Agenda
Revised February 13, 2023

February 17, 2023
School Board of Manatee County
Workshop - 9:00 AM
Walter Miller School Support Center
Board Room

Times Indicated are Approximate

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. AGENDA AMENDMENTS

1. Agenda Amendments - added February 13, 2023

III. WORKSHOP

1. Review and Board Discussion of Proposed Amendments to School Board Policies
2. Construction Update | School Support Center - updated February 13, 2023
3. Construction Update | Palma Sola Elementary School - updated February 13, 2023

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comment is not an open forum to discuss matters unrelated to education, to support or oppose candidates for public office, or to engage in commercial speech attempting to sell a service or product to the School Board or public. Also, public comment is not a forum to attack individual school system employees or Board Members. Any such complaints should be submitted in writing to the Superintendent for appropriate handling. Finally, this is not a forum for addressing issues involving individual students. Because of privacy concerns, such issues should be submitted in writing to the Superintendent for appropriate handling. Each speaker is allowed three minutes to address the Board. Speakers must stand at the podium and not approach the dais.

This is a business meeting of the School Board and the public expects that we conduct it in an orderly, efficient, effective and dignified manner. We request that speakers keep this in mind when making your comments. We also request that the audience keep that in mind and not demonstrate approval or disapproval of what a speaker has said by clapping or booing. The Board appreciates the public's input and will listen attentively, consider each comment, and usually will not respond, enter into debate, or answer questions during comments on agenda items or during the public comments section.

PUBLIC INPUT INSTRUCTIONS:
1. Before you begin speaking, please provide any handouts to the Agency Clerk.
2. Please identify yourself only by your full name for the record.
3. You have no more than three minutes to speak. Please stop speaking when the bell rings.
4. Florida Law requires all citizens to conduct themselves in an orderly fashion at public meetings.

5. **WARNING:** Any individual who interferes with the expeditious or orderly process of a School Board meeting, will be subject to removal from the meeting pursuant to Section 1001.372(3) Florida Statutes at the discretion of the Chair. Orderly fashion is deemed as, at a minimum (1) no profanity (2) no vulgar language (3) no discourteous, disrespectful, or disparaging conduct.

V. ADJOURNMENT

AGENDA ITEM NO. II.1

School Board of Manatee County
February 17, 2023 - Workshop

Title
Agenda Amendments - *added February 13, 2023*

Executive Summary
The Chair finds good cause to amend the agenda to include:

Agenda amended on Monday, February 13, 2023, to **update** Executive Summary and **add** attachment to Workshop item, *Construction Update* | *School Support Center.*

Agenda amended on Monday, February 13, 2023, to **update** Executive Summary and **add** attachment to Workshop item, *Construction Update* | *Palma Sola Elementary School*.

Contact
Submitting Department: School Board
Initiated By: Chair Choate

AGENDA ITEM NO. III.1

School Board of Manatee County
February 17, 2023 - Workshop

Title
Review and Board Discussion of Proposed Amendments to School Board Policies

Executive Summary
The Board will review the proposed amendments to School Board Policies in advance of the March 28, 2023 Public Hearing.

Contact
Submitting Department: Administration
Initiated By: Kevin Chapman

Attachments:
Proposed Revisions to Policies - Public Hearing March 28, 2023

Proposed Amendments to School Board Policies for March 28, 2023 Public Hearing

Policy 1121.01/3121.01/4121.01 - Criminal Background Screening and Employment History Checks (Revised)

- The revisions to these policies are the result of various provisions in SB 2524 that address background screening and rescreening requirements for certain school district employees, vendors, contractors, and volunteers. Importantly, effective January 1, 2023, the new background screening and rescreening process requires that school districts conduct such screenings in accordance with F.S. 435.12 (i.e. the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse).

Policy 1122/3122/4122 - Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity (Revised)
Policy 2260 – Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity (Revised)

- HB 7 amended F.S. 760.10 (Unlawful Employment Practices) and F.S. 1000.05 (the Florida Educational Equity Act) by making it unlawful discrimination to subject students, employees, or any individual to any activity that espouses, promotes, advances, inculcates, or compels them to believe that certain concepts are discriminatory. The revisions to these policies incorporate the language from HB 7.

Policy 1122.01/3122.01/4122.01 – Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment (Revised)

- Revised Polices to reflect new Chief of Human Resources for the School District of Manatee County.

Policy 1362/3362/4362/5517 – Anti-Harassment (Revised)

- Revised Polices to reflect new Chief of Human Resources for the School District of Manatee County.

Policy 2520 - Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials (Revised)

- The revisions to Policies 2520 are the result of SB 1048, SB 2524. The revisions to Policy 2520 incorporate statutory revisions requirements that certain committees utilized during the instructional material adoption process be publicly noticed, that the public be given a reasonable opportunity to comment on the selection, approval, and adoption of instructional materials, that instructional materials be published on the school board's website, and that certain books included in school libraries and on reading lists be selected and approved by a school district employee who holds a valid educational media specialist certificate. The revision to Policy 2520 also include a process for the evaluation and selection of books by a media specialist.

Policy 3120.04 - Employment of Substitute and Part-Time Instructional Staff (Revised)

- Revision made due to Rule 6A-1.0503, F.A.C.

Policy 8100 - Interlocal Agreements (Revised)
Policy 9800 - Charter Schools (Revised)

- SB 758 amended F.S. 1002.33 (Charter Schools) by prohibiting school boards from entering into any interlocal agreement that prevents or limits the creation of a charter school. SB 758 also provides that an interlocal agreement entered into by a school board for the development of only its own district schools, including provisions relating to the extension of infrastructure, may be used by charter schools.
- The revisions to Policy 9800 are also the result of HB 225, HB 899, SB 1048, and SB 2524, and impact the renewal/termination of charter schools, the application procedure, appeals of the proposed termination or nonrenewal of a charter, the timeframe to defer the opening of a charter school's operations, consolidation of multiple charters, virtual charter schools (including references to the soon-to-be adopted Standard Virtual Charter Contract), attendance by charter school governing board members/members of a committee at meetings, charter school operations, distribution of a charter school's proportionate share of salary allocations, School of Hope facilities, and withholding of administrative fees.

Policy 8407 - Safe School Officers (Revised)

- Revisions made due to Rule 6A-1.0018 School Safety Requirements and Monitoring.

Policy 9142 – Educational Equity Policy (Revised)

- Revisions made due to change in Florida Statutes as a result of HB 7.

1121.01 - **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND SCREENING AND EMPLOYMENT HISTORY CHECKS**

The safety of its students is of paramount importance to the District. Consistent with this concern for student safety, and in compliance with Florida law, the District requires that, prior to initial employment or re-employment if there has been a break in service, all candidates for all administrative positions shall be subject to a criminal background screening ~~check~~ to determine eligibility for employment.

The application for employment shall inform the applicants that they are subject to a criminal background screening and employment history check ~~checks~~.

The cost of the background screening related to initial employment or re-employment after a break in service will be borne by the candidate for employment.

Background screenings, including all fingerprint requirements, shall be conducted in accordance with F.S. 435.12 and F.S. 1012.32.

If it is found that a person who is employed as an administrator does not meet the screening requirements, the person shall be immediately suspended from working in that capacity and shall remain suspended until final resolution of any appeals.

~~Fingerprints of candidates for employment or re-employment if there has been a break in service shall be submitted to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) for statewide criminal and juvenile records checks and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for Federal criminal records checks.~~ A person who is found ineligible for employment under F.S. 1012.315, or otherwise found through background screening to have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude as defined by rule of the State Board of Education, may ~~shall~~ not be employed, engaged to provide services, or serve in any position that requires direct contact with students. For purposes of this policy, "convicted" means that there has been a determination of guilt as a result of a trial or the entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, and includes an adjudication of delinquency of a juvenile as specified in F.S. 943.0435.

~~Probationary persons subject to this section who are terminated because of their criminal record have the right to appeal such decisions.~~

~~Individuals whose fingerprints have not been retained by the FDLE must be re-fingerprinted and re-screened upon re-employment or re-engagement to provide services as an administrative staff member in order to comply with the law.~~

Furthermore, before employing an administrator in any position that requires direct contact with students, the Superintendent shall conduct employment history checks of each of the candidate's previous employer(s), review each affidavit of separation from previous employers pursuant to F.S. 1012.31, screen the candidate through use of the educator screening tools described in F.S. 1001.10(5), and document the findings. If unable to contact a previous employer, the Superintendent shall document efforts to contact the employer (F.S. 1012.27(6)). Background screenings for these candidates must also comply with the requirements of F.S. 1012.465 or F.S. 1012.56 (whichever is applicable).

Pursuant to State law, all administrators employed by the District must self-report arrests for serious offenses (see AP 1121.01).

~~Additionally, the fingerprints of all administrators who are employed by the District and have no break in service must be re-submitted to the FDLE and to the FBI every five (5) years so that subsequent statewide criminal and juvenile records checks and Federal criminal records checks can be completed as required by law.~~

The cost of this subsequent background screening will be borne by the Board.

The information contained in reports received from the FDLE and the FBI is confidential.

Although permissible by State law, the District will not share information received as the result of the criminal background check with other school districts.

Current employees will be rescreened through the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse in accordance with the following schedule:

A. **Employees for whom the last screening was conducted on or before June 30, 2019 must be rescreened by June 30, 2024;**

B. **Employees for whom the last screen was conducted between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2021 must be rescreened by June 30, 2025; and**

C. **Employees for whom the last screening was conducted between July 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022 must be screened by June 30, 2026.**

A person is not required to be rescreened before January 1, 2023 solely for the purpose of retention under F.S. 435.12 if the person was screened before participation by the specified agencies named in F.S. 435.12(13)(a).

Furthermore, if information received as a result of the criminal history records check indicates that a certificated administrator has been convicted of certain crimes enumerated by law, the Superintendent must report this information to the Florida Department of Education per Policy 8141 - Mandatory Reporting of Misconduct by Certificated Employees.

Revised 2/13/18
Revised 5/24/22

F.S. 435.09
F.S. 435.12
F.S. 943.0435
F.S. 943.0585(4)(a)
F.S. 943.059(4)(a)
F.S. 1001.41
F.S. 1001.42
F.S. 1012.23
F.S. 1012.27
F.S. 1012.315
F.S. 1012.32
F.S. 1012.465
F.S. 1012.56
F.A.C. 6A-10.083

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3121.01 - **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND SCREENING AND EMPLOYMENT HISTORY CHECKS**

The safety of its students is of paramount importance to the District. Consistent with this concern for student safety, and in compliance with Florida law, the District requires that, prior to initial employment or re-employment if there has been a break in service, all candidates for all positions shall be subject to a criminal background screening ~~check~~ to determine eligibility for employment.

The application for employment shall inform the applicants that they are subject to a criminal background screening and employment history check ~~checks~~.

The cost of the background screening related to initial employment or re-employment after a break in service will be borne by the candidate for employment.

Background screenings, including all fingerprint requirements, shall be conducted in accordance with F.S. 435.12 and F.S. 1012.32.

If it is found that a person who is employed as an administrator does not meet the screening requirements, the person shall be immediately suspended from working in that capacity and shall remain suspended until final resolution of any appeals.

~~**Fingerprints of candidates for employment or re-employment if there has been a break in service shall be submitted to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) for Statewide criminal and juvenile records checks and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for Federal criminal records checks.**~~ A person who is found ineligible for employment under F.S. 1012.315, or otherwise found through background screening to have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude as defined by rule of the State Board of Education, may ~~shall~~ not be employed, engaged to provide services, or serve in any position that requires direct contact with students. For purposes of this policy, "convicted" means that there has been a determination of guilt as a result of a trial or the entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, and includes an adjudication of delinquency of a juvenile as specified in F.S. 943.0435.

~~**Probationary persons subject to this section who are terminated because of their criminal record have the right to appeal such decisions.**~~
~~**Individuals whose fingerprints have not been retained by the FDLE must be re-fingerprinted and re-screened upon re-employment or re-engagement to provide services as an instructional staff member in order to comply with the law.**~~

Furthermore, before employing instructional personnel in any position that requires direct contact with students, the Superintendent shall conduct employment history checks of each of the candidate's previous employer(s), review each affidavit of separation from previous employers pursuant to F.S. 1012.31, screen the candidate through use of the educator screening tools described in F.S. 1001.10(5), and document the findings. If unable to contact a previous employer, the Superintendent shall document efforts to contact the employer (F.S. 1012.27(6)). **Background screenings for these candidates must also comply with the requirements of F.S. 1012.465 or F.S. 1012.56 (whichever is applicable).**

Pursuant to State law, all instructional staff members employed by the District must self-report arrests for serious offenses (see AP 3121.01).

~~**Additionally, the fingerprints of all instructional staff members who are employed by the District and have no break in service must be re-submitted to the FDLE and to the FBI every five (5) years so that subsequent Statewide criminal and juvenile records checks and Federal criminal records checks can be completed as required by law.**~~

The cost of this subsequent background screening will be borne by the Board.

The information contained in reports received from the FDLE and the FBI is confidential.

Although permissible by State law, the District will not share information received as the result of the criminal history background check with other school districts.

Current employees will be rescreened through the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse in accordance with the following schedule:

A. **Employees for whom the last screening was conducted on or before June 30, 2019, must be rescreened by June 30, 2024;**

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C. **Employees for whom the last screening was conducted between July 1, 2021, and December 31, 2022, must be screened by June 30, 2026.**

A person is not required to be rescreened before January 1, 2023, solely for the purpose of retention under F.S. 435.12 if the person was screened before participation by the specified agencies named in F.S. 435.12 (3)(a).

Furthermore, if information received as a result of the criminal history records check indicates that a certificated instructional staff member has been convicted of certain crimes enumerated by law, the Superintendent must report this information to the Florida Department of Education per Policy 8141 - Mandatory Reporting of Misconduct by Certificated Employees.

Revised 2/13/18
Revised 5/24/22

F.S. 435.09
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4121.01 - CRIMINAL BACKGROUND SCREENING AND EMPLOYMENT HISTORY CHECKS

The safety of its students is of paramount importance to the District. Consistent with this concern for student safety, and in compliance with Florida law, the District requires that, prior to initial employment or re-employment if there has been a break in service, all candidates for all positions shall be subject to a criminal background screening ~~check~~ to determine eligibility for employment.

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The cost of the background screening related to initial employment or re-employment after a break in service will be borne by the candidate for employment.

Background screenings, including all fingerprint requirements, shall be conducted in accordance with F.S. 435.12 and F.S. 1012.32.

If it is found that a person who is employed as a support staff member does not meet the screening requirements, the person shall be immediately suspended from working in that capacity and shall remain suspended until final resolution of any appeals.

~~**Fingerprints of candidates for employment or re-employment if there has been a break in service shall be submitted to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) for Statewide criminal and juvenile records checks and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for Federal criminal records checks.**~~

A person who is found ineligible for employment under F.S. 1012.315, or otherwise found through background screening to have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude as defined by rule of the State Board of Education, may~~shall~~ not be employed, engaged to provide services, or serve in any position. For purposes of this policy, "convicted" means that there has been a determination of guilt as a result of a trial or the entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, and includes an adjudication of delinquency of a juvenile as specified in F.S. 943.0435.

~~**Probationary persons subject to this section who are terminated because of their criminal record have the right to appeal such decisions.**~~

~~**Individuals whose fingerprints have not been retained by the FDLE must be re-fingerprinted and re-screened upon re-employment or re-engagement to provide service as a support staff member that has direct contact with students in order to comply with the law.**~~

Furthermore, before employing ~~employment~~ support staff in any position that requires direct contact with students, the Superintendent shall conduct employment history checks of each of the candidate's previous employer(s), review each affidavit of separation from previous employers pursuant to F.S. 1012.31, and document the findings. If unable to contact (a) previous employer(s), the Superintendent shall document efforts to contact the employer**(F.S. 1012.27(6)**. **Background screenings for these candidates must also comply with the requirements of F.S. 1012.465 or F.S. 1012.56 (whichever is applicable).**

All support staff members employed by the District must self-report arrests for serious offenses (see AP 4121.01).

~~**Additionally, the fingerprints of all support staff members who are employed by the District and have no break in service must be re-submitted to the FDLE and to the FBI every five (5) years so that subsequent Statewide criminal and juvenile records checks and Federal criminal records checks can be completed as required by law.**~~

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F.S. 1012.56
F.A.C. 6A-10.083

Revised 2/13/18
Revised 5/24/22

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1122 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

I. General Statement

The School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, (including anti-Semitism [as defined in Bylaw 0100]), ethnicity, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, gender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively, "protected classes") in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

The Board does not, as a condition of employment, membership, certification, licensing, credentialing, or passing and examination, subject individuals to training, instruction, or other required activity that is prohibited under F.S. 760.10 and F.S. 1000.05. Prohibited discrimination also occurs when any student or employee is subjected to training or instruction that is unlawful under F.S. 1000.05.

