



Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

May 13, 2026, Academic and Community Excellence (ACE) Policy Subcommittee 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 Chairman Charlotte D. Joyce, Board Member Reginald Blount, and Board Member Darryl D. Willie. Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent, and Mr. William Spillias, Office of General Counsel, were not present.

Staff members present:

- Ashley Barr, Director Strategic Partnership
- Jennifer Copeland, Specialist, Strategic Partnership
- Sharwonda Peek, Assistant Superintendent School Choice Pathways
- Cami Sams, Executive Director Policy & Compliance
- Corey Wright, Chief Officer Accountability & Assessment

Call Meeting to Order

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

Items to be Discussed

1. BOARD POLICY 8.50, FACILITIES PLANNING AND ENROLLMENT REVIEW

Cami Sams, Executive Director, Policy and Compliance, shared the change made to the policy under 8.50 (C) and asked if there were any questions regarding the change made. There were no questions from the committee members.

2. BOARD POLICY 8.51, ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

Ms. Sams shared with the committee that this policy will be transferred into a new policy once the Board votes on it. The website will be updated to show the current 8.51 policy number and the history of the policy to show a record of how the policy was changed.

3. BOARD POLICY 8.53, CONSOLIDATION IMPACT REVIEW

Ms. Sams shared that this policy was done away with as well and will be transferred into a new policy. No further discussion regarding this.

4. BOARD POLICY 8.59, NAMING OR RENAMING SCHOOLS

Ashley Barr, Director, Strategic Partnership, shared the changes to Board Policy 8.59 that included addressing the process and there was an additional section added to address board member concerns that were shared. A section entitled "Programmatic Name Change" was added. Discussion included the following:

- Robust community process.
- Programmatic changes.
- References to academic programs.
- Rebranding.
- The meaning of redlining.
- Comparison of other districts and how they navigate the process.
- Steps that need to be followed.
- The importance of providing clear guidance, so the community can easily locate the policy and be informed about the specifics of naming a school.
- The procedure needs to be developed.
- The component of things that must occur when opening a new school.
- Forward-facing process to assist the public with understanding.
- The location of the bigger process.
 - The location needs to be developed once the policy is adjusted.
- Possible flow chart that describes the policy.
- Overall policy to capture everything that needs to happen with a boundary change and a new school.
- Permission to develop a new school should be in the policy.
- The process of naming a new school and making sure it is forward-facing.
- Engagement process.
- Engagement opportunity.
- Cross-referencing.

5. BOARD POLICY 5.456, MAGNET SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

Sharwonda Peek, Assistant Superintendent, School Choice Pathways, shared an overview of Board Policy 5.46 with the committee. The following was discussed:

- The process was used to get students into schools.
- The process was used to start new programs.
- The process was used to change a program.
- Policy language as it is now.
- The process for changing, adding, and reconfiguring a magnet program.
- An engagement component needs to be embedded.
- Break down and discuss each section.
- Go through the policy and pull out the barriers.
- The barriers should be the primary focus.
- Purpose of the policy.
- A suggestion was made to use diverse settings.
- Magnet school population.
- Proximity and diversity.
 - Lots of students on the bus for long periods of time.
- A desire to see access to all the major programs in each part of town.
 - Parent ability to participate.
 - Meaningful parent participation.
 - Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) and extracurricular activity participation.
- Proximity for where students reside.
- The original intent of the magnet program has been lost.
- Inequitable scenario due to proximity.
- Regional academies for certain programs.
- How many student athletes choice into neighborhood schools? (A board member request).
- Traveling across town for school may be for the purpose of getting on a sports team.
- Transportation expenses.
- Cost of replicating programs.
 - How would you decide which programs to replicate?
 - Would you be able to find the teachers?
 - Programs not available in a quadrant.
 - Review the data and cost.
- Are magnet programs monitored?
- The number of people that apply to Douglas Anderson (D.A.) School of the Arts every year.
- The number of talented students that do not get into D.A.
- How often does the focus shift with magnet programs because of a new superintendent or new board members?
 - Do the visions ever get completed?
 - Magnet started with diversity, and then it became a way to increase enrollment.
 - Evolution of choice.
- Recap — Proximity, Access, Regional, Purpose, and Goals of Magnet.
- Is the answer always the program?
- Landscape changes.
- History of how things flowed under past leadership.
 - Different superintendents have different emphasis.
 - Things transpiring in the state had an impact.

- The lack of confidence in neighborhood schools.
- The issues within neighborhood schools need to be corrected.
 - The perception of neighborhood schools.
- Leadership and reputation.
- The work on the policy does not solve the root issue.
- A request was made by Board Member Pearson for the student athlete population. Who's attending a magnet school? Who's attending a neighborhood school?
- Include something in the policy to speak to leadership of magnet schools finding their identity and making sure there are strong procedures in place to uphold that identity.
 - Things that can prevent leadership from upholding the identity of the school.
 - Staffing shortages.
 - Loss of passion.
- Schools with magnet schools that are not doing so well, instead of the school remaining a magnet school, let the program be a part of the school's identity.
- Outlining the process for when a magnet program needs to be closed.
- What a principal needs to do to change the magnet program.
- A working list of the minnows was requested by Vice-Chairman Carney.
- The purpose of Board Policy 5.46.
- A desire to introduce a fifth goal which speaks to stabilizing student assignments.
- Responding to market demand.
- Program continuity.
- Meeting unitary status.
- The policy language speaks to offering opportunities.
- The current priority structure for the school choice lottery.
- Proximity priority will dictate the diversity of the school.
- Building the culture and climate of a school.
- Cultural and nationwide issues transpiring within schools.
- Strategies schools are using to recruit.
- Integrate more equitable placement of programs in the policy to ensure the district is honoring diversity.
- Personal opinion of schools being unintentionally segregated because of the way the policy is currently written.
- Identify what is drawing students in one or two demographics to the schools to which they are drawn.
- Identify why one school is being picked over other schools.
- The order of priority when a student applies to a magnet school.
- Goals considered.
- Subsequent components.
 - Schools within a school.
 - Clarification on magnet schools with attendance boundaries.
 - A request that the wording identifies when a neighborhood school has a programmed magnet.
- Difference between a magnet and a choice program.

- The district provides transportation with magnet programs, but for choice options, transportation is not provided by the district.
- Rebranding.
- Enrollment and how things are being promoted. Drown out the negativity.
- Fix the legitimate issues.
- Preparation for the next ACE Policy Subcommittee Meeting.

Adjournment

1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

MA

Superintendent

Chairman