



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

April 7, 2026, Regular Board 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. Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent, and Mr. William Spillias, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Prior to calling the meeting to order, the First Coast Vocal Ensemble performed under the direction of Mr. Christian Nyman.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Invocation or Thought of the Day

The invocation was led by Derick Frazier, Pastor, Argyle Church of Christ.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognitions/Presentations of Awards

Board Members

SALLYE B. MATHIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Principal Lartasha Jones shared a video presentation and the following about the school:

- The students recite the Cardinal Pledge every morning, fostering an environment in which everyone is treated with love and respect.
- The school has a three-hundred eighty (380) student population.
- It's all about learning.
- The school grade moved from a "D" to a "C."

- Principal Jones' motto is always heart, hustle and high expectations.
- The school is named after Ms. Sallye Brooks Mathis, who was a trailblazer and phenomenal woman who advocated for education.
- School highlights such as gains shared and students that were identified to be a part of the Gifted Program.
- The school prides themselves on diversity and inclusion.
- The Assistant Principal brings the fun and motivation to the school.
- Importance of praising the teachers.
- They pride themselves on their paraprofessionals.
- Parents, grandparents and military families spend quality time at the school.
- Over eighty (80) fathers participate in Donuts for Dads.
- A parent shared her personal experience at the school.
- The school's partnership has increased from two (2) to eleven (11) fully vested partners.

Board Member Willie shared the following remarks about Sallye B. Mathis:

- He emphasized the Principal's Motto, "Heart, Hustle, and High Expectations" sharing the heart is always there. He adores what is happening in the school.
- Every school does not look like a "C" school. When you walk into the school you would think that it is an "A" school because of the high expectations.
- Appreciation was shared for everything the Principal does and says that the community is better off because of Sallye B. and the leadership of the Principal.

PROCLAMATION: MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

A special video message featuring Naval Station Mayport's Commanding Officer, Captain Mike Trumbull, and Dr. Christopher Bernier was shared. The following were invited to the front as the Proclamation was read:

- Naval Station Mayport Commanding Officer, Captain Mike Trumbull.
- NAS JAX Commanding Officer, Captain Ryan Dexter.
- NAS JAX Military School Liaison, Terri Wanamaker.
- Mayport School Liaison, Sharon Kasica.
- Director of School Choice Pathways, Tracie Abraham.

Captain Trumbull was welcomed to the podium to share his appreciation for the families and the team. He continued sharing that Jacksonville is the strongest city that he has ever worked in when it comes to Military Families.

Chairman Joyce shared: "The military is near and dear to us."

Communications

COUNTYWIDE STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION COMPETITION WINNERS

The winners of the 2025-2026 Countywide Student Voter Registration Competition were recognized. Jerry Holland, Duval County Supervisor of Elections, reported receiving 3,218 student voter registration applications during the competition. In January, February, and March the Elections Office visited 28 schools that responded to the invitation to pre-register and register students to vote. This competition

also included the chance for schools to earn the prestigious Freedom Award Trophy. The following schools were celebrated as winners of this competition:

- In the Large School category – First Coast High School.
- In the Medium School category – Terry Parker High School.
- In the Small School category - Bridge to Success Academy.

In addition to the above schools, Mandarin High School won the Civic Engagement Award, which recognized schools going above and beyond to support and empower young voters. Supervisor of Elections, Jerry JHolland, The Duval County Elections Office, Education and Community Outreach Manager, Halley Kunda, Dr. April Slade, Director of Social Studies, Team Duval and representatives from each of these schools joined in to celebrate the schools and their amazing accomplishment.

MEDWEEK 2025 -YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR SUMMIT WINNERS

The next generation of entrepreneurs coming out of Team Duval were honored. The First Coast Business Alliance (FCBA) hosted its own Minority Enterprise Development Week, or MED Week, in conjunction with the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) and other partners. As part of MedWeek, local students were given a chance to enter the Youth Entrepreneur Summit's Pitch Competition. More than sixty (60) students from Andrew Jackson, A. Philip Randolph, Jean Ribault, Westside, and Raines high schools, all adopted by the FCBA, participated in the Pitch Competition with the top three winners receiving cash prizes. Students were joined by their principals, FCBA President Terrance Brisbane, and OEO Supervisor, Paula Wright. The young entrepreneurs were congratulated for their accomplishments. The winners of the Youth Summit were as follows:

- Roy Harvison Jr. from Raines High School.
- Eva Dalton, Joseph Bernier, Payton Eadie, Hailey Etchison, Sani'yah Johnson, Harmonie Keith, Jada King, Jashari Lewis, Trenton Stafford, Mya Thompson, and Angelina White, from A. Philip Randolph.
- Makiah Scott, from Westside High, but now attends Sandalwood. Makiah was unable to attend the meeting, but Westside Principal Vincent Foster and a teacher showed up in support of her.