It is the legal obligation and the policy of the Board to employ only those persons who are best qualified, with or without reasonable accommodations.

Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to abridge the rights of students or school employees that are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

II. Definitions

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

Complainant is the individual who alleges, or is alleged, to have been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

Respondent is the individual who has been alleged to have engaged in unlawful discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the reporting party files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

School District community means students and Board employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and classified staff), as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

Third Parties include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

Day(s): Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

For purposes of this policy, "military status" refers to a person's status in the uniformed services, which includes the performance of duty, on a voluntary basis, or involuntary basis, in a uniformed service including active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty for training, inactive duty for training, and full-time National Guard duty. It also includes the period of time for which a person is absent from employment for the purpose of an examination to determine the fitness of the person to perform any such duty as listed above.

III. District Compliance Officer(s)

The Superintendent shall appoint compliance officers whose responsibility it will be to require that Federal and State regulations are complied with and that any inquiries or complaints are dealt with promptly in accordance with law. The Superintendent shall also require that proper notice of

nondiscrimination for Title II, Title VI, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act will be provided to staff members and the general public. Any sections of the District's collectively bargained, negotiated agreements dealing with hiring, promotion, and tenure will contain a statement of nondiscrimination similar to that in the Board's statement above.

A. Compliance Officer(s)

The following person is designated as the Compliance Officer (CO):

Schools and Educational Facilities
Dr. Robert "Pace" Edwards
Title IX Coordinator
2501 63rd Avenue East
Bradenton, Florida 32403
(941) 751-6550 x43038
Email: Edwards2p@manateeschools.net

District & Employment
Richard Bailey ~~Wendy Mungillo~~
~~Director~~ Chief of Human Resources
~~Student~~ School Support Center
215 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
(941) 708-8770 x41239
Email: baileyr3@manateeschools.net ~~mungillow@manateeschools.net~~

B. Publication Required

The name(s), title(s), and contact information of this/these individual(s) will be published annually in the staff handbooks and/or on the School District's website.

IV. Complaint Procedures

Except for sex discrimination and/or Sexual Harassment that is covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, any employee who alleges to have been subjected to unlawful discrimination, may utilize the following complaint procedures as a means of reaching, at the lowest possible administrative level, a prompt and equitable resolution of the matter. Nothing contained in this policy is intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment or retaliation with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"), the Florida Commission on Human Relations ("FCHR"), or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").

In accordance with Federal and State law, employees will be notified of their right to file an internal complaint regarding an alleged violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of Federal and/or State law. In addition, employees will be notified of their right to file a complaint with the OCR, FCHR, or EEOC.

Internal complaints must be in writing and identify the specific circumstances or areas of dispute that have given rise to the complaint and offer possible solutions to the dispute. The complaint must be filed with a compliance officer within the time limits specified below. The compliance officer is available to assist individuals in filing a complaint.

V. Internal Complaint Procedure

The following internal complaint procedure is available to employees for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging discrimination that is prohibited in this policy. This complaint procedure is not available to unsuccessful applicants. Use of the internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies, including the filing of a complaint with the OCR, FCHR, or EEOC.

A. An employee with a complaint based on alleged discrimination may first discuss the problem with the compliance officer.

B. If the informal discussion does not resolve the matter, or if the employee skips Step A, the individual may file a formal written complaint with the compliance officer. The written complaint must contain the name and address of the individual or representative filing the complaint, be signed by the complainant or someone authorized to sign for the complainant, describe the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the compliance officer of the nature and date of the alleged violation, and propose a resolution. The complaint must be filed within thirty (30) calendar days of the circumstances or event giving rise to the complaint unless the time for filing is extended by the compliance officer for good cause.

C. The compliance officer will conduct an independent investigation of the matter (which may or may not include a hearing). This complaint procedure contemplates informal, but thorough investigations, affording all interested persons and their representatives, if any, an opportunity to present witnesses and other evidence relevant to the complaint. The compliance officer will provide the complainant with a written disposition of the complaint within ten (10) workdays. If no decision is rendered within ten (10) days, or the decision is unsatisfactory in the opinion of the complainant, the employee may file, in writing, an appeal with the Superintendent.

D. The Superintendent will, within ten (10) days of receiving the written appeal, conduct a hearing with all parties involved in an attempt to resolve the complaint.

E. The Superintendent will render his/her decision within ten (10) days of the hearing.

F. The employee may be represented, at his/her own cost, at any of the above-described meetings/hearings.

G. The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies. Use of this internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

If it is determined that the complainant was subjected to unlawful discrimination, the CO must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

VI. Filing a Complaint with OCR/FCHR/EEOC

At any time, if an employee believes that they have been subjected to unlawful discrimination, the individual may file a complaint with the OCR, FCHR, or EEOC.

VII. Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination/retaliation or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set

forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

VIII. Training

The compliance officers will also oversee the training of employees in the District so that all employees understand their rights and responsibilities under Federal and State law, and are informed of the Board's policies and practices with respect to fully implementing and complying with the requirements of Federal and State law.

IX. Notice

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in employment practices and the identity of the compliance officers will be posted throughout the District, and published in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications as required by Federal and State law and this policy.

X. Retention of Public Records, Student Records, and Investigatory Records and Materials

The Compliance Officer(s) is responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all information, documents, electronically stored information (ESI), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and received as part of an investigation in accordance with the Boards' records retention policy and applicable Federal and State law. Any records which are considered student records in accordance with the *Family Education Rights and Privacy Ac*t shall also be maintained in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Federal and State law.

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal and/or State law (e.g., student records).

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315 (crated or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, and Policy 8320 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records and retention schedule.

Revised 2/13/18
Revised 9/10/19
Revised 11/9/21
Revised 4/12/22

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3122 - NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

I. General Statement

The School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, (including anti-Semitism [as defined in Bylaw 0100]), ethnicity, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, gender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively, "protected classes") in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

The Board does not, as a condition of employment, membership, certification, licensing, credentialing, or passing an examination, subject individuals to training, instruction, or any other required activity that is prohibited under F.S. 760.10 and F.S.1000.05. Prohibited discrimination also occurs when any student or employee is subjected to training or instruction that is unlawful under F.S. 1000.05.

It is the legal obligation and the policy of the Board to employ only those persons who are best qualified, with or without reasonable accommodations.

Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to abridge the rights of students or school employees that are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

II. Definitions

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

Complainant is the individual who alleges, or is alleged, to have been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

Respondent is the individual who has been alleged to have engaged in unlawful discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the reporting party files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

School District community means students and Board employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and classified staff), as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

Third Parties include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

Day(s): Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

For purposes of this policy, "military status" refers to a person's status in the uniformed services, which includes the performance of duty, on a voluntary basis, or involuntary basis, in a uniformed service including active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty for training, inactive duty for training, and full-time National Guard duty. It also includes the period of time for which a person is absent from employment for the purpose of an examination to determine the fitness of the person to perform any such duty as listed above.

III. District Compliance Officer(s)

The Superintendent shall appoint compliance officers whose responsibility it will be to require that Federal and State regulations are complied with and that any inquiries or complaints are dealt with promptly in accordance with law. The Superintendent shall also require that proper notice of

nondiscrimination for Title II, Title VI, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act will be provided to staff members and the general public. Any sections of the District's collectively bargained, negotiated agreements dealing with hiring, promotion, and tenure will contain a statement of nondiscrimination similar to that in the Board's statement above.

A. Compliance Officer(s)

The following person is designated as the Compliance Officer (CO):

Schools and Educational Facilities
Dr. Robert "Pace" Edwards
Title IX Coordinator
2501 63rd Avenue East
Bradenton, Florida 32403
(941) 751-6550 x43038
Email: Edwards2p@manateeschools.net

District & Employment
Richard Bailey ~~Wendy Mungillo~~
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215 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
(941) 708-8770 x41239
Email: baileyr3@manateeschools.net ~~mungillow@manateeschools.net~~

B. Publication Required

The name(s), title(s), and contact information of this/these individual(s) will be published annually in the staff handbooks and/or on the School District's website.

IV. Complaint Procedures

Except for sex discrimination and/or Sexual Harassment that is covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, any employee who alleges to have been subjected to unlawful discrimination, may utilize the following complaint procedures as a means of reaching, at the lowest possible administrative level, a prompt and equitable resolution of the matter. Nothing contained in this policy is intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment or retaliation with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"), the Florida Commission on Human Relations ("FCHR"), or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").

In accordance with Federal and State law, employees will be notified of their right to file an internal complaint regarding an alleged violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of Federal and/or State law. In addition, employees will be notified of their right to file a complaint with the OCR, FCHR, or EEOC.

Internal complaints must be in writing and identify the specific circumstances or areas of dispute that have given rise to the complaint and offer possible solutions to the dispute. The complaint must be filed with a compliance officer within the time limits specified below. The compliance officer is available to assist individuals in filing a complaint.

V. Internal Complaint Procedure

The following internal complaint procedure is available to employees for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging discrimination that is prohibited in this policy. This complaint procedure is not available to unsuccessful applicants. Use of the internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies, including the filing of a complaint with the OCR, FCHR, or EEOC.

A. An employee with a complaint based on alleged discrimination may first discuss the problem with the compliance officer.

B. If the informal discussion does not resolve the matter, or if the employee skips Step A, the individual may file a formal written complaint with the compliance officer. The written complaint must contain the name and address of the individual or representative filing the complaint, be signed by the complainant or someone authorized to sign for the complainant, describe the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the compliance officer of the nature and date of the alleged violation, and propose a resolution. The complaint must be filed within thirty (30) calendar days of the circumstances or event giving rise to the complaint unless the time for filing is extended by the compliance officer for good cause.

C. The compliance officer will conduct an independent investigation of the matter (which may or may not include a hearing). This complaint procedure contemplates informal, but thorough investigations, affording all interested persons and their representatives, if any, an opportunity to present witnesses and other evidence relevant to the complaint. The compliance officer will provide the complainant with a written disposition of the complaint within ten (10) workdays. If no decision is rendered within ten (10) days, or the decision is unsatisfactory in the opinion of the complainant, the employee may file, in writing, an appeal with the Superintendent.

D. The Superintendent will, within ten (10) days of receiving the written appeal, conduct a hearing with all parties involved in an attempt to resolve the complaint.

The Superintendent will render his/her decision within ten (10) days of the hearing.

E. The employee may be represented, at his/her own cost, at any of the above-described meetings/hearings.

F. The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies. Use of this internal complaint procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

If it is determined that the complainant was subjected to unlawful discrimination, the CO must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

VI. Filing a Complaint with OCR/FCHR/EEOC

At any time, if an employee believes that they have been subjected to unlawful discrimination, the individual may file a complaint with the OCR, FCHR, or EEOC.

VII. Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination/retaliation or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set

forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

VIII. Training

The compliance officers will also oversee the training of employees in the District so that all employees understand their rights and responsibilities under Federal and State law, and are informed of the Board's policies and practices with respect to fully implementing and complying with the requirements of Federal and State law.

IX. Notice

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in employment practices and the identity of the compliance officers will be posted throughout the District, and published in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications as required by Federal and State law and this policy.

X. Retention of Public Records, Student Records, and Investigatory Records and Materials

The Compliance Officer(s) is responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all information, documents, electronically stored information (ESI), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and received as part of an investigation in accordance with the Boards' records retention policy and applicable Federal and State law. Any records which are considered student records in accordance with the *Family Education Rights and Privacy Ac*t shall also be maintained in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Federal and State law.

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Revised 9/10/19
Revised 11/9/21
Revised 4/12/22

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B. If the informal discussion does not resolve the matter, or if the employee skips Step A, the individual may file a formal written complaint with the compliance officer. The written complaint must contain the name and address of the individual or representative filing the complaint, be signed by the complainant or someone authorized to sign for the complainant, describe the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the compliance officer of the nature and date of the alleged violation, and propose a resolution. The complaint must be filed within thirty (30) days of the circumstances or event giving rise to the complaint unless the time for filing is extended by the compliance officer for good cause.

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If it is determined that the complainant was subjected to unlawful discrimination, the CO must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

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At any time, if an employee believes that they have been subjected to unlawful discrimination, the individual may file a complaint with the OCR, FCHR, or EEOC.

VII. Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination/retaliation or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set

forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

VIII. **Training**

The compliance officers will also oversee the training of employees in the District so that all employees understand their rights and responsibilities under Federal and State law, and are informed of the Board's policies and practices with respect to fully implementing and complying with the requirements of Federal and State law.

IX. **Notice**

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in employment practices and the identity of the compliance officers will be posted throughout the District, and published in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications as required by Federal and State law and this policy.

X. **Retention of Public Records, Student Records, and Investigatory Records and Materials**

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Revised 2/13/18
Revised 9/10/19
Revised 11/9/21
Revised 4/12/22

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2260 - **NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

I. **General Statement**

Any form of discrimination or harassment can be devastating to an individual's academic progress, social relationship, and/or personal sense of self-worth. As such, the School Board will not discriminate nor tolerate harassment in its educational programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, gender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information, which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively "protected classes").

The Board does not, as a condition of employment, membership, certification, licensing, credentialing, or passing an examination, subject individuals to training, instruction or any other required activity that is prohibited under F.S. 760.10 and F.S. 1000.05. Prohibited discrimination also occurs when any student or employee is subjected to training or instruction that is unlawful under F.S. 1000.05.

The Board also does not discriminate on the basis of protected classes in its employment policies and practices as they relate to students.

Equal educational opportunities shall be available to all students, without regard to the protected classes, age (unless age is a factor necessary to the normal operation or the achievement of any legitimate objective of the program/activity), place of residence within the boundaries of the District, or social or economic background, to learn through the curriculum offered in this District. Educational programs shall be designed to meet the varying needs of all students.

Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to abridge the rights of students or school employees that are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

In order to achieve the aforesaid goal, the Superintendent shall:

A. Curriculum Content

review current and proposed courses of study and textbooks to detect any bias based upon the protected classes, as well as sexual orientation or transgender identity, ascertaining whether or not supplemental materials, singly or taken as a whole, fairly depict the contribution of both genders, various races, ethnic groups, etc., toward the development of human society;

B. Staff Training

develop an ongoing program of in-service training for school personnel designed to identify and solve problems of bias based upon the protected classes, in all aspects of the program;

C. Student Access

1. review current and proposed programs, activities, facilities, and practices to verify that all students have equal access thereto and are not segregated on the basis of the protected classes, in any duty, work, play, classroom, or school practice, except as may be permitted under State and Federal laws and regulations;

2. verify that facilities are made available for non-curricular student activities that are initiated by parents or other members of the community, including but not limited to any group that is officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America or any other youth group listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society pursuant to Board Policy 7510 - Use of District Facilities;

In accordance with Florida statute, the Board may establish and maintain a single-gender nonvocational class, extra-curricular activity, or school for elementary, middle, or high school students.

D. District Support

verify that like aspects of the District's program receive like support as to staff size and compensation, purchase and maintenance of facilities and equipment, access to such facilities and equipment, and related matters;

E. Student Assessment

verify that tests, procedures, or guidance and counseling materials, which are designed to evaluate student progress, rate aptitudes, analyze personality, or in any manner establish or tend to establish a category by which a student may be judged, are not differentiated or stereotyped on the basis of the protected classes, as well as sexual orientation or transgender identity.

II. Definitions

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

Complainant is the individual who alleges, or is alleged, to have been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

Respondent is the individual who has been alleged to have engaged in unlawful discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the reporting party files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

School District community means students and Board employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and classified staff), as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

Third Parties include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

Day(s): Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

III. District Compliance Officer(s)

A. Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers" (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinators") (hereinafter referred to as the "COs").

Schools and Educational Facilities
Dr. Robert "Pace" Edwards
Title IX Coordinator
2501 63rd Avenue East
Bradenton, Florida 32403
(941) 751-6550 x43038
Email: Edwards2p@manateeschools.net

District & Employment
Richard Bailey ~~Wendy Mungillo~~
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215 Manatee Avenue West
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B. Publication

The name(s), title(s), and contact information of this/these individual(s) will be published annually in the staff handbooks and/or on the School District's website.

C. Duties and Responsibilities

The COs are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination or denial of equal access. The CO(s) shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992, the Florida Educational Equity Act, and/or their implementing regulations is provided to students, their parents, staff members, and the general public. A copy of each of the acts and regulations on which this notice is based may be found in the CO's office.

D. Students with Disabilities, Limited English Proficiency, or Other Needing Additional Services

The Superintendent shall annually attempt to identify children with disabilities, ages 3-22, who reside in the District but do not receive public education. In addition, s/he shall establish procedures to identify students who are Limited English Proficient (LEP), including immigrant children and youth, to assess their ability to participate in District programs, and develop and administer a program that meets the English language and academic needs of these students. This program shall include procedures for student placement, services, evaluation, and exit procedures and shall be designed to provide students with effective instruction that leads to academic achievement and timely acquisition of proficiency in English. As a part of this program, the District will evaluate the progress of students in achieving English language proficiency in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, on an annual basis (see AP 2260F). The Superintendent is responsible for verifying that a concentration of students who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) in one or more programs is not the result of discrimination.

