



# Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

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**April 22, 2026, Academic and Community Excellence (ACE) Policy Subcommittee Meeting - REVISED**

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 and Vice-Chairman April A. Carney. Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent, and Mr. William Spillias, Office of General Counsel, were also present. *Board Member Reginald Blount arrived at 11:09 a.m. and Board Member Darryl D. Willie arrived at 12:08 p.m.*

Staff members present:

- Ashley Barr, Director Strategic Partnership
- Cami Sams, Executive Director Policy & Compliance
- Sharwonda Peek, Assistant Superintendent School Choice Pathways
- Corey Wright, Chief Officer Accountability & Assessment

Board Member Darryl D. Willie departed at 12:59 p.m.

## **Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 a.m.

### 1. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS(S) PARTICIPATION VIA INTERACTIVE VIDEO/TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

#### **Motion:**

**That the Academic and Community Excellence (ACE) Policy Subcommittee approve the participation of Vice-Chairman April A. Carney via Interactive Video and/or Telephone Systems.**

#### **Vote Results:**

**Motion:** Anthony Ricardo

**Second:** Cindy Pearson

No discussion.

**PASSED: 3-0**

**Aye:**

Cindy Pearson  
Anthony Ricardo  
Melody A. Bolduc

**Nay:**

None

**Items to be Discussed**

1. BOARD POLICY 5.44, SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BOUNDARIES

Cami Sams, Executive Director of Policy and Compliance, turned the meeting over to Ashley Barr, Director of Strategic Planning.

Ms. Barr shared what would be discussed:

- Goals and barriers.
- Build trust in the community.
- Expand policy to explain closures.
- Community engagement.

The following information was reviewed and discussed:

- Policy Crosswalk and Alignment Analysis (see attached).
- Policy review context and scope.
- Identification of polices that reference 8.51 and 8.53.
- Recommended Policy Revisions to Alignment of Proposed Policy Changes.
- Detailed findings and recommended language revisions.
- Overview of Board Policy 5.44 New Draft (see attached).
- The original policy was about boundaries. Now closures are being included.
- The information could be helpful to the Enrollment Management Team.
- The timeline is now over a two-year process.
- 5.44 School Attendance Boundaries, School Closures, and School Consolidation (see attached).
- An explanation of the changes was provided.
- Concern about capacity.
- The difference between stability and hold harmless.
- Conversation about continuity. Program continuity with regard to magnet programs.
- Closing schools that have Comprehensive Support Services (CSS) Programs.
- Students with Exceptional Education Services.
- Housing special programs.
- Much discussion took place to gain an understanding of the information that had been presented.
- There was also much discussion to determine the right terminology for various sections to get the desired results for the new policy.
- The Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH) is statutory. Consider clarifying FISH regulations for better understanding.
- The District should consider having the Duval Inventory of School Houses (DISH).
- The State Facilities Team came to the district and provided guidance on utilization.

- Conversation regarding capacity.
- There is one key performance indicator (KPI) specifically to reducing the number of schools under 50% capacity. KPIs can be adjusted on an annual basis.
- Every school will fall under one of the following categories: Adjust, Monitor, and Reconfigure.
- School Census and Utilization Report.
- There is a desire to separate consolidation and closures from the Master Facility Plan (MFP).
- Community engagement.
- TregoEd.
- Having community input but the recommendation goes in the opposite direction.
- The district needs to look into exhausting every option before recommending closing a school. Look into grants or partnerships to assist with keeping a school open.
- Closing a school and not looking into repurposing the building.
- The district needs to be right-sized. Closing and consolidating schools is necessary.
- Reset the expectation that closure does not equal something new.
- Balance among board districts.
- Working Groups.
- People are able to provide feedback if not able to attend a meeting.
- There is no one in the working group/committee with experience in education. They have been given a job that is not meant for them to have.
- There needs to be conversation around the different phases with the community.
- Schools on the reconfiguration section: what does the list look like and what is to be done with the schools on the list.
- Delayed closing of schools allows for the next set of schools to be moved up on the list for consideration to be closed.
- During the decision-making process, school leaders participated in the conversations. There is now a thought of including School Advisory Council (SAC) to help with the decision-making process.
- The Decision Analysis Process meetings take place at the schools.
- Board Members were asked if they had anything they wanted to add to the Decision Analysis process.
- Consider investing in the school that is consolidating.
- Excess property.
- Incentives.
- Run scenarios using the information that has been provided and adjust the policy as needed.
- Consider having a trained moderator to work with the Working Groups.
- Provide three scenarios that the district is willing to accept or live with when engaging with the community.
- Ensuring that the community working groups know what will be done and what will not be done.
- Information that falls under transparency.
- Every school involved has a voice.

## Adjournment

### 1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

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Superintendent

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Chairman