



The Florida House of Representatives

Representative Jason Fischer

District 16

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Duval County School Board
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To Chairwoman Wright and The Members of The Duval County School Board:

I am writing to express my deep concern that, despite Chair Paula Wright's on-the-record claims to the contrary, no formal action has been taken to schedule or carry out an audit to account for the \$21 million that was identified as unaccounted for in the *Florida Times Union* article published July 18.

In the News4JAX interview that aired on July 30, 2017, Chair Paula Wright stated the following;

“On the 18th of July when we convened in an Audit Committee, I recommended we do a forensic audit.” She then went on to say, “[...] on July 18, at the Audit Committee, there was a unanimous vote to conduct an audit.”

Upon review of the video and audio from the July 18 Audit Committee meeting, however, at no time was a formal vote taken to schedule any such audit, nor was a meeting noticed to vote on an audit. In addition, there was no mention of a forensic audit being performed, nor plans of a future forensic audit.

I also asked the board auditor if she had been directed to perform an audit, and her response was, “No.”

These facts are deeply concerning on two levels: one, it appears the board has already reached a substantive conclusion when Chair Wright stated that there is, “no missing money and no mismanagement of money,” in the News4Jax interview and in the *Florida Times Union* article published on Aug. 1, 2017; and two, the blatant misrepresentation by the board to the public of what has or has not been done is antithetical to good government.

Many of my colleagues in the legislature and I strongly believe action should be carried out immediately. Members of the board acknowledged as much in the Audit Committee meeting on July 18. While the board highlighted improvement in the district's finances since the last audit, the fact that \$21 million of taxpayer money is unaccounted for remains. This is unacceptable. No board member would accept this sort of discrepancy with their own finances, so the standard should be no different with taxpayer money.

Our kids deserve better, the taxpayers deserve accountability, and this debate is owed complete honesty. It is my sincere hope that the board takes formal action to perform a forensic audit as Chair Wright stated. Her misstatements alone serve as sufficient reason for the state auditor to step in and conduct a thorough review.

I appreciate your time and attention regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JF', written in a cursive style.

Jason Fischer
State Representative, District 16

cc:

Representative Daniel Raulerson
Senator Debbie Mayfield
Senator Kathleen Passidomo
Senator Perry Thurston
Senator Dennis Baxley
Senator Aaron Bean
Senator Audrey Gibson
Representative Jay Fant
Representative Cord Byrd
Representative Clay Yarborough
Representative Tracie Davis
Representative Kimberly Daniels
Representative Randy Fine
Representative Joe Gruters
Representative Roy Hardemon
Representative Cyndi Stevenson

Mayor Lenny Curry
Inspector General James Hoffman

Committees and Subcommittees

Energy and Utilities Subcommittee; Joint Administrative Procedures Committee; Natural Resources and Public Lands Subcommittee;
PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee; PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee; Public Integrity and Ethics Committee