E. The Board is committed to educating (or providing for the education of) each qualified person with a disability with persons who are not disabled to the maximum extent appropriate. Generally, the District will place a person with a disability in the regular educational environment unless it is demonstrated that the education of the person in the regular environment, even with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. If the Board operates a separate class or facility that is identifiable as being for persons with disabilities, the facility, program, and activities and services must be comparable to the facilities, programs, and activities and services offered to students without a disability.

IV. Reports and Complaints of Unlawful Discrimination and Retaliation

Students and Board employees are required, and all other members of the School District community and Third Parties are encouraged to promptly report incidents of unlawful discrimination and/or retaliation to a teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District official so that the Board may address the conduct. Any teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District employee or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the CO at his/her first convenience and/or within two (2) business days.

Members of the School District community, which includes students or third parties, who believe they have been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against are entitled to utilize the complaint process set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the Complainant's employment or participation in educational or extra-curricular programs. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the

facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

If, during an investigation of alleged bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Harassment, the Principal believes that the reported misconduct may constitute unlawful discrimination based on a protected class, the Principal shall report the act to one of the COs who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. While the CO investigates the allegation, the Principal shall suspend the Policy 5517.01 investigation to await the CO's written report. The CO shall keep the Principal informed of the status of the Policy 2260 investigation and provide the Principal with a copy of the resulting written report.

The COs will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. COs shall accept reports of unlawful discrimination/retaliation directly from any member of the School District community Third Party, or receive reports that are initially filed with another Board employee. Upon receipt of a report of alleged discrimination/retaliation, the CO will contact the Complainant and begin either an informal or formal complaint process (depending on the Complainant's request and the nature of the alleged discrimination/retaliation), or the CO will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. The CO will provide a copy of this policy to the Complainant and the Respondent. In the case of a formal complaint, the CO will prepare recommendations for the Superintendent or oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the School District community must report incidents of discrimination/retaliation that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) business days of learning of the incident/conduct.

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful discrimination/retaliation of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the COs within two (2) business days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of unlawful discrimination/retaliation is expected to intervene to stop the misconduct, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other Board employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the misconduct. Thereafter, the CO or designee must contact Complainant, if age eighteen (18) or older, or the Complainant's parents/guardians if the Complainant is under the age of eighteen (18), within two (2) school days to advise s/he/them of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged wrongdoing.

V. Investigation and Complaint Procedure

Except for sex discrimination and/or Sexual Harassment that is covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, any student who alleges to have been subjected to unlawful discrimination or retaliation may seek resolution of the complaint through the procedures described below. The formal complaint procedures involve an investigation of the individual's claims of discrimination/retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination or retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals are encouraged to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of a student to pursue a complaint of unlawful discrimination or retaliation with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"). The Atlanta Office of the OCR can be reached at 61 Forsyth Street, SW. - Suite 19T10, Atlanta, GA 30303-8927 Phone: (404) 974-9406 FAX; (404) 974-9471 Web: http://www.ed.gov/ocr.

A. Informal Complaint Procedure

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to promptly stop inappropriate behavior and facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for a student alleges unlawful discrimination/retaliation. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint.

The informal process is only available in those circumstances where the Complainant and the Respondent mutually agree to participate in it.

Students who believe that they have been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All complaints involving a District employee or any other adult member of the School District community and a student will be formally investigated.

B. As an initial course of action, if a Complainant feels comfortable and safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the Respondent that the allegedly discriminatory/retaliatory conduct is inappropriate and must stop. The Complainant should address the alleged misconduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The COs are available to support and counsel the Complainant when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. An individual who is uncomfortable or unwilling to directly approach the Respondent about the inappropriate conduct may file an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful discrimination (e.g., sex discrimination), the CO may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

C. A Complainant who alleges unlawful discrimination/retaliation may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a teacher, other employee, or building administrator in the school the student attends; (2) to the Superintendent or other District-level employee; and/or (3) directly to one of the COs.

All informal complaints must be reported to one of the COs who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below, or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.

The School District's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide the Complainant with a range of options aimed at bringing about a prompt resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the student claiming unlawful discrimination/retaliation, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one (1) or more of the following:

1. Advising the Complainant about how to communicate concerns to the Respondent.

2. Distributing a copy of Policy 2260 – Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity to the individuals in the school building or office where the Respondent works or attends.

3. If both parties agree, the CO may arrange and facilitate a meeting or mediation between the Complainant and the Respondent to work out a mutual resolution.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the CO or designee is directed to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) days of receiving the informal complaint. If the Complainant is dissatisfied with the informal complaint process, the Complainant may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, either party may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All materials generated as part of the informal complaint process will be retained by the COs in accordance with the Board's records retention policy and/or student records policy. (See Policy 8310)

D. Formal Complaint Procedure

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one (1) of the parties requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or if the Complainant, from the outset, elects to file a formal complaint, or the Compliance Officer(s) determines the allegations are not appropriate for resolution

through the informal process, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.

The Complainant may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing, with a teacher, Principal, or other District official at the student's school, the CO, Superintendent, or another District official who works at another school or at the District level. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a formal complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs. If a Complainant informs a teacher, Principal, or other District official at the student's school, Superintendent, or other District employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of discrimination/retaliation, that employee must report such information to the CO within two (2) days.

Throughout the course of the process, the CO should keep the parties reasonably informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent known: the identity of the Respondent a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based (i.e., when where, and what occurred); a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the complainant.

If the complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the CO shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter, the CO will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the complainant from further discrimination or retaliation, including, but not limited to, a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the Respondent. In making such a determination, the CO should consult Complainant to assess whether the individual agrees with the proposed action. If the complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO may still take whatever actions s/he deems appropriate in consultation with the Superintendent.

Within two (2) days of receiving the complaint, the CO or designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. A Principal will not conduct an investigation unless directed to do so by the CO.

Simultaneously, the CO will inform the Respondent that a formal complaint has been received. The respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and provided with a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative guidelines, including Policy 2260 - Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the CO or designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of discrimination/retaliation within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:

1. interviews with the complainant;

2. interviews with the respondent;

3. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations;

4. consideration of any documentation or other information presented by the complainant, respondent, or any other witness that is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO or designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Superintendent that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful discrimination/retaliation as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Respondent has engaged in unlawful discrimination/retaliation of the Complainant. The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In determining if unlawful discrimination or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The CO may consult with the Board's legal counsel before finalizing the report to the Superintendent.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the CO or designee, the Superintendent must either issue a written decision regarding whether the charges have been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Superintendent's final decision will be delivered to both the complainant and the respondent.

If the Superintendent requests additional investigation, the Superintendent must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Superintendent shall issue a final written decision as described above.

If the Superintendent determines the Respondent engaged in unlawful discrimination/retaliation toward the Complainant, the Superintendent must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful discrimination/retaliation regardless of whether the student alleging the unlawful discrimination/retaliation pursues the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the formal complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board or its designee.

The parties may be represented, at their own cost, at any of the above-described meetings/hearings.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, the filing of charges with local law enforcement, or the filing of a civil action in court. Use of this internal complaint process is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

VI. Privacy/Confidentiality

The School District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the complainant, the respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, the Respondent must be provided the Complainant's identity.

During the course of a formal investigation, the CO or designee will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to third parties any information that is learned or provided during the course of the investigation.

All records created as a part of an investigation of a complaint of discrimination/retaliation will be maintained by the CO in accordance with the Board's records retention policy. Any records that are considered student education records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or under Florida's student records law will be maintained in a manner consistent with the

provisions of the Federal and State law.

VII. Sanctions and Monitoring

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful discrimination/retaliation by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop and prevent further misconduct. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s). When imposing discipline, the Superintendent shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In those cases where unlawful discrimination/retaliation is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies, consistent with the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s).

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior remedial action has been taken against a member of the School District community, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Superintendent shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects.

VIII. Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination/retaliation or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

IX. Education and Training

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information, provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination in general, will be age and content appropriate.

X. Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials

The Compliance Officer(s) is responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all information, documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and received as part of an investigation, including, but not limited to:

A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/statements;

B. narratives of all verbal reports/allegations/complaints/statements;

C. a narrative of all actions taken by District personnel;

D. any written documentation of actions taken by District personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities related to the investigation and/or the District's response to the alleged violation of this policy;

E. written witness statements;

F. narratives of, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness statements;

G. all documentary evidence;

H. e-mails, texts, or social media posts pertaining to the investigation;

I. contemporaneous notes in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.) pertaining to the investigation;

J. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and a narrative of verbal disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of the policies and procedures prohibiting discrimination or harassment;

K. dated written determinations to the parties;

L. dated written descriptions of verbal notifications to the parties;

M. written documentation of any interim measures offered and/or provided to complainants, including no-contact orders issued to both parties, the dates issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt;

N. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;

O. documentation of any supportive measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and/or the Respondent, including no-contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no-contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no-contact orders;

P. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Codes of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);

Q. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination**, or** ~~or~~ harassment**, or retaliation**; and

R. documentation of any training provided to District personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all District personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy.

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal and/or State law (e.g., student records).

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, and Policy 8320 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

Revised 10/23/18
Revised 8/13/19
Revised 11/9/21
Revised 4/12/22

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1122.01 - **PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT**

The School Board prohibits discrimination against any employee or applicant based upon his/her disability. As such, the Board will not engage in employment practices or adopt policies that discriminate on the basis of disability, or otherwise discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in regard to job application procedures, the hiring, advancement or discharge of employees, employee compensation, job training, or other terms, conditions and privileges of employment. The Board further will not limit, segregate, or classify applicants or employees in any way that adversely affects their opportunities or status because of disability. Additionally, the Board will not participate in any contractual or other relationships that have the effect of subjecting qualified individuals with disabilities who are applicants or employees to discrimination on the basis of disability.

"An individual with a disability" means a person who has, had a record of, or is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities are functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, sitting, reaching, interacting with others, and working.

Major life activities also include the operation of a major bodily function, including, but not limited to, functions of the immune system, special sense organs and skin, normal cell growth, and digestive, genitourinary, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, hemic, lymphatic, musculoskeletal, and reproductive functions. The operation of a major bodily function includes the operation of an individual organ within a body system.

An impairment that is episodic in nature or in remission is considered a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active.

The determination of whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity must be made without regard to the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures such as medication, medical supplies, equipment or appliances, low-vision devices (defined as devices that magnify, enhance, or otherwise augment a visual image, but not including ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics (including limbs and devices), hearing aid(s) and cochlear implant(s) or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, oxygen therapy equipment or supplies, use of assistive technology, reasonable accommodations or "auxiliary aides or services," learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications, psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, or physical therapy.

A qualified person with a disability means the individual satisfies the requisite skill, experience, education and other job-related requirements of the employment position such individual holds or desires and, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the job in question.

The Board will provide a reasonable accommodation to a qualified individual who has an actual disability or who has a record of a disability, unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the District's program and/or activities. A reasonable accommodation is not necessarily required for an individual who is merely regarded as having a disability.

District Compliance Officers

The following persons are designated as the District Section 504 Compliance Officers/ADA Coordinators ("District Compliance Officers"):

Schools and Educational Facilities
Dr. Robert "Pace" Edwards
Title IX Coordinator
2501 63rd Avenue East
Bradenton, Florida 32403
(941) 751-6550 x43038
Email: Edwards2p@manateeschools.net

District & Employment
Richard Bailey ~~Wendy Mungillo~~
~~Director~~ Chief of Human Resources
~~Student~~ School Support Center

215 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
(941) 708-8770 x41239
Email: baileyr3@manateeschools.net ~~mungillow@manateeschools.net~~

The name(s), title(s), and contact information of this/these individual(s) will be published annually in the staff handbooks and/or on the School District's website.

The District Compliance Officers are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with and fulfill its responsibilities under Section 504 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended ("ADA"). A copy of Section 504 and the ADA, including copies of their implementing regulations, may be obtained from either of the District Compliance Officers.

The District Compliance Officers will oversee the investigation of any complaints of discrimination based on disability, which may be filed pursuant to the Board's adopted internal complaint procedure, and will attempt to resolve such complaints. The Board will provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging violations of Section 504/ADA.

Complaint Procedures

If a person believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her disability in regard to job application procedures, the hiring, advancement or discharge of employees, employee compensation, job training, or other terms, conditions and privileges of employment, the person may utilize the complaint procedures set forth in Policy 1122 - Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity as a means of reaching, at the lowest possible administrative level, a prompt and equitable resolution of the matter.

Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

Filing a Complaint with OCR/Florida Commission on Human Relations/EEOC

At any time, if an employee believes that s/he has been subjected to discrimination based upon his/her disability in violation of Section 504 or the ADA, the individual may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"), the Florida Commission on Human Relations, or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").

Appealing to OCR/Florida Commission on Human Relations/EEOC

If the complainant is not satisfied with the Superintendent's decision, the complainant will have an additional sixty (60) days to appeal the decision to the United States Department of Education Office of Civil Rights, Florida Commission on Human Relations, or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, or participates as a witness in an investigation, is prohibited. Specifically, the Board will not discriminate/retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by Section 504 or the ADA, or because that individual made a charge, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

Training

The District Compliance Officers will also oversee the training of employees in the District so that all employees understand their rights and responsibilities under Section 504 and the ADA, and are informed of the Board's policies, administrative procedures and practices with respect to fully implementing and complying with the requirements of Section 504/ADA.

The Board will provide in-service training and consultation to staff responsible for the education of persons with disabilities, as necessary and appropriate.

Facilities

No qualified person with a disability will, because the District's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by persons with disabilities, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity to which Section 504/ADA applies.

For facilities constructed or altered after June 3, 1977, the District will comply with applicable accessibility standards. For those existing facilities constructed prior to June 3, 1977, the District is committed to operating its programs and activities so that they are readily accessible to persons with disabilities.

Notice

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in employment practices and the identity of the District's Compliance Officers will be published on the District's website and posted throughout the District, and included in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications.

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"An individual with a disability" means a person who has, had a record of, or is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities are functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, sitting, reaching, interacting with others, and working.

Major life activities also include the operation of a major bodily function, including, but not limited to, functions of the immune system, special sense organs and skin, normal cell growth, and digestive, genitourinary, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, hemic, lymphatic, musculoskeletal, and reproductive functions. The operation of a major bodily function includes the operation of an individual organ within a body system.

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The determination of whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity must be made without regard to the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures such as medication, medical supplies, equipment or appliances, low-vision devices (defined as devices that magnify, enhance, or otherwise augment a visual image, but not including ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics (including limbs and devices), hearing aid(s) and cochlear implant(s) or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, oxygen therapy equipment or supplies, use of assistive technology, reasonable accommodations or "auxiliary aides or services," learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications, psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, or physical therapy.

A qualified person with a disability means the individual satisfies the requisite skill, experience, education and other job-related requirements of the employment position such individual holds or desires and, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the job in question.

The Board will provide a reasonable accommodation to a qualified individual who has an actual disability or who has a record of a disability, unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the District's program and/or activities. A reasonable accommodation is not necessarily required for an individual who is merely regarded as having a disability.

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4122.01 - **PROHIBITION AGAINST DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT**

The School Board prohibits discrimination against any employee or applicant based upon his/her disability. As such, the Board will not engage in employment practices or adopt policies that discriminate on the basis of disability, or otherwise discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in regard to job application procedures, the hiring, advancement or discharge of employees, employee compensation, job training, or other terms, conditions and privileges of employment. The Board further will not limit, segregate, or classify applicants or employees in any way that adversely affects their opportunities or status because of disability. Additionally, the Board will not participate in any contractual or other relationships that have the effect of subjecting qualified individuals with disabilities who are applicants or employees to discrimination on the basis of disability.

"An individual with a disability" means a person who has, had a record of, or is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities are functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, sitting, reaching, interacting with others, and working.

Major life activities also include the operation of a major bodily function, including, but not limited to, functions of the immune system, special sense organs and skin, normal cell growth, and digestive, genitourinary, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, hemic, lymphatic, musculoskeletal, and reproductive functions. The operation of a major bodily function includes the operation of an individual organ within a body system.

An impairment that is episodic in nature or in remission is considered a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active.

The determination of whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity must be made without regard to the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures such as medication, medical supplies, equipment or appliances, low-vision devices (defined as devices that magnify, enhance, or otherwise augment a visual image, but not including ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics (including limbs and devices), hearing aid(s) and cochlear implant(s) or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, oxygen therapy equipment or supplies, use of assistive technology, reasonable accommodations or "auxiliary aides or services," learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications, psychotherapy, behavioral therapy, or physical therapy.

