



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

March 25, 2026, Policy Handbook Review Committee Meeting - REV

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. *Board Member Bolduc arrived at 9:16 a.m., and Board Member Willie arrived at 9:39 a.m. and departed at 10:59 a.m.*

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

Items to be Discussed

1. BOARD POLICY 6.37, TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT

Cami Sams, Executive Director of Policy and Compliance, Dr. Heather Albritton, Director of Health and Physical Education, and Paula Renfro, Chief of Academic Services shared information about changes to the policy. The following were shared:

- Two (2) School Health Advisory Committee members (SHAC) were present at the meeting.
- The policy now refers to any related devices which cannot be detected.
- An explanation of how the policy change affects the Student Code of Conduct.
- The Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) have provided input regarding the changes to the Code of Conduct.
- An explanation of how visitors that may have tobacco products on campus will be dealt with.
- A concern was shared about being able to manage an off-campus sponsored event.
- Look into changing the settings on the EVOLVE system to detect tobacco devices.
- The policy is easier to enforce on school district property compared to a public event.
- The correct message needs to be provided to the students and adults about the use of tobacco.
- The use of nicotine patches is noted as an exception and comes under the topic of Cessation Products.

2. NEW POLICY, 1.60 - ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY

Ms. Sams, Jim Culbert, Chief of Operation/Information Technology, Holly Lanham, Director of Instructional Technology, and Paula Renfor, Chief Officer of Academic Services, explained the purpose of creating this policy. The following were shared:

- This policy will be brought to the Board at least every six months because artificial intelligence (AI) is constantly changing.
- Suggestion for the Board to have a tablet that would allow them to see in real-time some of the exercises to determine if a student has used AI or not. Could schedule a workshop.
- Federal and legislative rules.
- Detection software. Consider adding an appeal process for students who have been accused of using AI and have shared that they have not used it.
- Have school-based leaders to develop a process for when a challenge occurs.
- Creating guardrails for students using AI.
- Certificated personnel being trained on how to teach the use of AI to find sources for lessons.
- If a student is allowed to use AI, that information must be disclosed.
- AI detection tools and consequences.
- A suggestion was made to add a statement to the policy regarding an appeal process, then refer to the Student Code of Conduct.
- Board Member Bolduc shared how she teaches her students to use AI responsibly.
- It is imperative for all teachers to have AI training.
- The district does not use Google tools. It uses Microsoft-based tools only.
- An explanation was provided as to why the district uses Microsoft.
- CoPilot Studio.
- Creating a data lake.
- There needs to be a balance between ease of use and security.
- Use of Notebook application.

3. BOARD POLICY 2.12, ORIENTATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Sams provided an explanation about the changes to the policy.

Discussion involved:

- The state provides training and gives the Board Members a book.
- Training is provided by the Florida School Board Association (FSBA).
- Sunshine training.
- Consider having more options available in-house provided by the attorney.
- Have refreshers during the year to acquire a better understanding of the information that is provided.
- Have a full day of training or training is broken up at different times.
- Robert's Rule training.
- Knowing how the consent agenda works.
- Create a binder providing information that would be helpful to new Board Members.
- Possibly create a subcommittee.
- The agenda book needs to be a part of the training. Create a sample agenda.
- Consider what has already been done. Utilize the staff to have questions answered.
- It was shared about the votes of Board Members being used against them.
- Consider having a Mock Board as a part of training.

- If administration changes, procedures can change.
- Orientation for Board Members in other school districts.
- What Board Members are expecting from new staff who are not aware of what they are supposed to do.
- Board Members need to do their own research to be able to vote on items but also need to know who they can go to and get an answer.
- There are specific training courses for Board Members cited by the Auditor General (AG) in the report.
- Measure of feedback on what is working and what is not.
- Attitude survey could be added.
- Things that may cause stress and tension for a Board Member.
- Public Records training.

Recessed at 10:21 a.m.

Reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

4. BOARD POLICY 2.26, BOARD MEETING PROTOCOL AND FORMAT

Ms. Sams introduced William Spillias, Attorney, for the Office of General Counsel. Mr. Spillias provided an explanation of the changes to the policy. The following were shared:

- A case involving Brevard County School District and Moms of Liberty, the 11th Circuit of Appeals struck down certain provisions of the district's policy on public comment.
- Comments and questions that are directed to the Superintendent and Board Members.
- Abusive language.

Discussion involved:

- Speakers addressing the audience.
- Restricting comments to just the items on the agenda.
- How other districts handle public comments.
- The use of profane and vulgar language.
- The chairman's responsibility is to stop a member of the public from speaking.
- When a new chairman comes on board, there should be a training to share the expectations.
- Clarification needs to be provided for the public reading a passage from a book that is in the school library.
- A review of a statute that may provide the Board with authority to stop a member of the public and have the book removed immediately from the school library.
- A person who causes a disruption at a meeting can be charged with a second-degree misdemeanor - Florida Statute 877.13 - Educational institutions or school boards, penalty for disruption. Add the statute to the script and the policy.
- Definition of disruption.
- Regarding disruption at the meeting, the board policy says the chairman and the Office of General Counsel will decide after a warning has been given. Chief Short, of DCPS School Police, would need to be involved to determine if the disruption is a criminal offense.
- How disruptions are handled at the city council meetings.
- Consider using the protocol of the city council meetings at DCPS meetings.
- The disruptive noise that is heard during meetings.
- Reference in the policy as a citation about how the public is expected to act at the meeting. Also add the information to the script.

5. BOARD POLICY 5.27, STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Ms. Sams introduced Vice-Chairman Carney, who explained why she had requested to have a discussion about this policy. The following were shared:

- A copy of the Sarasota County School District's draft policy on Student Disruptions and Demonstrations.
- Information about various events that have taken place involving students.
- An inquiry was made about whether the district was legally obligated to allow protests or walkouts during the school day.
- An explanation of the current policy regarding student walkouts was explained.
- An inquiry was made if in the policy, the School Board must legally allow protests and walkouts during the school day. More research is needed.
- The need to make sure there is a policy in place that allows the Superintendent and principals to handle matters.
- The history and purpose for creating the policy was shared.
- Parental notification regarding protests or walkouts.
- Concern was expressed about students inviting the media to protest and walkouts during the school day.
- Need to ensure the safety of students during protests or walkouts.
- Concern was expressed about having to readjust things for the sake of having protests or walkouts.
- There is a need to revisit the policy and continue the conversation.
- First amendment rights of students.
- Parental consent versus parental notification.
- Have legal counsel look at options for designating a space for those who do not belong on the campus.
- There is a counseling session that occurs with the student and principal regarding the request for a walkout.
- Concern was expressed about the situation turning into a mob action.
- An inquiry was made regarding freedom of assembly. Is it about an individual or group's rights being considered?

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

That the Duval County School Board adjourn the meeting 12:10 p.m.

GC

Superintendent

Chairman