



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

November 12, 2025, Policy Handbook Review Committee 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. Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent, and Mr. William Spillias, Office of General Counsel, were also present.

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12.03 p.m.

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

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board approve the participation of Vice-Chairman April A. Carney via Interactive Video and/or Telephone Systems.

Vote Results:

Motion: Anthony Ricardo

Second: Reginald Blount

No discussion.

Unanimously agreed.

Items to be Discussed

1. BOARD POLICY 4.30 CHALLENGED MATERIALS

Cami Sams, Executive Director of Policy and Compliance, and William Spillias, Office of General Counsel Attorney spoke about this policy:

- Court decision in August involving the Federal Judge and Middle District Judge struck down House Bill 1069, part of the Book Challenge Law.
- The State appealed the decision in September.
- It can take some time for a decision from the 11th Circuit Court and ultimately could be held unconstitutional at the Middle District Court of Florida.
- There are school districts waiting for the 11th Circuit's decision. In the meantime, districts can continue what they are doing regarding challenged materials.
- There needs to be a deeper dive into Duval's policy.
- The committee is fine, but there needs to be some restructuring between instructional challenges, and other materials to make the policy clearer.
- A request was made for clarification of what the district's policy means, and what the Board needs to wait on.
- The policy appears to focus primarily on instructional materials.
- Florida Statute Section 1006.28 mentions instructional materials and other materials. Other materials being library materials and classroom materials.
- Indian River School District's policy on Challenged Materials.
- All decisions are ultimately made by the School Board.
- Suggestions provided on what could be done to the policy.
- Use the language from Indian River's policy.
- A request to workshop the policy and bring it back.
- Abide by the parts of the statute that were held constitutional.
- A clear process helps if challenged.
- Pass the policy as is and then continue to work on it.
- The timeline for a challenge is a 30-day turnaround.

2. BOARD POLICY 5.40 STUDENT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Ms. Sams and Katrina Taylor, Director of Full-Service Schools, spoke about the collapsing of Board Policies 5.40 and 5.42:

- Board policy had been collapsed into board policy 5.42.
- Excused absences and unexcused absences.
- Change in Florida Statute regarding Early Truancy Intervention.
- Off-campus religious instruction.
- Student make-up work.
- Student attendance is also addressed in the Student Progression Plan.

3. BOARD POLICY 5.42 DISTRICT STUDENT ATTENDANCE PROVISIONS

This policy had been collapsed into Board Policy 5.42.

4. BOARD POLICY 4.50 STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Ms. Sams explained why she brought the policy to the Board and a copy of the Marion County School District policy. She deferred to Vice-Chairman Carney to share information regarding the policy:

- Hard to find a teacher sponsor.
- Add information regarding the Federal law - Equal Access Act 1984 in the policy.
- The Office of General Counsel attorney will do more research on the Equal Access Act.

- Non-employees versus employees of an organization who work with the students.
- Certificated staff member versus a non-certificated staff member to sponsor a student-led club/organization.
- Principals having to appoint an employee to be the sponsor of a club/organization.

5. BOARD POLICY 5.44 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BOUNDARIES

Ms. Sams provided a brief summary of the former conversations regarding boundaries. She then deferred to Corey Wright, Chief Officer of Accountability and Assessment, who used a PowerPoint presentation (see attached) to explain the following:

- An explanation of Board Policy 5.44 was provided.
- There are some limitations and direct engagement to either Board Policy 8.51 Academic and Community Excellence (ACE) Planning Process or Board Policy 8.53 Closing and Consolidation.
- Review Process.
- Current policy barriers.
- Feedback received.
- Intent and Design.
- Overview of Proposal.
- Major changes at a glance.

Discussion involved:

- Initial recommendation.
- Calibration of school size.
- Working group and community involvement.
- Meetings in the regions.
- Monitor, adjust, and reconfigure processes.
- Change of magnet programs fall under Board Policy 5.46.
- Create a subcommittee to review all the policies under ACE.
- Public comment.
- Digital feedback.
- Timing and timeline.

6. BOARD POLICY 8.53 CLOSING AND CONSOLIDATION REVIEW PROCESS

This policy was not discussed. It will be reviewed with other related policies by the subcommittee.

7. BOARD POLICY 8.51 ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE (ACE) PLANNING PROCESS

This policy was not discussed. It will be reviewed with other related policies by the subcommittee.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board adjourn the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

GC

Superintendent

Chairman