A qualified person with a disability means the individual satisfies the requisite skill, experience, education and other job-related requirements of the employment position such individual holds or desires and, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the job in question.

The Board will provide a reasonable accommodation to a qualified individual who has an actual disability or who has a record of a disability, unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the District's program and/or activities. A reasonable accommodation is not necessarily required for an individual who is merely regarded as having a disability.

District Compliance Officers

The following persons are designated as the District Section 504 Compliance Officers/ADA Coordinators ("District Compliance Officers"):

Schools and Educational Facilities
Dr. Robert "Pace" Edwards
Title IX Coordinator
2501 63rd Avenue East
Bradenton, Florida 32403
(941) 751-6550 x43038
Email: Edwards2p@manateeschools.net

District & Employment
Richard Bailey ~~Wendy Mungillo~~
~~Director~~ Chief of Human Resources
~~Student~~ School Support Center

215 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
(941) 708-8770 x41239
Email: baileyr3@manateeschools.net ~~mungillow@manateeschools.net~~

The name(s), title(s), and contact information of this/these individual(s) will be published annually in the staff handbooks and/or on the School District's website.

The District Compliance Officers are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with and fulfill its responsibilities under Section 504 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended ("ADA"). A copy of Section 504 and the ADA, including copies of their implementing regulations, may be obtained from either of the District Compliance Officers.

The District Compliance Officers will oversee the investigation of any complaints of discrimination based on disability, which may be filed pursuant to the Board's adopted internal complaint procedure, and will attempt to resolve such complaints. The Board will provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging violations of Section 504/ADA.

Complaint Procedures

If a person believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her disability in regard to job application procedures, the hiring, advancement or discharge of employees, employee compensation, job training, or other terms, conditions and privileges of employment, the person may utilize the complaint procedures set forth in Policy 1122 - Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity as a means of reaching, at the lowest possible administrative level, a prompt and equitable resolution of the matter.

Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

Filing a Complaint with OCR/Florida Commission on Human Relations/EEOC

At any time, if an employee believes that s/he has been subjected to discrimination based upon his/her disability in violation of Section 504 or the ADA, the individual may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"), the Florida Commission on Human Relations, or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").

Appealing to OCR/Florida Commission on Human Relations/EEOC

If the complainant is not satisfied with the Superintendent's decision, the complainant will have an additional sixty (60) days to appeal the decision to the United States Department of Education Office of Civil Rights, Florida Commission on Human Relations, or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination, or participates as a witness in an investigation, is prohibited. Specifically, the Board will not discriminate/retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by Section 504 or the ADA, or because that individual made a charge, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

Training

The District Compliance Officers will also oversee the training of employees in the District so that all employees understand their rights and responsibilities under Section 504 and the ADA, and are informed of the Board's policies, administrative procedures and practices with respect to fully implementing and complying with the requirements of Section 504/ADA.

The Board will provide in-service training and consultation to staff responsible for the education of persons with disabilities, as necessary and appropriate.

Facilities

No qualified person with a disability will, because the District's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by persons with disabilities, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity to which Section 504/ADA applies.

For facilities constructed or altered after June 3, 1977, the District will comply with applicable accessibility standards. For those existing facilities constructed prior to June 3, 1977, the District is committed to operating its programs and activities so that they are readily accessible to persons with disabilities.

Notice

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in employment practices and the identity of the District's Compliance Officers will be published on the District's website and posted throughout the District, and included in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications.

Technical Change 10/5/20

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1362 - ANTI-HARASSMENT

I. General Policy Statement

It is the policy of the School Board to maintain an educational and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all School District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Superintendent will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discriminatory harassment on the basis of race (including anti-Semitism [as defined in Bylaw 0100]), ethnicity, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, gender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively, "protected classes"; hereinafter referred to as unlawful harassment), and encourages those within the School District community as well as Third Parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. The Superintendent will investigate all allegations of unlawful harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Superintendent will take immediate steps to end the harassment, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

The District will offer counseling services to any staff member found to have been subjected to unlawful harassment, and, where appropriate, the person(s) who committed the unlawful harassment.

Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to abridge the rights of students or school employees that are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

II. Other Violations of the Anti-Harassment Policy

The Superintendent will also take immediate steps to impose disciplinary action on individuals engaging in any of the following prohibited acts:

A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation.

B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of unlawful harassment.

C. Disregarding, failing to investigate adequately, or delaying the investigation of allegations of unlawful harassment, when responsibility for reporting and/or investigating unlawful harassment charges comprises part of one's supervisory duties.

III. Definitions

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

Complainant is the individual who alleges, or is alleged, to have been subjected to unlawful harassment, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged harassment.

Respondent is the individual who has been alleged to have engaged in unlawful harassment, regardless of whether the reporting party files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged harassment.

School District community means students and Board employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and classified staff), as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

Third Parties include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

Day(s): Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

A. Bullying

Bullying rises to the level of unlawful harassment when one or more persons systematically and chronically inflict physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more students or employees and that bullying is based upon sex, race (including anti-Semitism), color, national origin, religion, or disability, that is, characteristics that are protected by Federal civil rights laws. It is defined as any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation. This unlawful harassment may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. teasing;
2. threats;
3. intimidation;
4. stalking;
5. cyberstalking;
6. cyberbullying;
7. physical violence;
8. theft;
9. sexual, religious, or racial harassment;
10. public humiliation; or
11. destruction of property.

B. "Harassment" means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal, or physical conduct directed against a student or a school employee that:

1. places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;
2. has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits; or
3. has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

C. Sexual Harassment

For purposes of this policy and consistent with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, "sexual harassment" is defined as:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical

conduct of a sexual nature, when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, or status in a class, educational program, or activity.

2. Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or educational decisions affecting such individual.

3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity.

Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of any gender against a person of the same or another gender.

Sexual Harassment covered by Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities is not included in this policy. Allegations of such conduct shall be addressed solely by Policy 2266.

Prohibited acts that constitute sexual harassment under this policy may take a variety of forms. Examples of the kinds of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

1. Unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations.

2. Unwanted physical and/or sexual contact.

3. Threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, academic grade, promotion, classroom work or assignments, academic status, participation in athletics or extra-curricular programs, activities, or events, or other conditions of employment or education may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances.

4. Unwelcome verbal expressions, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, profanity, jokes, or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls.

5. Sexually suggestive objects, pictures, graffiti, videos, posters, audio recordings, or literature placed in the work or educational environment, that may reasonably embarrass or offend individuals.

6. Unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures.

7. Asking about, or telling about, sexual fantasies, sexual preferences, or sexual activities.

8. Speculations about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.

9. Giving unwelcome personal gifts such as lingerie that suggest the desire for a romantic relationship.

10. Leering or staring at someone in a sexual way, such as staring at a person's breasts, buttocks, or groin.

11. A pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another.

12. Consensual sexual relationships where such relationship leads to favoritism of a subordinate employee with whom the superior is sexually involved and where such favoritism adversely affects other employees or otherwise creates a hostile work environment.

13. Verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

14. Inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the School District community into a student's personal space and personal life.

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. Sex-based and gender-based conduct must be sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent such that it adversely affects, limits, or denies an individual's employment, or such that it creates a hostile or abusive employment or educational environment.

D. Sexual Cyber Harassment

Pursuant to Florida law, "sexual cyber harassment" means to publish to an Internet website or disseminate through electronic means to another person a sexually explicit image of a person that contains or conveys the personal identification information of the depicted person without the depicted person's consent, contrary to the depicted person's reasonable expectation that the image would remain private, for no legitimate purpose, with the intent of causing substantial emotional distress to the depicted person. Evidence that the depicted person sent a sexually explicit image to another person does not, on its own, remove his/her reasonable expectation of privacy for that image. Sexual cyber harassment may be a form of sexual harassment.

E. Race/Color Harassment (Including Anti-Semitism)

Prohibited racial harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's race or color and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references relative to racial customs.

Prohibited anti-Semitism harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's Jewish heritage and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is based upon a certain perception of the Jewish people, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jewish people, rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism directed toward a person, his/her property, or toward Jewish community institutions or religious facilities.

F. Religious (Creed) Harassment

Prohibited religious harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's religion or creed and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's religious tradition, clothing, or surnames, and/or involves religious slurs.

G. National Origin Harassment

Prohibited national origin harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal

conduct is based upon an individual's national origin and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's national origin, such as negative comments regarding customs, manner of speaking, language, surnames, or ethnic slurs.

H. Disability Harassment

Prohibited disability harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's disability and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's disability, such as negative comments about speech patterns, movement, physical impairments or defects/appearances, or the like. Such harassment may further occur where conduct is directed at or pertains to a person's genetic information.

I. Pregnancy Harassment

Prohibited pregnancy harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's pregnancy and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's pregnancy and condition of pregnancy.

IV. Reports and Complaints of Harassing Conduct

Members of the School District community and Third Parties, which includes all staff, are encouraged to promptly report incidents of unlawful harassing conduct to an administrator, supervisor, or other School District official so that the Superintendent may address the conduct before it becomes severe, pervasive, or persistent. Any administrator, supervisor, or other District official who receives such a report shall file it with the District's Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer within two (2) days of receiving the report of harassment.

Members of the School District community and Third Parties who believe they have been unlawfully harassed by another member of the School District community or a Third Party are entitled to utilize the Board's complaint process that is set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the Complainant's employment or participation in educational or extra-curricular programs unless the Complainant makes the complaint maliciously or with knowledge that it is false. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints of harassment under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

If, during an investigation of reported act of bullying and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Harassment, the principal or his/her designee believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile work environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on sex, race (including anti-Semitism), color, national origin, religion, or disability, the principal or his/her designee will report the act of bullying and/or harassment to one of the Compliance Officers who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. If the alleged harassment involves Sexual Harassment as defined by Policy 2266, the matter will be handled in accordance with the grievance process and procedures outlined in Policy 2266. While the Compliance Officer investigates the allegation, or while the matter is being addressed pursuant to Policy 2266, the Principal shall suspend Policy 5517.01 investigation to await the Compliance Officer's written report or the determination or responsibility pursuant to Policy 2266. The Compliance Officer shall keep the Principal informed of the status of the Policy 1362 investigation and provide the Principal with a copy of the resulting written report. Likewise, the Title IX Coordinator will provide the Principal with the determination of responsibility that results from

the Policy 2266 grievance process.

A. Compliance Officer

The following individuals serve as "Compliance Officer" for the District. They are hereinafter referred to as the "Compliance Officer". The CO shall also serve as the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinators.

Schools and Educational Facilities
Dr. Robert "Pace" Edwards
Title IX Coordinator
2501 63rd Avenue East
Bradenton, Florida 32403
(941) 751-6550 x43038
Email: Edwards2p@manateeschools.net

District & Employment
Richard Bailey ~~Wendy Mungillo~~
~~Director~~ Chief of Human Resources
~~Student~~ School Support Center
215 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
(941) 708-8770 x41239
Email: baileyr3@manateeschools.net ~~mungillow@manateeschools.net~~

B. Publication Required

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the staff handbooks and/ or on the School District's website.

The names, titles, and/or contact information of the persons presently serving as Compliance Officer may change from time to time, and such changes shall be deemed technical corrections within the meaning of Bylaw 0131.1 and shall be made pursuant to that bylaw.

C. Duties and Responsibilities

An Compliance Officer will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful harassment, to assist students, other members of the School District community, and Third Parties who seek support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the individual in those instances where concerns have not resulted in the filing of a formal complaint and where all parties are in agreement to participate in an informal process.

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful harassment of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer within two (2) days. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer or designee must contact the Complainant, if over age eighteen (18) or the Complainant's parents/guardians if the Complainant is under the age eighteen (18), within two (2) days to advise of the Superintendent's intent to investigate the alleged misconduct, including the obligation of the compliance officer or designee to conduct an investigation following all the procedures outlined for a formal complaint.

The Compliance Officer are assigned to accept complaints of unlawful harassment directly from any member of the School District community or a visitor to the District or to receive complaints which are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint either directly or through a school building administrator, the Compliance Officer will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the member of the School District community alleging harassment), or the Compliance Officer will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. In the case of a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will prepare, after consultation with the Staff Attorney, recommendations for the Superintendent or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a

designee. All members of the School District community must report incidents of unlawful harassment which are reported to them to an Compliance Officer within five (5) days of learning of the incident.

V. Investigation and Complaint Procedure

Except for Sexual Harassment that is covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Program or Activities, any employee or other member of the School District community or Third Party who believes that they have been subjected to unlawful harassment may seek resolution of the complaint through the procedures described below. The formal complaint process involves an investigation of the Complainant's claims of harassment or retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment or retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) days of the complaint being received).

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment or retaliation with the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), the Florida Commission on Human Relations (FCHR), and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

A. Informal Complaint Procedure

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to promptly stop inappropriate behavior and to facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for a student, other member of the School District community, or Third Party who alleges unlawful harassment or retaliation. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint.

Employees, other members of the School District community, or Third Parties who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against may initiate their complaint through this informal complaint process, but are not required to do so. The informal process is only available in those circumstances where the Complainant and the Respondent mutually agree to participate in it.

The Complainant may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All complaints involving a District employee, any other adult member of the School District community, or a Third Party and a student will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if a Complainant feels comfortable and safe in doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the Respondent that the alleged harassing conduct is unwelcome and must stop. The Complainant should address the allegedly harassing conduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The Compliance Officer is available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the Complainant if requested to do so. A Complainant who is uncomfortable or unwilling to directly approach the Respondent about the allegedly inappropriate conduct may file an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful harassment, such as sexual harassment, the Compliance Officer may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

A Complainant may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a teacher, other employee, or building administrator; (2) to the Superintendent or other District-level employee; and/or (3) directly to one of the Compliance Officers.

All informal complaints must be reported to the Compliance Officer who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below or appoint another individual to facilitate an

informal resolution.

The School District's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide employees, other members of the School District community, or Third Parties who believe they are being unlawfully harassed by another individual with a range of options designed to bring about a resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the Complainant, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

1. Advising the Complainant about how to communicate the unwelcome nature of the behavior to the Respondent.

2. Distributing a copy of this policy as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the Respondent works or attends.

3. If both parties agree, the Compliance Officer may arrange and facilitate a meeting or mediation between the Complainant and Respondent to work out a mutual resolution.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the Compliance Officer or designee is directed to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) days of receiving the informal complaint. If the Complainant is dissatisfied with the informal complaint process, the Complainant may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, either party may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All materials generated as part of the informal complaint process will be retained by the Compliance Officers or designee in accordance with the Board's records retention policy. (See Policy 8310 and Policy 8320)

B. Formal Complaint Procedure

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one of the parties has requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or the Complainant, from the outset, elects to file a formal complaint, or the CO determines the allegations are not appropriate for resolution through the informal process, the formal complaint process as described below shall be implemented.

This formal complaint process is not intended to interfere with the rights of an employee, other member of the School District community, or third party to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment with the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, the Florida Civil Rights Commission, or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The Complainant may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing with a teacher, principal, or other District official, the Compliance Officer, Superintendent, or other District official. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment and retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a teacher, principal, or other District official, the Compliance Officer, Superintendent, or other District official, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of harassment, that employee must report such information to the Compliance Officer within two (2) days.

Throughout the course of the process as described herein, the Compliance Officer should keep the parties reasonably informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent known: the identity of the Respondent; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based (i.e., when, where, and what occurred); a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the complainant.

If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the Compliance Officer shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter the Compliance Officer will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further harassment or retaliation including but not limited to a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the Respondent. In making such a determination, the Compliance Officer should consult the Complainant to assess his/her agreement to any action deemed appropriate. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to any change that is deemed appropriate by the Compliance Officer, the Compliance Officer may still take whatever actions deemed appropriate in consultation with the Superintendent and/or Board Attorney.

Within two (2) days of receiving a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer or a designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the complainant has been subjected to offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation. The Principal will not conduct an investigation unless directed to do so by the Compliance Officer.

Simultaneously, the Compliance Officer will inform the Respondent that a formal complaint has been received. The respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative procedures and the Board's anti-harassment policy shall be provided to the respondent at that time. The respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the formal complaint within five (5) days.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the Compliance Officer or a designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of harassment/retaliation within fifteen (15) days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:

1. interviews with the Complainant;

2. interviews with the Respondent;

3. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations;

4. consideration of any documentation or other evidence presented by the complainant, respondent, or any other witness which is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Compliance Officer/designee shall consult with the Staff Attorney. A written report shall then be prepared and delivered to the Superintendent which summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful harassment as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Respondent engaged in unlawful harassment/retaliation of the Complainant. The Compliance Officer recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In determining if discriminatory harassment or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The Compliance Officer may consult with the Board Attorney before finalizing the report to the Superintendent.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) days of receiving the report of the Compliance Officer or the designee, the Superintendent must either issue a written decision regarding whether or not the complaint of harassment has been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Superintendent's final decision will be delivered to both the complainant and the respondent.