UNITED WAY OF NORTHEAST FL, 2026 TEAM DUVAL MEN'S COOK-OFF WINNER

In February, Team Duval proudly hosted its second annual Men's cook-off/bake-off to raise money for the United Way of Northeast Florida. The event raised over \$600 in which eight (8) men submitted their prized recipes into the competition, all vying to become the top cook or baker. During our inaugural year, Evan Daniels, Director of Gear Up, reigned supreme. This year, Daniels defended his title and was named the Supreme Chef yet again for the 2026 campaign season. His goods raised over \$200 alone.

As a district, Team Duval raised over \$15,000 dollars, and Hugh McKay from ERP/SAP Systems was named a top donor. As a valued partner, United Way benefits families in need through our Full-Service Schools. Together with United Way, we can create endless possibilities for our families that help them achieve excellence in all aspects of their lives. Kristie McBee from the United Way of Northeast Florida and some of Mr. Daniels' fellow competitors, joined as he was congratulated.

PARENTS WHO LEAD

In 2018, the Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF) joined forces with Duval County Public Schools (DCPS), the Kids Hope Alliance, and the Jacksonville Public Library to launch Parents Who Lead, an inclusive, nonpartisan leadership initiative that helps parents better understand school and city systems, and how to make them work better for all children.

Parent leaders that completed a 20-week leadership development journey, where they were equipped with practical tools to advocate for children and strengthen their communities. Each participant was required to design a community project. The projects addressed a variety of needs, including mental health support, youth diabetes awareness, a mobile tutoring service, family engagement initiatives, promoting DCPS pride, neighborhood upkeep, improving language accessibility, and sharing safety information about booster seat use.

The parent leaders of Cohort 7 collectively have children or grandchildren enrolled in thirteen (13) DCPS schools. They also join a growing network of ninety-three (93) Parents Who Lead Alumni. Parents Who Lead Site Coordinator, Latrice Carmichael, Facilitators Monique Tookes, Marcus Smothers, Tiffany Clarke, and Clanzetta Brown joined in as the following cohort of Parents Who Lead were celebrated:

- Claudine Akondeng
- Brittany Beimourtrusting
- Tayzhana Blackmon
- Teanetta Brandon
- James Clark
- Kristen Fitz
- Yanel Gonzalez
- Michelle Hughes
- Rodina Hughes
- Lindsay Joseph
- Tim Kerr
- Rachel Limonta
- Miosotis C. Silva-Betancourt
- Martina Williams

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

Two DCPS students were named students of the year by the Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Florida. The Boys & Girls Club of America's "Youth of the Year" is the premier leadership and recognition program for club members. It celebrates exceptional teens for leadership, service, academic excellence, and dedication to health, and culminates in the selection of a National Youth of the Year. The Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida has officially named and nominated two DCPS students as students of the year. The students honored and celebrated were as follows:

- Ty' Son Jones, a sixth grader at James Weldon Johnson, who was named middle school student of the year. Jones was not able to attend the meeting.
- Dajdrina Brooks, an eleventh grader at Edward H. White High School, was named the high school student of the year. She was joined by Principal Traci Battest, and Boys and Girls Club Unit Director Nashira Butler.
- The High School Youth of the Year for Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida will move forward to compete for the title of Florida Youth of the Year in April.

Approval of Agenda

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 7, 2026, AGENDA

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the April 7, 2026, agenda as submitted on March 31, 2026, with the following changes:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- **APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 7, 2026, AGENDA - Item Amended**

SCHOOL CHOICE AND PUPIL ASSIGNMENTS:

- **2026-2027 ARUX SOFTWARE, INC. (EXTENDED DAY & AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS REGISTRATION & PROGRAMMING PLATFORM) - Item Added**

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES - STAFFING:

- **HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES EMPLOYEE TRANSACTIONS - Attachment Updated**

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES - PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS:

- **EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY - DERICK CROSS - Item Removed**
- **EMPLOYEE TERMINATION - AMARI BUTLER - Item Removed**

Vote Results:

Motion: April A. Carney

Second: Melody A. Bolduc

Discussion: None.

