



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

May 17, 2022, Board Workshop

Mr. Darryl Willie, Chairman
Dr. Kelly Coker, Vice-Chairman
Ms. Elizabeth Andersen
Ms. Lori Hershey
Mr. Warren A. Jones
Ms. Charlotte D. Joyce
Ms. Cindy Pearson
Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present. Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent, and Mr. Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. STUDENT SUPPORT GUIDE UPDATE (LGBTQ)

Dr. Diana Greene, Superintendent and Mr. Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel, introduced Mr. Jim Mallard and Ms. Ariel Cooke from the Office of General Counsel and expressed appreciation for their groundwork and assistance with the LGBTQ+ update. Mr. Poole expressed that the balancing of the rights of the students as well as the parents is rapidly evolving and that it is an extremely complicated area. U.S. Supreme Court Cases were referenced as well as House Bill 1557 and Board Policy 5.09, which is where this item will be housed. Mr. Poole, Ms. Sonita Young, Chief of Staff, and Mr. Brian McDuffie, Executive Director, Policy & Compliance, presented the PowerPoint presentation on Support for LGBTQ+ Students, Parental Notifications of Change in Support Services Procedures. Dr. Dana Kriznar, Deputy Superintendent also joined in the discussion.

The following topics were discussed:

- Pursuant to Section 1001.42 and in accordance with the rights of parents enumerated in ss. 1002.20 and 1014.04, the responsibility of the School Board is to adopt procedures for notifying a student's parent if there is a change in the student's services or monitoring related to the student's mental, emotional, physical health or well-being and the school's ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for the student were discussed in length and the appropriate notification procedures including the district personnel's requirement to encourage students to discuss issues relating to his or her well-being with his or her parent and try and facilitate parental discussions.

- Exceptions to this notification requirement were explained in section 4. Procedures to address parental concerns were also discussed and outlined in section 5.
- Progression steps were discussed and it was stated that no technical assistance is available at this time as this law is not in effect until July. Mr. McDuffie stated that all due diligence must be exercised to resolve the concerns and to comply with both Federal and State Law. It was stated by Mr. Poole that there is a possibility at some point in time that State Laws and Federal Laws may collide, but Federal laws will prevail.
- Dr. Greene stated that training of school staff would take place by Mr. McDuffie and the Office of General Counsel. Mr. McDuffie stated that training will begin this year and may need to be done annually. This training will be different from mandatory reporting training. However, mandatory reporting could possibly be triggered and could require official reporting. This will be determined by the school principals and documented. Training at the school level will address the many possible variables. Ms. Sonita Young also advised that the district would provide additional training for personnel who are responsible for making the decisions as to when and if information would be withheld from the parent and this would not be done at the teacher level. This process is a very involved process requiring certain procedures be followed and documented.
- Mr. McDuffie stated there is no date as to when technical assistance will be received from the state, but once it is, this will be revisited to ensure we are in compliance with that.
- Mr. Poole discussed the Tier levels for resolving parental concerns and the due diligence which must be adhered to.
- Mr. McDuffie explained that the Parental Notification of Change in Support Services Procedures and the LGBTQ+ Student Support Guide are two separate documents as there may be other circumstances other than LGBTQ+ that would fall under this.
- Dr. Greene stated that there are other changes not related to LGBTQ+ that can occur. She also states that the law goes much further than just the guide in that procedures must be created and approved.
- Ms. Young stated that this is a component part of a more comprehensive guide, which will include all the physical, mental and emotional health of the student. She stated that Board Policy 1.22 adopted in June 2012 - Equity for students and staff requires the Board to maintain administrative procedures. This guide is a resource, but not the single resource to support a safe environment for all students. The guide will no longer be a stand-alone guide, but will be part of a comprehensive guide to include many components. It also clearly states it is not the district's intention to usurp the rights afforded to parents. The legislature refers to it as a procedure for adoption. Therefore, the district will maintain this as procedure. It explains what can be changed, and what cannot be changed according to law. The district will only modify official student records when a court order reflects a change in name or gender. The new change states for unofficial record change requests, such as ID Cards, Team Rosters, Yearbooks, that parental notification is now required. Notifications will be done through FOCUS and if there is no FOCUS account, then paper notifications to the parents will occur.
- Dr. Greene stated there will be a Student Support Plan, but it will be a component of a much bigger comprehensive plan, and once this is completed, it will be brought before the Board in a Workshop for discussion and review.
- Training materials can be obtained via public records requests and will be sent to Board members.
- Health Education and Sex education classes as defined by Florida State Statutes 1003.42, 1002.20 and 1003.46 were discussed by Dr. Dana Kriznar as being required by law to be taught and the District follows the language of the Statute in our policies. Parents are able to opt students out of these topics.
- Appreciation was given to the administration for responding quickly to make sure the district is compliant with State and Federal laws and navigating through both.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

CRH

Superintendent

Chairman