If the Superintendent requests additional investigation, the Superintendent must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be

completed within five (5) days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Superintendent must issue a final written decision as described above.

The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

The Superintendent reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful harassment regardless of whether the member of the School District community or Third Party alleging the unlawful harassment pursues the complaint. The Superintendent also reserves the right to have the formal complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

The parties may be represented, at their own cost, at any of the above-described meetings/hearings.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, the filing of charges with local law enforcement, or the filing of a civil action in court. Use of this internal complaint process is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

VI. Privacy/Confidentiality

The School District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy and related administrative procedures shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, the Respondent must be provided the Complainant's identity.

During the course of a formal investigation, the Compliance Officer or designee will instruct all members of the School District community and third parties who are interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of a harassment investigation is expected not to disclose any information that is learned or provided during the course of the investigation.

All public records created as a part of an investigation of a complaint of harassment will be maintained by the Compliance Officer in accordance with the Board's records retention policy. Any records which are considered student records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act will be maintained in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Federal and State laws.

VII. Sanctions and Monitoring

The Superintendent shall vigorously enforce the Board's prohibitions against unlawful harassment by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop the harassment/retaliation and prevent further such harassment. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s). When imposing discipline, the Superintendent shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In those cases where unlawful harassment is not substantiated, the Superintendent may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies, consistent with the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s).

Where the Superintendent becomes aware that a prior remedial action has been taken against a member of the School District community, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Superintendent shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects.

VIII. Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful harassment/retaliation or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

IX. Allegations Constituting Criminal Conduct: Child Abuse/Sexual Misconduct

State law requires any teacher or school employee who knows or suspects that a child under the age of eighteen (18) is a victim of child abuse or neglect to immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to the Department of Children and Family Services. If, during the course of a harassment investigation, the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe or suspect that the alleged conduct reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the complainant, a report of such knowledge must be made in accordance with State law and Board policy.

If the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe that the complainant has been the victim of criminal conduct as defined under Florida law, such knowledge should be reported to local law enforcement.

Any reports made to the local child protection service or to local law enforcement shall not terminate the Compliance Officer or a designee's obligation and responsibility to continue to investigate a complaint of harassment. While the Compliance Officer or a designee may work cooperatively with outside agencies to conduct concurrent investigations, in no event shall the harassment investigation be inhibited by the involvement of outside agencies without good cause after consultation with the Superintendent.

X. Mandatory Reporting of Misconduct by Certificated Employees

The Superintendent is required by State law and Board Policy 8141 to report alleged misconduct by certificated employees of the District that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student. In accordance with Board policy and State law, the Superintendent shall investigate each allegation of such conduct and, if confirmed, shall report such misconduct pursuant to Policy 8141.

XI. Education and Training

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information provided regarding this policy and harassment in general, will be age and content appropriate.

XII. Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials

The Compliance Officer is responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this

policy shall retain all information, documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and received as part of an investigation, including, but not limited to:

A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/statements;

B. narratives of all verbal reports/allegations/complaints/statements;

C. a narrative of all actions taken by District personnel;

D. any written documentation of actions taken by District personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities;

E. written witness statements;

F. narratives of, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness statements;

G. all documentary evidence;

H. e-mails, texts, or social media posts pertaining to the investigation;

I. contemporaneous notes in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.) pertaining to the investigation;

J. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and a narrative of verbal disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of the policies and procedures prohibiting discrimination or harassment;

K. dated written determinations to the parties;

L. dated written descriptions of verbal notifications to the parties;

M. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;

N. documentation of any supportive measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and/or the Respondent, including no-contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no-contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no-contact orders;

O. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Code of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);

P. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment; and

Q. documentation of any training provided to District personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all District personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy.

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal and/or State law (e.g., student records).

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, and

Policy 8320 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

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Revised 11/9/21
Revised 4/12/22

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3362 - **ANTI-HARASSMENT**

I. **General Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the School Board to maintain an educational and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all School District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Superintendent will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discriminatory harassment on the basis of race (including anti-Semitism [as defined in Bylaw 0100]), ethnicity, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, gender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively, "protected classes"; hereinafter referred to as unlawful harassment), and encourages those within the School District community as well as Third Parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. The Superintendent will investigate all allegations of unlawful harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Superintendent will take immediate steps to end the harassment, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

The District will offer counseling services to any staff member found to have been subjected to unlawful harassment, and, where appropriate, the person(s) who committed the unlawful harassment.

Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to abridge the rights of students or school employees that are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

II. **Other Violations of the Anti-Harassment Policy**

The Superintendent will also take immediate steps to impose disciplinary action on individuals engaging in any of the following prohibited acts:

A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation.

B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of unlawful harassment.

C. Disregarding, failing to investigate adequately, or delaying the investigation of allegations of unlawful harassment, when responsibility for reporting and/or investigating unlawful harassment charges comprises part of one's supervisory duties.

III. **Definitions**

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

Complainant is the individual who alleges, or is alleged, to have been subjected to unlawful harassment, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged harassment.

Respondent is the individual who has been alleged to have engaged in unlawful harassment, regardless of whether the reporting party files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged harassment.

School District community means students and Board employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and classified staff), as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

Third Parties include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

Day(s): Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

A. Bullying

Bullying rises to the level of unlawful harassment when one or more persons systematically and chronically inflict physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more students or employees and that bullying is based upon sex, race (including anti-Semitism), color, national origin, religion, or disability, that is, characteristics that are protected by Federal civil rights laws. It is defined as any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation. This unlawful harassment may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. teasing;
2. threats;
3. intimidation;
4. stalking;
5. cyberstalking;
6. cyberbullying;
7. physical violence;
8. theft;
9. sexual, religious, or racial harassment;
10. public humiliation; or
11. destruction of property.

B. "Harassment" means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal, or physical conduct directed against a student or a school employee that:

1. places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;
2. has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits; or
3. has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

C. Sexual Harassment

For purposes of this policy and consistent with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, "sexual harassment" is defined as:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical

conduct of a sexual nature, when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, or status in a class, educational program, or activity.

2. Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or educational decisions affecting such individual.

3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity.

Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of any gender against a person of the same or another gender.

Sexual Harassment covered by Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities is not included in this policy. Allegations of such conduct shall be addressed solely by Policy 2266.

Prohibited acts that constitute sexual harassment under this policy may take a variety of forms. Examples of the kinds of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

1. Unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations.

2. Unwanted physical and/or sexual contact.

3. Threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, academic grade, promotion, classroom work or assignments, academic status, participation in athletics or extra-curricular programs, activities, or events, or other conditions of employment or education may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances.

4. Unwelcome verbal expressions, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, profanity, jokes, or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls.

5. Sexually suggestive objects, pictures, graffiti, videos, posters, audio recordings, or literature placed in the work or educational environment, that may reasonably embarrass or offend individuals.

6. Unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures.

7. Asking about, or telling about, sexual fantasies, sexual preferences, or sexual activities.

8. Speculations about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.

9. Giving unwelcome personal gifts such as lingerie that suggest the desire for a romantic relationship.

10. Leering or staring at someone in a sexual way, such as staring at a person's breasts, buttocks, or groin.

11. A pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another.

12. Consensual sexual relationships where such relationship leads to favoritism of a subordinate employee with whom the superior is sexually involved and where such favoritism adversely affects other employees or otherwise creates a hostile work environment.

13. Verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

14. Inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the School District community into a student's personal space and personal life.

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. Sex-based and gender-based conduct must be sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent such that it adversely affects, limits, or denies an individual's employment, or such that it creates a hostile or abusive employment or educational environment.

D. Sexual Cyber Harassment

Pursuant to Florida law, "sexual cyber harassment" means to publish to an Internet website or disseminate through electronic means to another person a sexually explicit image of a person that contains or conveys the personal identification information of the depicted person without the depicted person's consent, contrary to the depicted person's reasonable expectation that the image would remain private, for no legitimate purpose, with the intent of causing substantial emotional distress to the depicted person. Evidence that the depicted person sent a sexually explicit image to another person does not, on its own, remove his/her reasonable expectation of privacy for that image. Sexual cyber harassment may be a form of sexual harassment.

E. Race/Color Harassment (Including Anti-Semitism)

Prohibited racial harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's race or color and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references relative to racial customs.

Prohibited anti-Semitism harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's Jewish heritage and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is based upon a certain perception of the Jewish people, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jewish people, rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism directed toward a person, his/her property, or toward Jewish community institutions or religious facilities.

F. Religious (Creed) Harassment

Prohibited religious harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's religion or creed and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's religious tradition, clothing, or surnames, and/or involves religious slurs.

G. National Origin Harassment

Prohibited national origin harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal

conduct is based upon an individual's national origin and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's national origin, such as negative comments regarding customs, manner of speaking, language, surnames, or ethnic slurs.

H. Disability Harassment

Prohibited disability harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's disability and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's disability, such as negative comments about speech patterns, movement, physical impairments or defects/appearances, or the like. Such harassment may further occur where conduct is directed at or pertains to a person's genetic information.

I. Pregnancy Harassment

Prohibited pregnancy harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's pregnancy and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's pregnancy and condition of pregnancy.

IV. Reports and Complaints of Harassing Conduct

Members of the School District community and Third Parties, which includes all staff, are encouraged to promptly report incidents of unlawful harassing conduct to an administrator, supervisor, or other School District official so that the Superintendent may address the conduct before it becomes severe, pervasive, or persistent. Any administrator, supervisor, or other District official who receives such a report shall file it with the District's Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer within two (2) days of receiving the report of harassment.

Members of the School District community and Third Parties who believe they have been unlawfully harassed by another member of the School District community or a Third Party are entitled to utilize the Board's complaint process that is set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the Complainant's employment or participation in educational or extra-curricular programs unless the Complainant makes the complaint maliciously or with knowledge that it is false. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints of harassment under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

If, during an investigation of reported act of bullying and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Harassment, the principal or his/her designee believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile work environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on sex, race (including anti-Semitism), color, national origin, religion, or disability, the principal or his/her designee will report the act of bullying and/or harassment to one of the Compliance Officers who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. If the alleged harassment involves Sexual Harassment as defined by Policy 2266, the matter will be handled in accordance with the grievance process and procedures outlined in Policy 2266. While the Compliance Officer investigates the allegation, or while the matter is being addressed pursuant to Policy 2266, the Principal shall suspend Policy 5517.01 investigation to await the Compliance Officer's written report or the determination or responsibility pursuant to Policy 2266. The Compliance Officer shall keep the Principal informed of the status of the Policy 1362 investigation and provide the Principal with a copy of the resulting written report. Likewise, the Title IX Coordinator will provide the Principal with the determination of responsibility that results from

the Policy 2266 grievance process.

A. Compliance Officer

The following individuals serve as "Compliance Officer" for the District. They are hereinafter referred to as the "Compliance Officer". The CO shall also serve as the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinators.

Schools and Educational Facilities
Dr. Robert "Pace" Edwards
Title IX Coordinator
2501 63rd Avenue East
Bradenton, Florida 32403
(941) 751-6550 x43038
Email: Edwards2p@manateeschools.net

District & Employment
Richard Bailey ~~Wendy Mungillo~~
~~Director~~ Chief of Human Resources
~~Student~~ School Support Center
215 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
(941) 708-8770 x 41239
Email: baileyr3@manateeschools.net ~~mungillow@manateeschools.net~~

B. Publication Required

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the staff handbooks and/or on the School District's website.

The names, titles, and/or contact information of the persons presently serving as Compliance Officer may change from time to time, and such changes shall be deemed technical corrections within the meaning of Bylaw 0131.1 and shall be made pursuant to that bylaw.

C. Duties and Responsibilities

An Compliance Officer will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful harassment, to assist students, other members of the School District community, and Third Parties who seek support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the individual in those instances where concerns have not resulted in the filing of a formal complaint and where all parties are in agreement to participate in an informal process.

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful harassment of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer within two (2) days. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer or designee must contact the Complainant, if over age eighteen (18) or the Complainant's parents/guardians if the Complainant is under the age eighteen (18), within two (2) days to advise of the Superintendent's intent to investigate the alleged misconduct, including the obligation of the compliance officer or designee to conduct an investigation following all the procedures outlined for a formal complaint.

The Compliance Officer is assigned to accept complaints of unlawful harassment directly from any member of the School District community or a visitor to the District or to receive complaints which are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint either directly or through a school building administrator, the Compliance Officer will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the member of the School District community alleging harassment), or the Compliance Officer will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. In the case of a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will prepare, after consultation with the Staff Attorney, recommendations for the Superintendent or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a

designee. All members of the School District community must report incidents of unlawful harassment which are reported to them to an Compliance Officer within five (5) days of learning of the incident.

V. Investigation and Complaint Procedure

Except for Sexual Harassment that is covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Program or Activities, any employee or other member of the School District community or Third Party who believes that they have been subjected to unlawful harassment may seek resolution of the complaint through the procedures described below. The formal complaint process involves an investigation of the Complainant's claims of harassment or retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment or retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) days of the complaint being received).

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment or retaliation with the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), the Florida Commission on Human Relations (FCHR), and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

A. Informal Complaint Procedure

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to promptly stop inappropriate behavior and to facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for a student, other member of the School District community, or Third Party who alleges unlawful harassment or retaliation. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint.

Employees, other members of the School District community, or Third Parties who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against may initiate their complaint through this informal complaint process, but are not required to do so. The informal process is only available in those circumstances where the Complainant and the Respondent mutually agree to participate in it.

The Complainant may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All complaints involving a District employee, any other adult member of the School District community, or a Third Party and a student will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if a Complainant feels comfortable and safe in doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the Respondent that the alleged harassing conduct is unwelcome and must stop. The Complainant should address the allegedly harassing conduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The Compliance Officer is available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the Complainant if requested to do so. A Complainant who is uncomfortable or unwilling to directly approach the Respondent about the allegedly inappropriate conduct may file an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful harassment, such as sexual harassment, the Compliance Officer may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

A Complainant may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a teacher, other employee, or building administrator; (2) to the Superintendent or other District-level employee; and/or (3) directly to one of the Compliance Officers.

All informal complaints must be reported to the Compliance Officer who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below or appoint another individual to facilitate an

informal resolution.

The School District's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide employees, other members of the School District community, or Third Parties who believe they are being unlawfully harassed by another individual with a range of options designed to bring about a resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the Complainant, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

1. Advising the Complainant about how to communicate the unwelcome nature of the behavior to the Respondent.

2. Distributing a copy of this policy as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the Respondent works or attends.

3. If both parties agree, the Compliance Officer may arrange and facilitate a meeting or mediation between the Complainant and Respondent to work out a mutual resolution.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the Compliance Officer or designee is directed to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) days of receiving the informal complaint. If the Complainant is dissatisfied with the informal complaint process, the Complainant may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, either party may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All materials generated as part of the informal complaint process will be retained by the Compliance Officers or designee in accordance with the Board's records retention policy. (See Policy 8310 and Policy 8320)

B. Formal Complaint Procedure

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one of the parties has requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or the Complainant, from the outset, elects to file a formal complaint, or the CO determines the allegations are not appropriate for resolution through the informal process, the formal complaint process as described below shall be implemented.

This formal complaint process is not intended to interfere with the rights of an employee, other member of the School District community, or third party to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment with the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, the Florida Civil Rights Commission, or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The Complainant may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing with a teacher, principal, or other District official, the Compliance Officer, Superintendent, or other District official. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment and retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a teacher, principal, or other District official, the Compliance Officer, Superintendent, or other District official, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of harassment, that employee must report such information to the Compliance Officer within two (2) days.

Throughout the course of the process as described herein, the Compliance Officer should keep the parties reasonably informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent known: the identity of the Respondent; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based (i.e., when, where, and what occurred); a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the complainant.

If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the Compliance Officer shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter the Compliance Officer will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further harassment or retaliation including but not limited to a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the Respondent. In making such a determination, the Compliance Officer should consult the Complainant to assess his/her agreement to any action deemed appropriate. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to any change that is deemed appropriate by the Compliance Officer, the Compliance Officer may still take whatever actions deemed appropriate in consultation with the Superintendent and/or Board Attorney.

Within two (2) days of receiving a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer or a designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the complainant has been subjected to offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation. The Principal will not conduct an investigation unless directed to do so by the Compliance Officer.