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Charlotte D. Joyce

April A. Carney

Reginald Blount

Melody A. Bolduc

Cindy Pearson

Anthony Ricardo

Darryl D. Willie

Nay:

None

Chairperson's Report

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Board Chairman, Charlotte Joyce shared a video presentation (see attached) about the following:

- Bus Stop-Arm Cameras.

- Updates on the March Strategic Plan.
- Summary of Update on Operational Efficiency and Financial Responsibility.
- Summary of Update on Fostering a Safe
- Learning and Workplace Environment.
- An overview of upcoming dates and items of interest.

Superintendent's Reports

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Christopher Bernier shared a video presentation (see attached) regarding the following:

- A March Recap.
- Celebrating Women's History Month.
- American Heart Association and the CPR Kits for Schools.
- Tee Up Your Future and The Player's Championship.
- Duval Teachers United (DTU) Beautification and Englewood High School.
- The new turf fields and beach volleyball court.
- Purple Up and the Month of the Military Child.
- Autism Acceptance Month.
- Paraprofessionals Appreciation Day.
- National Assistant Principal Week.
- 2026-27 Bus Registration.
- Summer Camp Registration.
- Elementary (K-5) Educator Training at the University of North Florida.
- March 2026 Social Media Report.
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Programs.

Department Reports

Paula Renfro, Chief Officer, Academic Services, shared a PowerPoint Presentation entitled "Academic Services 2026 Textbook Adoption Cycle" (see attached) with everyone. The presentation included the following:

- Selection Process.
- Adoption Outcomes and Recommendations.
- Upcoming Adoption Timeline.

ACADEMIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Sales Surtax Oversight Committee Report

None.

Comments from Elected Officials

None.

Public Comment

Eighteen (18) members of the public signed up to speak during this time. They were given three (3) minutes each.

Comments from Parent Organizations

Each parent organization representative was given 7 minutes to speak according to Board Policy. The following spoke:

- Bobbie Brewer, Recording Secretary, Duval County Council of Parent Teacher Associations (DCCPTA) represented Jennifer Gubat, DCCPTA President.

Comments from District Student Government Association

None.

Comments from Employee Organizations

Each employee organization's representative was given 7 minutes to speak according to Board Policy. The following spoke:

- Tammie Brooks-Evans, President, Duval Teachers United.

Approval of Minutes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the following Board minutes:

- **March 3, 2026, Regular Board Meeting**
- **March 10, 2026, Board Workshop**
- **March 24, 2026, Agenda Committee Meeting**
- **March 24, 2026, Board Workshop**
- **March 25, 2026, Policy Handbook Review Committee Meeting**

Vote Results:

Motion: Melody A. Bolduc

Second: Reginald Blount

Discussion: None.

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Charlotte D. Joyce

April A. Carney

Reginald Blount

Melody A. Bolduc

Cindy Pearson

Anthony Ricardo
Darryl D. Willie

Nay:
None

Approval of Consent Agenda

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion:
That the Duval County School Board approve the Consent Agenda.

Vote Results:
Motion: April A. Carney
Second: Melody A. Bolduc

Discussion: None.

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:
Charlotte D. Joyce
April A. Carney
Reginald Blount
Melody A. Bolduc
Cindy Pearson
Anthony Ricardo
Darryl D. Willie

Nay:
None

Consent Agenda

Board Members

1. JULY 2026 REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATE, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING DATES
2. SEPTEMBER 2026, SPECIAL BOARD MEETING DATE

Academic Services

3. AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AND CONTRACTED GRANT STAFF AUGMENTATION
4. AGREEMENT WITH BE G.L.A.D., LLC.

5. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH READ USA, INC.

6. APPROVAL OF DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

School Choice and Pupil Assignments

7. 2026-2027 ARUX SOFTWARE, INC. (EXTENDED DAY & AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS REGISTRATION & PROGRAMMING PLATFORM)

Human Resource Services - Staffing

8. HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES EMPLOYEE TRANSACTIONS

9. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS – COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR – PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Human Resource Services - Professional Standards

