



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

November 13, 2024, Policy Handbook Review Committee Meeting - REVISED

Mr. Darryl Willie, Chairman
Ms. Charlotte D. Joyce, Vice-Chairman
Ms. April A. Carney
Dr. Kelly Coker
Dr. Lori Hershey
Mr. Warren A. Jones
Ms. Cynthia Pearson
Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent

ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING OF THE DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: All Board Members were present except Board Member Dr. Coker. Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent, and Mr. Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel, were also present. Board Member Dr. Hershey arrived at 12:27 p.m. Board Member Jones departed at 12:30 p.m.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. BOARD POLICY 6.84 FRATERNIZATION WITH STUDENTS

Cami Sams, Executive Director of Policy and Compliance and Victoria Schultz, Chief of Human Resources joined in the discussion about the changes to the policy:

- Title of the policy was changed.
- Purpose was added.
- Student artwork that may be considered inappropriate to others.
- Direct communication with parents and guardians.
- Posting online.
- A request for to be student focused on the purpose section of the policy.
- The policy and the Student Code of Conduct are in alignment.
- Provide teacher training and students to be made aware of the expectations.
- Process for rolling out the policy.
- The policy aligns with the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).
- The determination of what is considered inappropriate or vulgar.
- Florida statute 847.12 provides the definition of what is considered inappropriate.
- Providing student updates to parents or guardians.
- Public records request.
- Using school district devices for communication with parents or guardians.

- When training takes place for teachers.
- Tools for teachers to communicate with parents or guardians.
- A request for how many teachers are using the 'Rooms' app to communicate.
- Mechanism and training for coaches to communicate with parents or guardians.
- Teachers may unintentionally violate the policy due to an emergency.
- Information is provided to new teachers during onboarding.

2. BOARD POLICY 8.53 CLOSING AND CONSOLIDATION IMPACT REVIEW PROCESS

Ms. Sams explained the changes that were requested for this policy:

- Honoring the legacy of consolidated schools and closed schools.
- Superintendent's responsibility regarding the process.
- Committee/stakeholders, and additional members on the committee.
- The process that takes place prior to the Board's vote up or down.
- Maintaining the marker.
- Placement of the marker.
- A request to have it noted that no district funds would be used for the markers.
- Proceeds from the sale of a building could be used towards the marker.
- Have a standardized form for creating policy.
- If no proceeds from a sale of a property, the historical society can assist with getting grants.
- The Foundation.

3. BOARD POLICY 4.10 THE CURRICULUM

Ms. Sams and Paula Renfro, Chief of Academics joined in the discussion about the changes to the policy:

- Statute language as it relates to health and physical education.
- Reproductive lessons and the number of students who opted-out.
- The type of program being taught.
- Distinguishing the curriculum grades K through 5 vs 6 through 12 curriculum.
- The number of times the district had deviated from the curriculum.
- The School Health Advisory Council's (SHAC), role in the curriculum and the recommendations that they provide.
- A request for recommendations made by SHAC and why the change in the language in the policy were made.
- There have been no recommendations by SHAC with regards to the adoptive material.
- The opt-outs for reproductive lessons per grade.
- Have the language in the policy to align with the language in the Florida statute from the past.
- Request for a decision-making tree.
- The number of opt-out is low. A request for allowing parents to opt-in is preferred.
- Explanation about the state statute.
- Parental rights.
- The process for notifying parents about the lessons and the notification about being able to opt-out.
- How students may feel being pulled out of class due to being opted-out of a lesson.
- Ray Poole, Office of General Counsel will be reviewing what is permitted with regard to opt-in vs opt-out.
- Other ways of communicating with parents.
- This policy will be brought back to the next session.

4. BOARD POLICY 4.19 TITLE I COMPARABILITY

Ms. Sams and Niki Micheau, Executive Director of Federal Programs joined in the discussion about the changes to the policy:

- The policy was updated to reflect the changes in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- Schools that are participating in the grant project have to have Title 1 neutral methodology.
- The Title 1 program involves all traditional public and public charter schools.
- The district has to annually adopt a staffing plan for schools.

5. BOARD POLICY 4.20 INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS SELECTION AND ALLOCATION

Ms. Sams and Ms. Renfro joined in the discussion about the changes to the policy:

- Selected materials.
- Selection of library books.
- Many books have been vetted.
- There are not enough media specialists in schools and they have other responsibilities. There is a need for more or the legislators allow for people in other positions to assist in vetting books.
- The statute does not allow for ancillary people to assist.
- The district process when books are donated for the classroom library.
- A request was made for the number of books that are pending review and the number of books that have been vetted.
- Have a conversation with the Department of Education (DOE) about having a master list from the 67 districts.
- Not all districts may approve or disapprove the same books.
- State training module.
- Parental challenge of a book.