Simultaneously, the Compliance Officer will inform the Respondent that a formal complaint has been received. The respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative procedures and the Board's anti-harassment policy shall be provided to the respondent at that time. The respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the formal complaint within five (5) days.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the Compliance Officer or a designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of harassment/retaliation within fifteen (15) days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:

1. interviews with the Complainant;

2. interviews with the Respondent;

3. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations;

4. consideration of any documentation or other evidence presented by the complainant, respondent, or any other witness which is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Compliance Officer/designee shall consult with the Staff Attorney. A written report shall then be prepared and delivered to the Superintendent which summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful harassment as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Respondent engaged in unlawful harassment/retaliation of the Complainant. The Compliance Officer recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In determining if discriminatory harassment or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The Compliance Officer may consult with the Board Attorney before finalizing the report to the Superintendent.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) days of receiving the report of the Compliance Officer or the designee, the Superintendent must either issue a written decision regarding whether or not the complaint of harassment has been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Superintendent's final decision will be delivered to both the complainant and the respondent.

If the Superintendent requests additional investigation, the Superintendent must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be

completed within five (5) days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Superintendent must issue a final written decision as described above.

The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

The Superintendent reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful harassment regardless of whether the member of the School District community or Third Party alleging the unlawful harassment pursues the complaint. The Superintendent also reserves the right to have the formal complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

The parties may be represented, at their own cost, at any of the above-described meetings/hearings.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, the filing of charges with local law enforcement, or the filing of a civil action in court. Use of this internal complaint process is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

VI. Privacy/Confidentiality

The School District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy and related administrative procedures shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, the Respondent must be provided the Complainant's identity.

During the course of a formal investigation, the Compliance Officer or designee will instruct all members of the School District community and third parties who are interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of a harassment investigation is expected not to disclose any information that is learned or provided during the course of the investigation.

All public records created as a part of an investigation of a complaint of harassment will be maintained by the Compliance Officer in accordance with the Board's records retention policy. Any records which are considered student records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act will be maintained in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Federal and State laws.

VII. Sanctions and Monitoring

The Superintendent shall vigorously enforce the Board's prohibitions against unlawful harassment by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop the harassment/retaliation and prevent further such harassment. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s). When imposing discipline, the Superintendent shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In those cases where unlawful harassment is not substantiated, the Superintendent may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies, consistent with the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s).

Where the Superintendent becomes aware that a prior remedial action has been taken against a member of the School District community, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Superintendent shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects.

VIII. Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful harassment/retaliation or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

IX. Allegations Constituting Criminal Conduct: Child Abuse/Sexual Misconduct

State law requires any teacher or school employee who knows or suspects that a child under the age of eighteen (18) is a victim of child abuse or neglect to immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to the Department of Children and Family Services. If, during the course of a harassment investigation, the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe or suspect that the alleged conduct reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the complainant, a report of such knowledge must be made in accordance with State law and Board policy.

If the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe that the complainant has been the victim of criminal conduct as defined under Florida law, such knowledge should be reported to local law enforcement.

Any reports made to the local child protection service or to local law enforcement shall not terminate the Compliance Officer or a designee's obligation and responsibility to continue to investigate a complaint of harassment. While the Compliance Officer or a designee may work cooperatively with outside agencies to conduct concurrent investigations, in no event shall the harassment investigation be inhibited by the involvement of outside agencies without good cause after consultation with the Superintendent.

X. Mandatory Reporting of Misconduct by Certificated Employees

The Superintendent is required by State law and Board Policy 8141 to report alleged misconduct by certificated employees of the District that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student. In accordance with Board policy and State law, the Superintendent shall investigate each allegation of such conduct and, if confirmed, shall report such misconduct pursuant to Policy 8141.

XI. Education and Training

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information provided regarding this policy and harassment in general, will be age and content appropriate.

XII. Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials

The Compliance Officer is responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this

policy shall retain all information, documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and received as part of an investigation, including, but not limited to:

A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/statements;

B. narratives of all verbal reports/allegations/complaints/statements;

C. a narrative of all actions taken by District personnel;

D. any written documentation of actions taken by District personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities;

E. written witness statements;

F. narratives of, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness statements;

G. all documentary evidence;

H. e-mails, texts, or social media posts pertaining to the investigation;

I. contemporaneous notes in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.) pertaining to the investigation;

J. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and a narrative of verbal disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of the policies and procedures prohibiting discrimination or harassment;

K. dated written determinations to the parties;

L. dated written descriptions of verbal notifications to the parties;

M. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;

N. documentation of any supportive measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and/or the Respondent, including no-contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no-contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no-contact orders;

O. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Code of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);

P. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment; and

Q. documentation of any training provided to District personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all District personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy.

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal and/or State law (e.g., student records).

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, and

Policy 8320 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

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Revised 11/9/21
Revised 4/12/22

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4362 - **ANTI-HARASSMENT**

I. **General Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the School Board to maintain an educational and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all School District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Superintendent will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discriminatory harassment on the basis of race (including anti-Semitism [as defined in Bylaw 0100]), ethnicity, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, gender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively, "protected classes"; hereinafter referred to as unlawful harassment), and encourages those within the School District community as well as Third Parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. The Superintendent will investigate all allegations of unlawful harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Superintendent will take immediate steps to end the harassment, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

The District will offer counseling services to any staff member found to have been subjected to unlawful harassment, and, where appropriate, the person(s) who committed the unlawful harassment.

Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to abridge the rights of students or school employees that are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

II. **Other Violations of the Anti-Harassment Policy**

The Superintendent will also take immediate steps to impose disciplinary action on individuals engaging in any of the following prohibited acts:

A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation.

B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of unlawful harassment.

C. Disregarding, failing to investigate adequately, or delaying the investigation of allegations of unlawful harassment, when responsibility for reporting and/or investigating unlawful harassment charges comprises part of one's supervisory duties.

III. **Definitions**

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

Complainant is the individual who alleges, or is alleged, to have been subjected to unlawful harassment, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged harassment.

Respondent is the individual who has been alleged to have engaged in unlawful harassment, regardless of whether the reporting party files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged harassment.

School District community means students and Board employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and classified staff), as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

Third Parties include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

Day(s): Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

A. Bullying

Bullying rises to the level of unlawful harassment when one or more persons systematically and chronically inflict physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more students or employees and that bullying is based upon sex, race (including anti-Semitism), color, national origin, religion, or disability, that is, characteristics that are protected by Federal civil rights laws. It is defined as any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation. This unlawful harassment may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. teasing;
2. threats;
3. intimidation;
4. stalking;
5. cyberstalking;
6. cyberbullying;
7. physical violence;
8. theft;
9. sexual, religious, or racial harassment;
10. public humiliation; or
11. destruction of property.

B. "Harassment" means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal, or physical conduct directed against a student or a school employee that:

1. places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;
2. has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits; or
3. has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

C. Sexual Harassment

For purposes of this policy and consistent with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, "sexual harassment" is defined as:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical

conduct of a sexual nature, when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, or status in a class, educational program, or activity.

2. Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or educational decisions affecting such individual.

3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity.

Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of any gender against a person of the same or another gender.

Sexual Harassment covered by Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities is not included in this policy. Allegations of such conduct shall be addressed solely by Policy 2266.

Prohibited acts that constitute sexual harassment under this policy may take a variety of forms. Examples of the kinds of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

1. Unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations.

2. Unwanted physical and/or sexual contact.

3. Threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, academic grade, promotion, classroom work or assignments, academic status, participation in athletics or extra-curricular programs, activities, or events, or other conditions of employment or education may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances.

4. Unwelcome verbal expressions, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, profanity, jokes, or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls.

5. Sexually suggestive objects, pictures, graffiti, videos, posters, audio recordings, or literature placed in the work or educational environment, that may reasonably embarrass or offend individuals.

6. Unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures.

7. Asking about, or telling about, sexual fantasies, sexual preferences, or sexual activities.

8. Speculations about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.

9. Giving unwelcome personal gifts such as lingerie that suggest the desire for a romantic relationship.

10. Leering or staring at someone in a sexual way, such as staring at a person's breasts, buttocks, or groin.

11. A pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another.

12. Consensual sexual relationships where such relationship leads to favoritism of a subordinate employee with whom the superior is sexually involved and where such favoritism adversely affects other employees or otherwise creates a hostile work environment.

13. Verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

14. Inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the School District community into a student's personal space and personal life.

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. Sex-based and gender-based conduct must be sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent such that it adversely affects, limits, or denies an individual's employment, or such that it creates a hostile or abusive employment or educational environment.

D. Sexual Cyber Harassment

Pursuant to Florida law, "sexual cyber harassment" means to publish to an Internet website or disseminate through electronic means to another person a sexually explicit image of a person that contains or conveys the personal identification information of the depicted person without the depicted person's consent, contrary to the depicted person's reasonable expectation that the image would remain private, for no legitimate purpose, with the intent of causing substantial emotional distress to the depicted person. Evidence that the depicted person sent a sexually explicit image to another person does not, on its own, remove his/her reasonable expectation of privacy for that image. Sexual cyber harassment may be a form of sexual harassment.

E. Race/Color Harassment (Including Anti-Semitism)

Prohibited racial harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's race or color and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references relative to racial customs.

Prohibited anti-Semitism harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's Jewish heritage and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is based upon a certain perception of the Jewish people, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jewish people, rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism directed toward a person, his/her property, or toward Jewish community institutions or religious facilities.

F. Religious (Creed) Harassment

Prohibited religious harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's religion or creed and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's religious tradition, clothing, or surnames, and/or involves religious slurs.

G. National Origin Harassment

Prohibited national origin harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal

conduct is based upon an individual's national origin and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's national origin, such as negative comments regarding customs, manner of speaking, language, surnames, or ethnic slurs.

H. Disability Harassment

Prohibited disability harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's disability and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's disability, such as negative comments about speech patterns, movement, physical impairments or defects/appearances, or the like. Such harassment may further occur where conduct is directed at or pertains to a person's genetic information.

I. Pregnancy Harassment

Prohibited pregnancy harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's pregnancy and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's pregnancy and condition of pregnancy.

IV. Reports and Complaints of Harassing Conduct

Members of the School District community and Third Parties, which includes all staff, are encouraged to promptly report incidents of unlawful harassing conduct to an administrator, supervisor, or other School District official so that the Superintendent may address the conduct before it becomes severe, pervasive, or persistent. Any administrator, supervisor, or other District official who receives such a report shall file it with the District's Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer within two (2) days of receiving the report of harassment.

Members of the School District community and Third Parties who believe they have been unlawfully harassed by another member of the School District community or a Third Party are entitled to utilize the Board's complaint process that is set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the Complainant's employment or participation in educational or extra-curricular programs unless the Complainant makes the complaint maliciously or with knowledge that it is false. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints of harassment under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

If, during an investigation of reported act of bullying and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Harassment, the principal or his/her designee believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile work environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on sex, race (including anti-Semitism), color, national origin, religion, or disability, the principal or his/her designee will report the act of bullying and/or harassment to one of the Compliance Officers who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. If the alleged harassment involves Sexual Harassment as defined by Policy 2266, the matter will be handled in accordance with the grievance process and procedures outlined in Policy 2266. While the Compliance Officer investigates the allegation, or while the matter is being addressed pursuant to Policy 2266, the Principal shall suspend Policy 5517.01 investigation to await the Compliance Officer's written report or the determination or responsibility pursuant to Policy 2266. The Compliance Officer shall keep the Principal informed of the status of the Policy 1362 investigation and provide the Principal with a copy of the resulting written report. Likewise, the Title IX Coordinator will provide the Principal with the determination of responsibility that results from

the Policy 2266 grievance process.

A. Compliance Officer

The following individuals serve as "Compliance Officer" for the District. They are hereinafter referred to as the "Compliance Officer". The CO shall also serve as the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinators.

Schools and Educational Facilities
Dr. Robert "Pace" Edwards
Title IX Coordinator
2501 63rd Avenue East
Bradenton, Florida 32403
(941) 751-6550 x43038
Email: Edwards2p@manateeschools.net

District & Employment
Richard Bailey ~~Wendy Mungillo~~
~~Director~~ Chief of Human Resources
~~Student~~ School Support Center
215 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
(941) 708-8770 x 41239
Email: baileyr3@manateeschools.net ~~mungillow@manateeschools.net~~

B. Publication Required

The name(s), title(s), and contact information of these individuals will be published annually in the Staff handbooks and/or on the School District's website.

The names, titles, and/or contact information of the persons presently serving as Compliance Officer may change from time to time, and such changes shall be deemed technical corrections within the meaning of Bylaw 0131.1 and shall be made pursuant to that bylaw.

E. Duties and Responsibilities

An Compliance Officer will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful harassment, to assist students, other members of the School District community, and Third Parties who seek support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the individual in those instances where concerns have not resulted in the filing of a formal complaint and where all parties are in agreement to participate in an informal process.

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful harassment of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer within two (2) days. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer or designee must contact the Complainant, if over age eighteen (18) or the Complainant's parents/guardians if the Complainant is under the age eighteen (18), within two (2) days to advise of the Superintendent's intent to investigate the alleged misconduct, including the obligation of the compliance officer or designee to conduct an investigation following all the procedures outlined for a formal complaint.

The Compliance Officer are assigned to accept complaints of unlawful harassment directly from any member of the School District community or a visitor to the District or to receive complaints which are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint either directly or through a school building administrator, the Compliance Officer will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the member of the School District community alleging harassment), or the Compliance Officer will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. In the case of a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will prepare, after consultation with the Staff Attorney, recommendations for the Superintendent or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a

designee. All members of the School District community must report incidents of unlawful harassment which are reported to them to an Compliance Officer within five (5) days of learning of the incident.

V. **Investigation and Complaint Procedure**

Except for Sexual Harassment that is covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Program or Activities, any employee or other member of the School District community or Third Party who believes that they have been subjected to unlawful harassment may seek resolution of the complaint through the procedures described below. The formal complaint process involves an investigation of the Complainant's claims of harassment or retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment or retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) days of the complaint being received).

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment or retaliation with the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), the Florida Commission on Human Relations (FCHR), and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

A. Informal Complaint Procedure

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to promptly stop inappropriate behavior and to facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for a student, other member of the School District community, or Third Party who alleges unlawful harassment or retaliation. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint.

Employees, other members of the School District community, or Third Parties who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against may initiate their complaint through this informal complaint process, but are not required to do so. The informal process is only available in those circumstances where the Complainant and the Respondent mutually agree to participate in it.

The Complainant may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All complaints involving a District employee, any other adult member of the School District community, or a Third Party and a student will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if a Complainant feels comfortable and safe in doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the Respondent that the alleged harassing conduct is unwelcome and must stop. The Complainant should address the allegedly harassing conduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The Compliance Officer is available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the Complainant if requested to do so. A Complainant who is uncomfortable or unwilling to directly approach the Respondent about the allegedly inappropriate conduct may file an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful harassment, such as sexual harassment, the Compliance Officer may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

A Complainant may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a teacher, other employee, or building administrator; (2) to the Superintendent or other District-level employee; and/or (3) directly to one of the Compliance Officers.

All informal complaints must be reported to the Compliance Officer who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below or appoint another individual to facilitate an

informal resolution.

The School District's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide employees, other members of the School District community, or Third Parties who believe they are being unlawfully harassed by another individual with a range of options designed to bring about a resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the Complainant, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

1. Advising the Complainant about how to communicate the unwelcome nature of the behavior to the Respondent.

2. Distributing a copy of this policy as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the Respondent works or attends.

3. If both parties agree, the Compliance Officer may arrange and facilitate a meeting or mediation between the Complainant and Respondent to work out a mutual resolution.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the Compliance Officer or designee is directed to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) days of receiving the informal complaint. If the Complainant is dissatisfied with the informal complaint process, the Complainant may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, either party may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All materials generated as part of the informal complaint process will be retained by the Compliance Officers or designee in accordance with the Board's records retention policy. (See Policy 8310 and Policy 8320)

B. Formal Complaint Procedure

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one of the parties has requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or the Complainant, from the outset, elects to file a formal complaint, or the CO determines the allegations are not appropriate for resolution through the informal process, the formal complaint process as described below shall be implemented.

This formal complaint process is not intended to interfere with the rights of an employee, other member of the School District community, or third party to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment with the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, the Florida Civil Rights Commission, or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The Complainant may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing with a teacher, principal, or other District official, the Compliance Officer, Superintendent, or other District official. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment and retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a teacher, principal, or other District official, the Compliance Officer, Superintendent, or other District official, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of harassment, that employee must report such information to the Compliance Officer within two (2) days.

Throughout the course of the process as described herein, the Compliance Officer should keep the parties reasonably informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent known: the identity of the Respondent; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based (i.e., when, where, and what occurred); a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the complainant.

If the Complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the Compliance Officer shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter the Compliance Officer will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the Complainant from further harassment or retaliation including but not limited to a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the Respondent. In making such a determination, the Compliance Officer should consult the Complainant to assess his/her agreement to any action deemed appropriate. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to any change that is deemed appropriate by the Compliance Officer, the Compliance Officer may still take whatever actions deemed appropriate in consultation with the Superintendent and/or Board Attorney.