10. ~~EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY – DERICK CROSS~~

11. EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY – JOSEPH FENNELL

12. EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY – STEPHANIE TIMMERMANS

13. EMPLOYEE TERMINATION – CARTONYA BADGER

14. EMPLOYEE TERMINATION – CARLOS BRICE

15. ~~EMPLOYEE TERMINATION – AMARI BUTLER~~

16. EMPLOYEE TERMINATION – YVETTE JOHNSON

17. EMPLOYEE TERMINATION – BRIANA WALSH-NEELD

Administration and Business Services - Budget and Financial

18. ADOPTION OF BUDGET RESOLUTIONS — FEBRUARY 2026

19. GENERAL BANKING SERVICES RFP NO. 01-17/TW AMENDMENT RENEWAL

20. GENERAL BANKING SERVICES RFP NO.02-26/LM- NEW

21. MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - JANUARY 2026

Operations - Real Estate, Planning and Programming

22. REAL ESTATE LICENSE AGREEMENT AT THE KING STREET MAINTENANCE WITH KIEWIT INFRASTRUCTURE SOUTH CO. FOR THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE'S MCCOYS CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

Operations - Facilities Project Design, Construction and Maintenance

23. PREQUALIFICATIONS OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

24. CHANGE ORDER REPORT

25. PERIODIC REPORT OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETIONS AND FINAL INSPECTIONS OF MAJOR MAINTENANCE AND MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDER \$1,000,000

26. PERIODIC REPORT OF PHASE III DRAWING COMPLETIONS FOR MAJOR MAINTENANCE AND MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDER \$1,000,000

27. CONTINUING SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES ON AN ANNUAL BASIS: SELECTION AND CONTRACT AWARD/RFQ NO. 11-26/DB

28. EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDING CODE INSPECTION SERVICES — YEAR 3 OF 4 RENEWALS - RFP NO. 18-23/TW

29. ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEM (EMCS) SERVICES

Operations - Purchasing and Logistics

30. SURPLUS PROPERTY RETIREMENT REPORT

31. FEBRUARY 2026 PURCHASE REPORT

Discussion

Board Members

Academic Services

32. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE FOR ADOPTION OF K12 ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS, WORLD LANGUAGES, AND PERSONAL FINANCE TEXTBOOK MATERIALS

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board conduct a public hearing and vote to approve the adoption and purchase of the following textbook instructional materials:

English/Language Arts:

ELA K-5

Florida Benchmark Advance (c), 2026, Florida Edition. Benchmark Education Company. Authors: Dr. Peter Afflerbach, Silvia Dorta-Duque de Reyes, Linda Hoyt, Dr. Adria Klein, Patty McGee, Dr. Jeff Zwiers

ELA 6-12

Florida StudySync, 2026, 1st Edition. McGraw Hill, LLC. Authors: Dr. Douglas Fisher, Dr. Timothy Shanahan, Dr. Michelle H. Martin, Dr. Catlin R. Tucker

World Languages

Spanish 1

Que chevere! 3e Level 1, 2025, 3rd Edition. Carnegie Learning, Inc. Authors: Andrew Bowen, Kristin Hoffman.

Spanish 2

Que chevere! 3e Level 2, 2025, 3rd Edition. Carnegie Learning, Inc. Authors: Andrew Bowen, Kristin Hoffman.

Spanish 3

Que chevere! 3e Level 3, 2025, 3rd Edition. Carnegie Learning, Inc. Authors: Andrew Bowen, Kristin Hoffman.

Spanish 4

Que chevere! 3e Level 4, 2025, 3rd Edition. Carnegie Learning, Inc. Authors: Carmen Herrera.

French 1

T'es branche? 3e Level 1, 2025, 3rd Edition. Carnegie Learning, Inc. Author: Toni Theisen, Jacques Pécheur

French 2

T'es branche? 3e Level 2, 2025, 3rd Edition. Carnegie Learning, Inc. Author: Toni Theisen, Jacques Pécheur

Personal Finance:

Foundations in Personal Finance - FL 2024 Version, 2024, 4th edition. Lambo Licensing, LLC. Authors: Dave Ramsey, Kristina Ellis, Ken Coleman, John Delony, Rachel Cruz, and George Kamel.

Public Hearing Opened.

One (1) member of the public spoke during this time and was given 3 minutes to speak.

Public Hearing Closed.

Vote Results:

Motion: Melody A. Bolduc

Second: Anthony Ricardo

Discussion: None.

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

Charlotte D. Joyce
April A. Carney
Reginald Blount
Melody A. Bolduc
Cindy Pearson
Anthony Ricardo
Darryl D. Willie

Nay:

None.

Board Member Travel

None.

Superintendent's Travel

None.

