Meeting Minutes
Duval County Public Schools

April 6, 2026, Audit Advisory Subcommittee Meeting

Committee Members Present: Jack Meeks.

Board Members Present: Cindy Pearson.

Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Jack Meeks called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m.

Staff members who were also present:
- Melvin Dodson, Chief, Internal Board Auditor
- Ronald Fagan, Chief Financial Officer
- Anthony Cobb, Executive Director of Financial and Business Services
- Evon Nelson McIntyre, Executive Director of Financial and Business Services
- Louis Mitchum, Director of Purchasing Administration
- Corey Wright, Chief of Accountability and Assessment
- Gail Collins, Executive Assistant to the Board

<u>EXTERNAL AUDITOR SELECTION & AUDITOR SELECTION FOR INTERNAL AUDITS</u>

Mr. Jack Meeks, Audit Advisory Committee Member, started the meeting. The discussion involved the following:

- Ongoing commitment for the financial audit.
- Audit of internal accounts.
- Options for having internal accounts audited: external auditors, internal auditors, or combination of both.
- Will be creating a proposal to do an additional services amendment to have MSL do the 2026 internal school accounts. 2027 and beyond to have further discussion.
- Internal audit is losing an employee and currently is filling an open position.
- Concern was shared by Mr. Dodson about internal auditors should not be performing an audit that gives an opinion on the financial statements of the organization in which they are employed. It should be completed by an external auditor. No other participants had this concern. All other audits Internal Audit can do.
- School internal accounts:
    - Principals are the Chef Executive Officer (CEO) of the schools.
    - The Internal Audit Department is independent of that function.
    - Chief Internal Board Auditor (IBA) is concerned that there is a conflict due him being employed by Duval County Public Schools (DCPS), and the principals being employed by DCPS.

  - When it comes to the capacity of each school's audit, the Internal Audit Department is not involved in the finances of each school.
- There is language within the "Opinion" that could be given, it could be tailored to the point that it is not the normal audit opinion from the Internal Auditor.
- The Internal Audit Department has completed the audits in the past.
- The history and reason for creating the Chief IBA position and separating the Auditing Department was explained.
- Internal accounts exclusively deal with money spent at individual schools.
- The percentage of the total revenues and expenses within the district budget for internal accounts is minimal.
- If the internal auditors complete the audit of the internal accounts, that would be part of the overall financial statements. The external auditors are auditing the financial statements, so they would have to do some work to accept the internal auditors' work.
- There was an audit done this year of the internal accounts, but it was operational, compliance, and internal control audit. The audit did not give an "Opinion" on the financial position of the internal accounts, which is the extra audit.
- It was stated that the Auditor General (AG) would look at the work, take the sample transactions just to make sure before they relied upon the information.
- A suggestion was made to not make a commitment to the external auditor to complete the 2027 internal accounts.
- Information was shared regarding how other districts were having their audits completed.
- There were three requests made for Bring Backs:
  - For the districts that have the work done in-house, find out what if anything the external auditors did? What were the charges, if any?
  - What is out there specifically regarding state rules and regulations?
- An important objective is to make sure that the financials get out on time.
- MSL has the final opinion on the district's financials, not the Chief IBA.
- Chief IBA stated if asked he would do the financial audit and provide an opinion on the 2027 Internal Account financials, however he believed this was wrong.

Adjournment

<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

Motion:
That the Audit Advisory Subcommittee adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

GC

Minutes approved 06/25/2026.