Within two (2) days of receiving a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer or a designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the complainant has been subjected to offensive conduct/harassment/retaliation. The Principal will not conduct an investigation unless directed to do so by the Compliance Officer.

Simultaneously, the Compliance Officer will inform the Respondent that a formal complaint has been received. The respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative procedures and the Board's anti-harassment policy shall be provided to the respondent at that time. The respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the formal complaint within five (5) days.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the Compliance Officer or a designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of harassment/retaliation within fifteen (15) days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:

1. interviews with the Complainant;

2. interviews with the Respondent;

3. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations;

4. consideration of any documentation or other evidence presented by the complainant, respondent, or any other witness which is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Compliance Officer/designee shall consult with the Staff Attorney. A written report shall then be prepared and delivered to the Superintendent which summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful harassment as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Respondent engaged in unlawful harassment/retaliation of the Complainant. The Compliance Officer recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In determining if discriminatory harassment or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The Compliance Officer may consult with the Board Attorney before finalizing the report to the Superintendent.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) days of receiving the report of the Compliance Officer or the designee, the Superintendent must either issue a written decision regarding whether or not the complaint of harassment has been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Superintendent's final decision will be delivered to both the complainant and the respondent.

If the Superintendent requests additional investigation, the Superintendent must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be

completed within five (5) days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Superintendent must issue a final written decision as described above.

The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

The Superintendent reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful harassment regardless of whether the member of the School District community or Third Party alleging the unlawful harassment pursues the complaint. The Superintendent also reserves the right to have the formal complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

The parties may be represented, at their own cost, at any of the above-described meetings/hearings.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, the filing of charges with local law enforcement, or the filing of a civil action in court. Use of this internal complaint process is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

VI. Privacy/Confidentiality

The School District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the Complainant, the Respondent, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy and related administrative procedures shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, the Respondent must be provided the Complainant's identity.

During the course of a formal investigation, the Compliance Officer or designee will instruct all members of the School District community and third parties who are interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of a harassment investigation is expected not to disclose any information that is learned or provided during the course of the investigation.

All public records created as a part of an investigation of a complaint of harassment will be maintained by the Compliance Officer in accordance with the Board's records retention policy. Any records which are considered student records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act will be maintained in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Federal and State laws.

VII. Sanctions and Monitoring

The Superintendent shall vigorously enforce the Board's prohibitions against unlawful harassment by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop the harassment/retaliation and prevent further such harassment. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s). When imposing discipline, the Superintendent shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In those cases where unlawful harassment is not substantiated, the Superintendent may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies, consistent with the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s).

Where the Superintendent becomes aware that a prior remedial action has been taken against a member of the School District community, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Superintendent shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects.

VIII. Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful harassment/retaliation or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

IX. Allegations Constituting Criminal Conduct: Child Abuse/Sexual Misconduct

State law requires any teacher or school employee who knows or suspects that a child under the age of eighteen (18) is a victim of child abuse or neglect to immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to the Department of Children and Family Services. If, during the course of a harassment investigation, the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe or suspect that the alleged conduct reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the complainant, a report of such knowledge must be made in accordance with State law and Board policy.

If the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe that the complainant has been the victim of criminal conduct as defined under Florida law, such knowledge should be reported to local law enforcement.

Any reports made to the local child protection service or to local law enforcement shall not terminate the Compliance Officer or a designee's obligation and responsibility to continue to investigate a complaint of harassment. While the Compliance Officer or a designee may work cooperatively with outside agencies to conduct concurrent investigations, in no event shall the harassment investigation be inhibited by the involvement of outside agencies without good cause after consultation with the Superintendent.

X. Mandatory Reporting of Misconduct by Certificated Employees

The Superintendent is required by State law and Board Policy 8141 to report alleged misconduct by certificated employees of the District that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student. In accordance with Board policy and State law, the Superintendent shall investigate each allegation of such conduct and, if confirmed, shall report such misconduct pursuant to Policy 8141.

XI. Education and Training

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information provided regarding this policy and harassment in general, will be age and content appropriate.

XII. Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials

The Compliance Officer is responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this

policy shall retain all information, documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and received as part of an investigation, including, but not limited to:

A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/statements;

B. narratives of all verbal reports/allegations/complaints/statements;

C. a narrative of all actions taken by District personnel;

D. any written documentation of actions taken by District personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities;

E. written witness statements;

F. narratives of, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness statements;

G. all documentary evidence;

H. e-mails, texts, or social media posts pertaining to the investigation;

I. contemporaneous notes in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.) pertaining to the investigation;

J. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and a narrative of verbal disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of the policies and procedures prohibiting discrimination or harassment;

K. dated written determinations to the parties;

L. dated written descriptions of verbal notifications to the parties;

M. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;

N. documentation of any supportive measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and/or the Respondent, including no-contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no-contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no-contact orders;

O. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Code of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);

P. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment; and

Q. documentation of any training provided to District personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all District personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy.

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal and/or State law (e.g., student records).

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, and

Policy 8320 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

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Revised 11/9/21
Revised 4/12/22

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5517 - **ANTI-HARASSMENT**

I. **General Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the School Board to maintain an educational and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all School District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Board.

The Board will vigorously enforce its prohibition against discriminatory harassment on the basis of race (including anti-Semitism [as defined in Bylaw 0100]), ethnicity, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation, gender status, or gender identity), disability (including HIV, AIDS, or sickle cell trait), pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively, "protected classes") (hereinafter referred to as unlawful harassment), and encourages those within the School District community as well as Third Parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. The Board will investigate all allegations of unlawful harassment and in those cases where unlawful harassment is substantiated, the Board will take immediate steps to end the harassment, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects. Individuals who are found to have engaged in unlawful harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

The District will offer counseling services to any person found to have been subjected to unlawful harassment, and, where appropriate, the person(s) who committed the unlawful harassment.

Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to abridge the rights of students or school employees that are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

II. **Other Violations of the Anti-Harassment Policy**

The Board will also take immediate steps to impose disciplinary action on individuals engaging in any of the following prohibited acts:

A. Retaliating against a person who has made a report or filed a complaint alleging unlawful harassment, or who has participated as a witness in a harassment investigation.

B. Filing a malicious or knowingly false report or complaint of unlawful harassment.

C. Disregarding, failing to investigate adequately, or delaying the investigation of allegations of unlawful harassment, when responsibility for reporting and/or investigating unlawful harassment charges comprises part of one's supervisory duties.

III. **Definitions**

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

Complainant is the individual who alleges, or is alleged, to have been subjected to unlawful harassment, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged harassment.

Respondent is the individual who has been alleged to have engaged in unlawful harassment, regardless of whether the reporting party files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged harassment.

School District community means students and Board employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and classified staff), as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

Third Parties include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

Day(s): Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

A. Bullying

Bullying rises to the level of unlawful harassment when one or more persons systematically and chronically inflict physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more students or employees and that bullying is based upon sex, race (including anti-Semitism), color, national origin, religion, or disability, that is, characteristics that are protected by Federal civil rights laws. It is defined as any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation; and may involve:

1. teasing;
2. threats;
3. intimidation;
4. stalking;
5. cyberstalking;
6. cyberbullying;
7. physical violence;
8. theft;
9. sexual, religious, or racial harassment;
10. public humiliation; or
11. destruction of property.

B. Harassment

Harassment means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that:

1. places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;
2. has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits; or
3. has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

C. Sexual Harassment

For purposes of this policy and consistent with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, "sexual harassment" is defined as:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, or status in a class, educational program, or activity.

2. Submission or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or educational decisions affecting such individual.

3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity.

Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of any gender against a person of the same or another gender.

Sexual Harassment covered by Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities is not included in this policy. Allegations of such conduct shall be addressed solely by Policy 2266.

Prohibited acts that constitute sexual harassment under this policy may take a variety of forms. Examples of the kinds of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

1. Unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations.

2. Physical and/or sexual assault.

3. Threats or insinuations that a person's employment, wages, academic grade, promotion, classroom work or assignments, academic status, participation in athletics or extra-curricular programs, activities, or events, or other conditions of employment or education may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances.

4. Unwelcome verbal expressions, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; the unwelcome use of sexually degrading language, profanity, jokes or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls.

5. Sexually suggestive objects, pictures, graffiti, videos, posters, audio recordings, or literature, placed in the work or educational environment, that may reasonably embarrass or offend individuals.

6. Unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures.

7. Asking about, or telling about, sexual fantasies, sexual preferences, or sexual activities.

8. Speculations about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.

9. Giving unwelcome personal gifts such as lingerie that suggest the desire for a romantic relationship.

10. Leering or staring at someone in a sexual way, such as staring at a person's breasts, buttocks, or groin.

11. Pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to

another.

12. Verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

13. Inappropriate boundary invasions by a District employee or other adult member of the School District community into a student's personal space and personal life.

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. Sex-based or gender-based conduct must be sufficiently severe, pervasive, and persistent such that it adversely affects, limits, or denies an individual's education, or such that it creates a hostile or abusive educational environment, or such that it is intended to, or has the effect of, denying or limiting a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the educational program or activities.

D. Sexual Cyberharassment

Pursuant to Florida law, "sexual cyberharassment" means to publish to an Internet website or disseminate through electronic means to another person a sexually explicit image of a person that contains or conveys the personal identification information of the depicted person without the depicted person's consent, contrary to the depicted person's reasonable expectation that the image would remain private, for no legitimate purpose, with the intent of causing substantial emotional distress to the depicted person. Evidence that the depicted person sent a sexually explicit image to another person does not, on its own, remove his/her reasonable expectation of privacy for that image. Sexual cyber harassment may be a form of sexual harassment.

E. Race/Color Harassment (Including Anti-Semitism)

Prohibited racial harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's race or color and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's race or color, such as racial slurs, nicknames implying stereotypes, epithets, and/or negative references relative to racial customs.

Prohibited anti-Semitism harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's Jewish heritage and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is based upon a certain perception of the Jewish people, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jewish people, rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism directed toward a person, his/her property, or toward Jewish community institutions or religious facilities.

F. Religious (Creed) Harassment

Prohibited religious harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's religion or creed and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's religious tradition, clothing, or surnames, and/or involves religious slurs.

G. National Origin Harassment

Prohibited national origin harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's national origin and when the conduct has the purpose

or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's national origin, such as negative comments regarding customs, manner of speaking, language, surnames, or ethnic slurs.

H. Disability Harassment

Prohibited disability harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's disability and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's disability, such as negative comments about speech patterns, movement, physical impairments or defects/appearances, or the like.

I. Pregnancy Harassment

Prohibited pregnancy harassment occurs when unwelcome physical, verbal, or nonverbal conduct is based upon an individual's pregnancy and when the conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with the individual's work or educational performance; of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working and/or learning environment; or of interfering with one's ability to participate in or benefit from a class or an educational program or activity. Such harassment may occur where conduct is directed at the characteristics of a person's pregnancy and condition of pregnancy.

IV. Reports and Complaints of Harassing Conduct

Board employees are required to promptly report incidents of unlawful harassing conduct to an administrator, supervisor, or other School District official so that the Board may address the conduct before it becomes severe, pervasive, or persistent. Students and all other members of the School District community, as well as Third Parties, are encouraged to promptly report incidents of unlawful harassing conduct to a teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other School District employee or official so that the Board may address the conduct before it becomes severe, pervasive, or persistent. Any teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District employee or official who receives such a report shall file it with the District's Anti-Harassment Compliance Officer within two (2) days of receiving the report of harassment.

Members of the School District community, which includes students, or Third Parties who believe they have been unlawfully harassed are entitled to utilize the Board's complaint process that is set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the Complainant's employment or participation in educational or extra-curricular programs unless the complaining individual makes the complaint maliciously or with the knowledge that it is false. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints of harassment under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

If, during an investigation of reported act of bullying and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Harassment, the principal or his/her designee believes that the reported misconduct may have created a hostile learning environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment based on sex, race (including anti-Semitism), color, national origin, religion, or disability, the principal or his/her designee will report the act of bullying and/or harassment to one of the Compliance Officers who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. If the alleged harassment involves Sexual Harassment as defined by Policy 2266, the matter will be handled in accordance with the grievance process and procedures outlined in Policy 2266. While the Compliance Officer investigates the allegation, or while the matter is being addressed pursuant to Policy 2266, the Principal shall suspend the Policy 5517.01 investigation to await the Compliance Officer's written report or the determination or responsibility pursuant to Policy 2266. The Compliance Officer shall keep the Principal informed of the status of the Policy 5517 investigation and provide the Principal with a copy of the resulting written report. Likewise,

the Title IX Coordinator will provide the Principal with the determination of responsibility that results from the Policy 2266 grievance process.

A. Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's "Compliance Officers" (also known as "Civil Rights Coordinators"; hereinafter referred to as the "COs").

The COs shall also serve as the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinators.

Schools and Educational Facilities
Dr. Robert "Pace" Edwards
Title IX Coordinator
2501 63rd Avenue East
Bradenton, Florida 32403
(941) 751-6550 x43038
Email: Edwards2p@manateeschools.net

District & Employment
Richard Bailey ~~Wendy Mungillo~~
~~Director~~ Chief of Human Resources
~~Student~~ School Support Center
215 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, Florida 34205
(941) 708-8770 x41239
Email: baileyr3@manateeschools.net ~~mungillow@manateeschools.net~~

B. Publication Required

The names, titles, and contact information for these individuals will be published annually in the staff handbooks and/or on the School District's website.

A Compliance Officer will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful harassment, to assist students, other members of the School District community, and third parties who seek support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct or to intercede informally on behalf of the student.

C. Duties and Responsibilities

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful harassment of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the Compliance Officers within two (2) business days. Thereafter, the Compliance Officer or designee must contact the Complainant, if age eighteen (18) or older, or the Complainant's parents/guardians if under the age of eighteen (18), within two (2) business days to advise them of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged misconduct, including the obligation of the compliance officer or designee to conduct an investigation following all the procedures outlined for a formal complaint.

The Compliance Officers are assigned to accept complaints of unlawful harassment directly from any member of the School District community or a visitor to the District or to receive complaints that are initially filed with a school building administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint either directly or through a school building administrator, a Compliance Officer will begin either an informal or formal process (depending on the request of the member of the School District community alleging harassment or the nature of the alleged harassment), or the Compliance Officer will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. In the case of a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will prepare recommendations for the Superintendent or will oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the School District community must report incidents of harassment that are reported to them to the Compliance Officer within two (2) days of learning of the incident.

V. **Investigation and Complaint Procedure**

Except for Sexual Harassment that is covered by Policy 2266 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Program or Activities, any student who believes that they have been subjected to unlawful harassment may seek resolution of the complaint through the procedures described below. The formal complaint process involves an investigation of the Complainant's claims of harassment or retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) days of the complaint being received).

The procedures set forth below are not intended to interfere with the rights of a student to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment with the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, the Florida Civil Rights Commission, and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

A. Informal Complaint Procedure

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to promptly stop inappropriate behavior and to facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for a student who alleges unlawful harassment or retaliation. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint.

Students, other members of the School District community or Third Parties who believe that they have been unlawfully harassed or retaliated against, may initiate their complaint through this informal complaint process, but are not required to do so. The informal process is only available in those circumstances where the Complainant and the Respondent mutually agree to participate in it.

The Complainant may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

However, all complaints of harassment involving a District employee or any other adult member of the School District community against a student will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if a Complainant feels comfortable and safe in doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the Respondent that the alleged harassing conduct is unwelcome and must stop. The Complainant should address the allegedly harassing conduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The Compliance Officers are available to support and counsel individuals when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the Complainant if requested to do so. A Complainant who is uncomfortable or unwilling to directly approach the Respondent about the allegedly inappropriate conduct may file an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful harassment, such as sexual harassment, the Compliance Officer may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

A Complainant may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a teacher, other employee, or building administrator in the school the student attends; (2) to the Superintendent or other District-level employee; and/or (3) directly to one of the Compliance Officers.

All informal complaints must be reported to the Compliance Officers who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.

The School District's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide students, other members of the School District community and Third Parties who believe they are being

unlawfully harassed by a student with a range of options designed to bring about a resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the complaint and the wishes of the Complainant, informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

1. Advising the Complainant about how to communicate the unwelcome nature of the behavior to the Respondent.

2. Distributing a copy of this policy as a reminder to the individuals in the school building or office where the Respondent works or attends.

3. If both parties agree, the Compliance Officers may arrange and facilitate a meeting or a mediation between the Complainant and the Respondent to work out a mutual resolution.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the Compliance Officers or designee is directed to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) days of receiving the informal complaint. If the Complainant is dissatisfied with the results of the informal complaint process, the Complainant may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, either party may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

B. Formal Complaint Procedure

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one of the parties has requested that the informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or the Complainant, from the outset, elects to file a formal complaint, or the CO determines the allegations are not appropriate for resolution through the informal process, the formal complaint process as described below shall be implemented.