For The Record

Members of the Board shared the following:

Board Member Ricardo:

- March travel summary.
- Topics covered during conferences attended.
- Duval is not the only district having problems with the student population.
- Student safety was the primary focus of the Florida National Summit on School Safety.
 - Appreciation was shared for Chief Short and the Safe Schools Team being present.
- Appreciation was shared for those that wore purple in support of the Military Families.

Dr. Bernier shared that he had just received the name of the new appointee and wanted to recognize her. Alaina Bell was approved by the Board to be the new Assistant Principal of Loretto Elementary School. Ms. Bell was congratulated on her new appointment.

Board Member Willie:

- Shared appreciation for the First Coast Chorus and the Sallye B. Mathis presentation, as well as the leadership and the consistency.
- Personal experience from being a Military Child. Recognition was shared for all the Military Families.
- Thanked the students for speaking and encouraged others to come and speak.
- Appreciation shared for the district's Assistant Principals.
- Joint Meeting with City Council on April 9, 2026, and the 1-Mill conversation. The need to have an understanding of time.
- Prayers and thoughts for the families and students that were involved in the bus accident.
- Shout out to the Corley's.

In response to Board Member Willie's remarks regarding the 1-Mill, Chairman Joyce shared that it will be included in the Superintendent's update during the Joint Meeting.

Board Member Pearson:

- Back to school. Ready to finish strong. Attendance is very important.
- Traffic Garden dedication at Ed White High School (EWHs); Be Safe Be Seen (BSBS) Campaign.
- Dum spiro spero: Translation: While I breathe, I Hope.
- Increase the Academic Acceleration Options Supplement; fixed amount fund that replaces the previous bonus system for Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), Dual Enrollment (DE) and Career and Technical Education (CTE); ask that the fund keep pace with student achievement.
- Senate Bill (SB) 318 - employs the remedies outlined by the Florida Auditor General; lost track of thousands of students and \$270 million; put the Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) in its own budget category.

Board Member Blount:

- Dedication ceremony at Matthew Gilbert Middle School. Principal recognition for an amazing job.
- Appreciation for Dr. Bernier and staff for the public communication regarding the CTE programs.
- Recognition of the brand-new turf field at Ed White High School that can be seen from the highway.
- Good things happening in the district.
- Appreciation shared for Board Member support.

Board Member Bolduc:

- Happy Birthday to Board Member Blount.
- Recognition for the Month of the Military Child.
- Unsatisfied with budget issues.
- Concerns about what Dr. Richardson shared during the public comment portion of the meeting as it relates to student schedules.
- Personal student experience was shared.
- The Board needs to listen to students and staff.
- Leaders need to challenge themselves to come up with better answers.
- It is unfair to students and teachers when teachers don't get the same planning time as others.
- All schools should be on the same schedule.
- Shout out to non-profit partners, Leon Baxton, Communities in Schools of Jacksonville (CIS) and Jennifer Smith, Giving Closet Project, who assisted with connecting families to resources to assist with their needs.
- Thrive event, educating about vaping and the dangers of it.
- District events were missed due to her attendance at the National School Safety Summit.
- Appreciation to staff for the Financial Literacy Report.

Vice-Chairman Carney:

- Month of the Military Child. District 2 has twelve (12) purple star schools, of which seven (7) have scheduled Purple Up's.
- Celebrating and supporting military students and families is one of her favorite things to do as a school board member.
- Non-military students are so supportive of military students.
- Opportunity to join Principal Ledford and Jax Beaches Women's Club. They raised funds to give to Nine (9) Fletcher High students.
- Had the pleasure of speaking at the Knights of Columbus.

- Appreciation was shared for Dr. Bernier and cabinet members' timely response to the San Pablo students that were involved in the bus accident.
 - Emotional time for everyone.
 - Praying for everyone.
 - Hug your babies tight. Life is Precious. Family is important. Treat everyone with love, kindness and respect every day.
 - Praying for the students that require more medical attention.
- Request that everyone pray for those affected by the bus accident.
- Appreciation for everyone's support.

Chairman Joyce:

- Month of the Military Child recognition and family experience.
 - Understanding what it means to navigate through it all.
 - Proud of the District for the work done with the Military Bases and Military Students.
- The AP funding budget has not been set yet, but she heard the District will be getting those funds.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board move to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Vote Results:

Motion: Melody A. Bolduc

Second: Cindy Pearson

PASSED - 7-0

Aye:

- Charlotte D. Joyce
- April A. Carney
- Reginald Blount
- Melody A. Bolduc
- Cindy Pearson
- Anthony Ricardo
- Darryl D. Willie

Nay:

None

MA

Superintendent

Chairman