



# Meeting Minutes Duval County Public Schools

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## May 27, 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 Board Member Darryl D. Willie. Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent, and Mr. William Spillias, Office of General Counsel, were also present. *Board Member Melody A. Bolduc arrived at 9:04 a.m.*

### Call Meeting to Order

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

### Items to be Discussed

#### 1. BOARD POLICY 1.22 - EQUITY POLICY

Cami Sams, Executive Director of Policy and Compliance, shared changes made to the policy.

There was no discussion regarding the changes that were made.

#### 2. BOARD POLICY 4.30 - CHALLENGED MATERIALS

Ms. Sams deferred to Paula Renfro, Chief of Academics, to explain the changes to the policy. William Spillias, Office of General Counsel (OGC) Attorney joined in on the discussion.

Discussion included:

- The makeup of the committee members per the Florida Statute.
- Students must have access to materials in the library per Florida Statute 1006.28(2).

- Interpretation of the statute.
- How other districts are interpreting the statute as it pertains to the committee. (Bring back)
- Some of the books being challenged are not in the school libraries.
- Consider forgoing a committee if there are a few books in the school library, and the Board can make a decision regarding the book(s).
- The types of books being brought into the classroom and placed on shelves.
- Reading material considered inappropriate is not purchased.
- The challenges seem to lie within the fiction section.
- Notifying the Board regarding the removal of a book.
- Clarification was provided regarding the removal of books that fall out of compliance.
- The Florida statute must be followed when it pertains to instructional materials.
- There is a need to have the policy correct in order to move forward when a challenge arises.
- Media Specialists review books and can remove inappropriate books as long as there has been no challenge made.
- A Weed Report is a list of books that have been removed.
- An accurate list of books on the shelves will be available in the upcoming school year.
- There is nothing in the statute that requires a challenger to read the book being challenged.
- A recap of the conversation was provided.
- Reminder that a person from the community is able to be on the committee.
- Majority of the Board Members agreed to have a community member added to the policy as a member of the committee.
- A reminder was shared that the committee provides a recommendation only.
- If there are fewer than seven (7) copies of a book, the book will not go before the committee. The Board will make the decision about the book.

### 3. BOARD POLICY 5.20 - STUDENT ASSIGNMENT

Dr. Tracy Pierce, Chief of Enrollment Management, provided an explanation regarding the changes to the policy.

Discussion involved:

- Reduction in the number of documents required for registering students in school.
- The number of days to obtain the required documents for registration has been extended.
- It was suggested to consider accepting the confirmation of utility set-up as proof of residency.
- It was suggested to consider accepting a signed purchase and sale agreement for a home as proof of residency.
- The Information Technology Department is assisting with having documents scanned into the system to make the process easier.

### 4. BOARD POLICY 5.44 - SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BOUNDARIES

Ashley Barr, Director Strategic Partners, provided an explanation regarding the changes to the policy.

Discussion included:

- A brief explanation about the purpose of the policy.
- The guardrails.
- The desire to eliminate the conception that decisions are pre-made before a process begins.
- Clarification of the roles in the process.
- Appreciation was expressed for the work that Ms. Barr had accomplished.
- Duval Inventory of School Houses (DISH) and Florida Inventory of School Houses (FISH).
- The state has given the district more latitude in making adjustments regarding FISH.

#### 5. BOARD POLICY 8.50 - EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES PLANNING

Ms. Barr provided an explanation regarding the changes to the policy.

There was no discussion.

#### 6. BOARD POLICY 8.51 - ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE PLANNING PROCESS

Ms. Sams shared that Board Policies 8.51 and 8.53 have both been effectively transferred to Board Polices 5.44.

No discussion.

#### 7. BOARD POLICY 8.53 - CLOSING AND CONSOLIDATION IMPACT REVIEW PROCESS

Explanation about this policy is shared in Board Policy 8.51.

#### 8. BOARD POLICY 8.59 - NAMING OR RENAMING SCHOOLS

Ms. Barr provided an explanation regarding the changes to the policy.

Discussion included:

- A new school versus a new building.

#### 9. BOARD POLICY 5.27 - STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Ms. Sams explained the changes to the policy.

Discussion included:

- No permission slip, but there will be parental notification.
- Notification consists of the approved standard protocol that is currently used to notify parents.
- A request for future feedback.
- Handling non-participation and the effects on student attendance.
- Acceptance of parental response.

#### 10. BOARD POLICY 6.85 - POLITICAL ACTIVITIES FOR EMPLOYEES

Ms. Sams explained why she brought forth both 6.85 and 9.40 Board Policies.

Discussion included:

- The Board cannot police someone who is not an employee of the district, and campaigns on school property.
- Board Policy 9.40 limits the Board if a candidate is not a district employee.
- The district does not want to appear that support is being provided for one candidate over another.
- Examples of what is prohibited and what is acceptable.
- Campaigning.
- Candidates soliciting assistance with petitions.
- School hours/work hours.
- Define political activity in the policy.
- Board Members were encouraged to contact Ms. Sams with any requested policy changes; she will then return with updated revisions.

#### 11. BOARD POLICY 9.40 - ADVERTISING IN SCHOOLS

Discussion regarding this policy was conducted together with Board Policy 6.85.

#### 12. BOARD POLICY 2.39 - BOARD GENERAL COUNSEL EVALUATION (NEW)

Chairman Joyce and Ms. Sams shared that this is the first draft of a new policy and the purpose of the policy.

Chairman Joyce suggested that the Board Members review the document and contact Ms. Sams for further discussion.

### **Adjournment**

#### 1. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

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Superintendent

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Chairman