardo

Darryl D. Willie

Nay:

None

GC

Superintendent

Chairman