6. BOARD POLICY 4.24 MANAGEMENT OF TEXTBOOKS

Ms. Sams and Ms. Renfro, joined in the discussion about the changes to the policy:

- Maintaining the textbook inventory.
- Secondary level students use digital textbooks. However, there are hard copies available for various reasons.
- Financial responsibility of each school if they do not provide information about a shortage of textbooks within 14 days from receiving them. Will have to pay for additional copies.
- Cannot withhold report cards and progress reports due to there being an electronic version.
- LMS means Learning Management System.
- An appeal may be requested when students are not financially able to pay for a textbook. A request for how many appeals are made on a yearly basis, and what is the dollar amount.

7. BOARD POLICY 4.30 CHALLENGED MATERIALS

Ms. Sams and Ms. Renfro joined in the discussion about the changes to the policy:

- How requests for re-evaluations take place according to the Florida statute.
- The composition of the committee.
- After the review process has taken place, the final decision will be brought to the Board for a vote.
- An inquiry was made about Board Members having an opportunity to review whatever book that is

being challenged.

8. BOARD POLICY 4.40 EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAM

Ms. Sams explained about the changes to the policy. There was no discussion.

9. BOARD POLICY 4.44 SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

Ms. Sams and Laura Bowes, Executive Director to Chief of Schools joined in the discussion about the changes to the policy:

- The requirements for school functions or events to take place.
- Parental permission for anything outside the curriculum.
- Student Code of Conduct.
- A request for data from elementary and middle schools on how many students miss out on things due to not having parental permission.
- Parental permission is a state requirement.
- A request was made for information regarding any resistance from teachers on holding back or withdrawing from the programs they would normally put on because of the requirement.

10. BOARD POLICY 4.45 CHAPERONES FOR SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

Ms. Sams and Ms. Schultz joined in the discussion about the changes to the policy:

- All chaperones must be cleared as a Duval County Public School volunteer with the background office and during their course of being a chaperone. Also, a chaperone cannot be alone with a student.
- Clearance is taking place now, but as of June 2025, a level 2 clearance will be required at a cost.
- Parents and chaperones will have to pay \$97.25, and the prints are held for five years.
- The time it takes for print results.
- Will be moving to the clearing house for results, which the state of Florida will be using.
- Parental notification.
- This is a state mandate, not a Duval County Public Schools mandate.
- Inquiry made if Title 1 schools use funds to offset the cost. Will need to be looked into.
- The district does not have access to the clearing house yet.
- The difference between a visitor and a volunteer.
- The disqualifying offenses are listed in the Florida statute.
- Look into grants that may be available to assist families who have a hardship to keep parental involvement up.
- An inquiry was made whether a principal has the authority to tell a parent they may not be able to chaperone even after going through a clearance process.
- A request for funding to pay for background checks was made to Florida School Boards Association (FSBA) for the legislative platform.

11. BOARD POLICY 4.51 STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

12. BOARD POLICY 4.90 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Ms. Sams and Ms. Renfro, joined in the discussion about the changes to the policy:

- Removal of the language college placement test eligible certificate of completion is to align with the current withdrawal codes for students exiting high school.
- Classic Learning Test (CLT) was added.
- Students who graduate with a certificate of completion instead of earning a high school diploma, if the student chooses to attend a community college, the college will do some type of assessment or determination to decide if the student is ready to go into academic core coursework at the college or start developmental or remedial work.
- Students can go to a community college, but must eventually meet the high school diploma requirements.
- Private colleges or universities are different.

Break at 12:04 p.m.

Resumed at 12:16 p.m.

13. GOVERNANCE

Discussion included the following:

- Regular Board meeting for December 2nd needs to be changed to December 9th due to FSBA conference in Tampa.
- The meeting calendar for the year.
- Results of the Internal Board Auditor interviews.

A brief explanation of the purpose of the leadership meeting was provided.

- A recommendation for Vice-Chair Joyce to be the Chair was made.
- An inquiry was made if Board Member Pearson wanted an opportunity to be the Chair after she had passed to serve last year. She stated that she would support Vice-Chair Joyce as Chair and would get back in line to be the Vice-Chair.
- Board Member Carney expressed her interest in being the Vice-Chair.
- The Board Member-Elects were informed by Chairman Willie that they could speak and that this would be the first thing they would vote on at the meeting.
- Support for Board Member Carney was provided.
- Various Board Members shared their accomplishments and experiences as a Board Member.
- Having a balanced leadership.
- The Board should be nonpartisan.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

GC

Superintendent

Chairman