



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

April 22, 2026, 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 except Vice-Chairman April A. Carney. 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 9:08 a.m.

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

Motion:

That the Academic and Community Excellence (ACE) Policy Subcommittee approve the participation of Vice-Chairman April A. Carney via Interactive Video and/or Telephone Systems.

Vote Results:

Motion: Anthony Ricardo
Second: Melody A. Bolduc

No discussion.

PASSED 6-0

Aye:

Charlotte D. Joyce
Reginald Blount
Melody A. Bolduc
Cindy Pearson
Anthony Ricardo

Darryl D. Willie

Nay:
None

Items to be Discussed

1. BOARD POLICY 2.12, ORIENTATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Cami Sams, Executive Director of Policy and Compliance, provided the changes that were made to the policy per discussion from the last meeting.

Discussion involved:

- Due to training in Roberts Rules being provided to Board Members by the Florida School Board Association (FSBA) and other organizations, it does not need to be noted in the policy as being required. It could be changed to trainings available that the Board Members may complete.
- The only training that Board Members are required to take is Ethics Training.
- Training for Board Members should not be audited.
- The six classes that the district requires.
- The state Auditor General wrote the district up due to the Board Members not completing the six classes of the district.
- Board Members are not employees of the district, and do not need to complete the training required by the district.
- Add technology to training.
- Add the six classes of the district to the section of trainings available to the Board Members.
- Instructions on board operations and processes.
- Create a procedural manual with board office staff this summer.
- Training that is required and training that is optional.
- The chairman can work with the board staff regarding the needs of new board members.
- Mock board training.
- Create a subcommittee of the Board to create a manual for new Board Members.
- Copy of the Ethics certificate course completion to be filed in the board office.
- Add language from the Florida statute regarding the ethics training.

2. BOARD POLICY 2.26, BOARD MEETING PROTOCOL AND FORMAT

Ms. Sams deferred the explanation of the changes to this policy to William Spillias, Office of General Counsel (OGC) Attorney.

Discussion involved:

- Consider removing from the policy a member of the public saying their name during public comment.
- Look into members of the public violating the Florida Education Finance Program (FERPA) when talking about someone else's student during public comment.
- Board Policy 5.71, Directory Information.
- Have recommendations for the chair and vice-chairman to be documented in the manual that is to be created.
- The chair needs to sit with the attorney of the OGC to go through the first amendment.

- Procedure should follow policy. Make sure the actions of the chairman are covered.

3. BOARD POLICY 5.27, STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Ms. Sams deferred the conversation for this policy to Vice-Chairman Carney. Vice-Chairman Carney requested for Mr. Spillias to share his opinion on the first amendment as it pertains to this policy.

Mr. Spillias provided the following information:

- An explanation on the first amendment journey and pathway, and how it connects to the school setting.
- An explanation pertaining to time, place, and manner restrictions.
- A case law involving first amendment.
- The Education Commissioner's memo from February 3, 2026, which speaks about instructional time.
- Review of the board policy.

Discussion involved:

- Protests that take place during lunch while other classes are taking place at the same time.
- Disruption of any kind during instruction is not permitted, then that allows restrictions to be placed.
- Principals know how to navigate things at their schools.
- The current policy is working.
- The location of protests needs to be designated by the principal.
- The difference between a pep rally and a protest.
- There is a need to deter any event during the school day.
- Consider adding information pertaining to parental consent to the policy.
- The policy has an open framework which gives a principal what they need to allow or not allow a protest.
- The principal and other administrators are involved.
- Unsanctioned walkouts versus a walkout that has gone through the proper procedures.
- Case law Tinker versus De Moines.
- The district does not have to allow walkouts to take place during the school day.
- A request was made for the clarification of instructional time. (Bring back.)
- A request was made about possible restrictions that may be placed on the media. (Bring back.)
- A request pertaining to interrupting the operation of the school; provide a compare and contrast between student expression and LifeWise.
- What is disruption? (Bring back.)
- The media's request for access to events in schools.
- Ask the parents of the student(s) requesting to organize a protest to sit in on a conversation with their student and the principal.
- The Parental Bill of Rights allows the district to provide parental notification.
- Board Member Thoughts:
 - Keep the policy and strengthen it with the information from the Parental Bill of Rights. - Vice-Chair Carney
 - Keep the policy, add safety measures and parental notification at the end of the planning stage. - Board Member Bolduc
 - Keep the policy and add parental notification or permission. - Board Member Ricardo
 - Keep the policy. Need answers to questions about instruction and media. - Board Member Pearson

- Keep the policy and add parental notification to the policy. - Board Member Blount
- Would vote for the policy if the parental notification and safety measures were added. Also note that there are other ways to protest or assemble, but they cannot walk out during the school day. Add that the students cannot do student walkouts from bell-to-bell. They can do it before or after school. – Chairman Joyce
- Policy versus procedures.
- Directions provided by the Board on what changes are to be made to the policy. The policy will be brought back in May for review at the next Policy Review Meeting or be on the May agenda.
- It was agreed to add the requested changes and bring the policy back in May for review.
- Discussion on what a student walk-out is.
- Clarification of an organized walk-out was provided.
- Principals' responsibility regarding the process.
- Add the language, "Your child may be subject to video or photography by the media if approved by the principal."
- Place the language in policy and procedure.
- Board Members were advised to meet with Ms. Sams if they had any other recommendations or thoughts.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

GC

Superintendent

Chairman