This formal complaint process is not intended to interfere with the rights of a student, other member of the School District community, or third party to pursue a complaint of unlawful harassment with the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, the Florida Civil Rights Commission, or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The Complainant may file a formal complaint, either orally or in writing with a teacher, principal, or other District official at the student's school, the Compliance Officer, Superintendent, or other District official who works at another school or at the district level. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful harassment, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If a Complainant informs a teacher, principal, or other District official at the student's school, the Compliance Officer, Superintendent, or other District employee, either orally or in writing, about any complaint of harassment, that employee must report such information to the Compliance Officer or designee within two (2) days.

Throughout the course of the process, as described herein, the Compliance Officer should keep the parties reasonably informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent known: the identity of the Respondent; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based (i.e., when, where, and what occurred); and a list of potential witnesses and the resolution sought by the complainant.

If the complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the Compliance Officer shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter the Compliance Officer will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the complainant from further harassment or retaliation including but not limited to a change of class schedule for the Complainant and/or the Respondent, or possibly a change of school for either or both of the parties. In making such a determination, the Compliance Officer should consult the Complainant to assess whether the individual agrees to any action deemed appropriate. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to any change that is deemed appropriate by the Compliance Officer, the Compliance Officer may still take whatever actions deemed appropriate in consultation with the Superintendent and/or Board Attorney.

Within two (2) days of receiving a formal complaint, the Compliance Officer will inform the Respondent that a formal complaint has been received. The Respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and a copy of any relevant policies and/or administrative procedures and the Board's anti-harassment policy shall be provided to the respondent at that time. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) days.

Within two (2) days of receiving the complaint, the Compliance Officer or a designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the complainant has been subject to offensive conduct/harassment. The principal will not conduct an investigation unless directed to do so by the Compliance Officer.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the Compliance Officer or a designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of harassment within fifteen (15) days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:

1. interviews with the Complainant;

2. interviews with the Respondent;

3. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations;

4. consideration of any documentation or other evidence presented by the complainant, respondent, or any other witness which is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Compliance Officer or the designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Superintendent which summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful harassment as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether Respondent engaged in unlawful harassment/retaliation of the Complainant. In determining if discriminatory harassment or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The Compliance Officer's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. The Compliance Officer may consult with the Board Attorney before finalizing the report to the Superintendent.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the Compliance Officer or the designee, the Superintendent must either issue a written decision regarding whether or not the complaint of harassment has been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Superintendent's final decision will be delivered to both the complainant and the respondent.

If the Superintendent requests additional investigation, the Superintendent must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5)) business days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Superintendent must issue a final written decision as described above.

The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

In an attempt to resolve the complaint, the Board shall meet with the concerned parties and their representatives within twenty (20) business days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each party within ten (10) business days of this meeting. The decision of the Board will be final.

The Board reserves the right to investigate and resolve a complaint or report of unlawful harassment regardless of whether the member of the School District community or Third Party alleging the unlawful harassment pursues the complaint. The Board also reserves the right to have the formal complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy or in such other manner as deemed appropriate by the Board or its designee.

The parties may be represented, at their own cost, at any of the above-described meetings/hearings.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, the filing of charges with local law enforcement, or the filing of a civil action in court. Use of this internal complaint process is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

VI. Privacy/Confidentiality

The School District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the complainant, the Respondent, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy and related administrative procedures shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, however. Additionally, the Respondent must be provided the Complainant's identity.

During the course of a formal investigation, the Compliance Officer or his/her designee will instruct all members of the School District community and third parties who are interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of a harassment investigation is expected not to disclose any information that is learned or provided during the course of the investigation.

All public records created as a part of an investigation of a complaint of harassment will be maintained by the Compliance Officer in accordance with the Board's records retention policy. Any records which are considered student records in accordance with the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* will be maintained in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Federal law.

VII. Sanctions and Monitoring

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful harassment/retaliation by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop the harassment and prevent further such harassment. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s). When imposing discipline, the Superintendent shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In those cases where unlawful harassment is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies, consistent with the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s).

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior remedial action has been taken against a member of the School District community, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Superintendent shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects.

VIII. Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful harassment/retaliation or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

IX. Allegations Constituting Criminal Conduct: Child Abuse/Sexual Misconduct

State law requires any teacher or school employee who knows or suspects that a child with a disability under the age of twenty-one (21) or that a child under the age of eighteen (18) is a victim of child abuse or neglect to immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to the Department of Children and Family Services. If, during the course of a harassment investigation, the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe or suspect that the alleged conduct reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of the complainant, a report of such knowledge must be made in accordance with State law and Board policy.

If the Compliance Officer or a designee has reason to believe that the complainant has been the victim of criminal conduct as defined under Florida law, such knowledge should be reported to local law enforcement.

Any reports made to the local child protection service or to local law enforcement shall not terminate the Compliance Officer's or a designee's obligation and responsibility to continue to investigate a complaint of harassment. While the Compliance Officers or a designee may work cooperatively with outside agencies to conduct concurrent investigations, in no event shall the harassment investigation be inhibited by the involvement of outside agencies without good cause after consultation with the Superintendent.

X. Mandatory Reporting of Misconduct by Certificated Employees

The Superintendent is required by State law and Board Policy 8141 to report alleged misconduct by certificated employees of the District that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student. In accordance with Board policy and State law, the Superintendent shall investigate each allegation of such conduct and, if confirmed, shall report such misconduct pursuant to Policy 8141.

XI. Education and Training

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information provided regarding this policy and harassment, in general, will be age and content appropriate.

XII. Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials

The Compliance Officer(s) is responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this

policy shall retain all information, documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and received as part of an investigation, including, but not limited to:

A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/statements;

B. narratives of all verbal reports/allegations/complaints/statements;

C. a narrative of all actions taken by District personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities;

D. any written documentation of actions taken by District personnel;

E. written witness statements;

F. narratives of, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness statements;

G. all documentary evidence;

H. e-mails, texts, or social media posts pertaining to the investigation;

I. contemporaneous notes in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.) pertaining to the investigation;

J. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and a narrative of verbal disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of the policies and procedures prohibiting discrimination or harassment;

K. dated written determinations to the parties;

L. dated written descriptions of verbal notifications to the parties;

M. written documentation of any supportive measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and/or the Respondent, including no-contact orders issued to both parties, the dates issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt;

N. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;

O. documentation of any supportive measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and/or the Respondent, including no-contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no-contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no-contact orders;

P. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Code of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);

Q. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment; and

R. documentation of any training provided to District personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all District personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy.

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal and/or State law (e.g., student records).

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, and Policy 8330 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

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2520 - SELECTION AND ADOPTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The School Board adopts courses of study pursuant to State law. When adopting courses of study, State law also requires the Board to adopt and provide adequate instructional materials to students enrolled in the District.

"Adequate instructional materials" means a sufficient number of student or site licenses or sets of materials that are available in bound, unbound, kit, or package form and may consist of hard-backed or soft-backed textbooks, electronic content, consumables, learning laboratories, manipulatives, electronic media, and computer courseware or software that serves as the basis for instruction for each student in the core courses of mathematics, language arts, social studies, science, reading, and literature.

Furthermore, Federal law requires the Board to provide accessible instructional materials as specified in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). Such accessible instructional materials may be of a type or in a format as specified in the definition of adequate instructional materials in this policy.

As required by State law, instructional materials adopted and used in the District shall be consistent with the goals and objectives in the District's adopted course of study and with the course descriptions established by State Board rule. The Board is responsible for the content of all instructional materials and any other materials used in a classroom, made available in a school library, or included on a reading list. Upon written request, an individual will be provided access to material or books specified in the written request that are maintained in a District library if such material or books are available for review. The school principal shall arrange for a convenient time to provide such access.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures that set forth a process to involve staff in the review and evaluation of instructional materials. The staff involved in this process shall recommend to the Superintendent for submission to the Board for adoption the instructional materials that address the goals and objectives for adopted courses of study and the course descriptions established by State Board rule. The instructional materials shall be from the State-adopted instructional materials list if there has been a State adoption or from publishers and other resources if there has not been a State adoption. A meeting of a committee for the purpose of ranking, eliminating, or selecting instructional materials for recommendation to the Board must be noticed and open to the public in accordance with F.S. 286.011. A committee convened for such purposes must include parents of District students.

The Superintendent's procedures shall also prescribe the process for the acquisition, management, use, accountability, and reporting requirements of all instructional materials.

Adoption of Instructional Materials

Prior to submitting a recommendation to the Board regarding the recommended instructional materials, those materials will be accessible for review online for at least twenty (20) calendar days prior to the open publicly noticed meeting at which a public hearing will be held so that the Board can receive comment, if any, about the instructional material under consideration for adoption. The Superintendent shall establish reasonable safeguards against the unauthorized use, reproduction, and distribution of the instructional material under consideration.

Following the public hearing, the Board may act upon the Superintendent's recommendation to adopt the instructional materials. The Board will select, approve, and adopt all materials as a separate line item on the regular (non-consent) agenda and will provide a reasonable opportunity for public comment.

At an open publicly noticed meeting following the meeting at which the instructional material is adopted, the Board shall consider a recommendation to approve an annual instructional materials plan that identifies any instructional materials to be purchased pursuant to the instructional materials review process described herein.

The Superintendent shall maintain a list of all adopted instructional materials.

Publication on Website

The Board will publish on its website, in a searchable format, a list of all instructional materials, including those used to provide required instruction under Florida law.

School Library Media Centers and Reading Lists

Effective July 1, 2022, each book newly made available to students through a school library media center or included in a recommended or assigned school or grade level reading list must be selected and approved by a District employee who holds a valid educational media specialist certificate, regardless of whether the book is purchased, donated or otherwise made available to students.

Purchase of Instructional Materials

Following adoption by the Board, requisitions shall be issued to purchase current instructional materials from the State-adopted instructional materials list so that each student in kindergarten through grade 12 will have a major tool of instruction in core courses of the subject areas of mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, reading, and literature. Any materials purchased shall be free of pornography and material prohibited under F.S. 847.012, suited to student needs and their ability to comprehend the material presented, and appropriate for the grade level and age group for which the materials are used or made available. **The Board will purchase all materials as a separate line item on the regular (non-consent) agenda and will provide a reasonable opportunity for public comment.**

Requisitions shall also be issued to purchase instructional materials that will be the major tool of instruction for subjects in the State Course Code Directory for which the Board has adopted courses of study, but for which there are no materials on the State-adopted instructional materials list.

The Superintendent shall approve these purchases.

In any year in which the total instructional materials allocation for District has not been expended or obligated prior to June 30th, the unobligated amount shall be carried forward and added to the next year's allocation.

The District shall maintain on its website a current list of instructional materials, by grade level, purchased by the District.

Presentations to Students

Presentations to individuals or students by outside groups are deemed to be instructional, and as such, are subject to principal approval. These presentations must support the District curriculum and be approved by the principal in writing.

Achieving Desired Results from Instructional Materials

To achieve the desired results, the instructional materials must conform to the following:

A. be used as designed, including the recommended protocols of the time required;

B. support the current Florida State standards and District curriculum;

C. be culturally relevant;

D. be used in such a way that appropriate instructional practices meet the needs of all students, included ESE (Exceptional Student Education), ELL (English Language Learners), and gifted;

E. be the most current materials whether adopted, non-adopted, or ancillary;

F. contribute to achieving the District's mission and strategic objectives;

G. be included as part of teachers' lesson plans.

Criteria for Evaluation of Instructional Materials

As an inherent condition of employment, all instructional personnel must ensure that any materials used with student meet the criteria as follows:

A. support or contribute to achieving the School District's mission, core values, and strategic objectives;

B. provide an accurate portrayal of ethic, socioeconomic, cultural, and racial diversity in our society;

C. are accurate, objective, current, age-appropriate, and suited to the academic needs, reading levels, and comprehension levels of students, including ESE, ELL, and gifted;

D. meet the State and District standards;

E. are free of pornography or materials that are otherwise prohibited by Florida statute.

Use of Electronic Media

A. Instructional staff are required to be knowledgeable of the current School District's procedures regarding the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) Rating System for DVDs and other commercially produced non-print electronic media.

B. The MPAA Rating System is defined as follows:

1. G – Movie suitable for all ages

2. PG – Parental guidance suggested – Contains mature themes, may not be suitable for young children.

3. PG 13 – Parents strongly cautioned – Contains mature themes, may not be suitable for children under thirteen (13) years old.

4. R – Restricted – Contains mature themes (usually sex, violence, or profanity). Children under seventeen (17) not admitted without an adult.

5. NC17 – No children under seventeen (17) admitted.

C. Instructional staff must adhere to rules for using DVDs and other commercially produced electronic medial in the District. The use of electronic media must be relevant to the District curriculum and reflected in the lesson plan.

1. If films having a rating other than G are to be used at the elementary school level, the principal must approve the use and parental permission forms signed by the parent or legal guardian must be on file for each electronic medial title prior to its showing. Teachers will offer parents an opportunity to preview the materials.

2. If films having a rating other than G or PG are to be used at the middle school level, the principal must approve the use and parental permission forms signed by the parent or legal guardian must be on file for each electronic media title prior to its showing. Teachers will offer parents an opportunity to preview the materials.

3. If films having a rating other than G, PG, or PG-13 are to be used at a high school level, the principal must approve the use and parental permission forms signed by the parent or legal guardian must be on file for each electronic media title prior to its showing. Teachers will offer parents an opportunity to preview the materials.

Inventory of Adopted and District-Wide Instructional Materials

A. An annual inventory of all State adopted and District approved instructional materials and related teacher support materials for those items (not including consumables) shall be completed by each school site. This inventory includes materials purchased for use in place of State adopted items. The annual instructional materials inventory shall be completed through the District's approved software program for textbook inventory.

B. Each school shall complete and submit reports showing "0" quantity of unaccounted titles along with a list of lost/unaccounted materials to the District Instructional Materials Office to substantiate that the school's instructional materials inventory is complete. Items marked as "unaccounted for" shall remain marked as such in the inventory record for the duration of the adoption for the subject.

Accountability

A. Each District school is accountable to the Board for the replacement or reimbursement of all lost State adopted and District recommended instructional materials.

B. If a student fails to pay for lost or damaged instructional materials either through monetary payment or community service, the principal may suspend the student from participating in extra-curricular activities until the obligation is satisfied.

C. All instructional materials purchased with District or school funds remain the property of the School District and must be retained at the site. Teachers to whom materials are checked out must return these materials before transferring to another school or leaving the District. Teachers will be required to pay for lost or damaged materials. If they do not make adequate restitution, they will be subject to disciplinary action. Materials lost by students or teachers will be replaced by the purchase of a duplicate copy in good condition for the first two (2) years after being marked lost or until the end of the adoption whichever comes first or payment of 100% of the original cost. This obligation shall remain open and active until satisfied.

D. Each school principal shall provide information regarding responsibility about and the value of loaned instructional materials to parents, students, and teachers. The District's "Code of Student Conduct" will include reference to the student's responsibility for lost books. The school will ensure that the school's teacher handbook includes reference to the teacher's responsibility regarding instructional materials loaned to them for use.

E. The following Florida statute should be included in both student and teacher handbooks. Responsibility of students and parents for instructional materials are as follows:

1. All instructional materials purchased under the provisions of this part are the property of the District. When distributed to the students, these instructional materials are on loan to the students while they are pursuing their courses of study and are to be returned at the direction of the school principal or the teacher in charge. Each parent of a student to whom or for whom instructional materials have been issued, is liable for any loss or destruction of, or unnecessary damage to, the instructional materials or for failure of the student to return the instructional materials when directed by the school principal or the teacher in charge and shall pay for such loss, destruction, or unnecessary damage as provided by law.

2. Nothing in this part shall be construed to prohibit parents from exercising their right to purchase instructional materials from the School District.

Sale of Instructional Materials

A. The Board does not keep an inventory of instructional materials used in the District's schools for loan or sale to community members.

B. Those wishing to purchase copies of the textbooks used by the students in the School District should contact the Board Instructional Materials Office where assistance in procuring the appropriate materials will be provided.

Obsolete, Unserviceable or Surplus Instructional Materials

A. Instructional materials may become obsolete, unserviceable, or surplus as follows:

1. when they are replaced by newly adopted materials;

2. when the condition of the materials makes them unwanted.

With District level approval through the Instructional Materials Office, schools are encouraged to give their unwanted instructional materials to other public education programs within the District or State, to their teachers to use in developing supplementary teacher materials, to students or others, or to any charitable organization, governmental agency, home education students, or private schools. School District Instructional Materials labels must be removed from any and all surplus materials being received by any organization or individual.

B. District or schools may sell their unwanted instructional materials that are out of adoption to used book dealers, recycling plants, pulp mills, or other persons, firms, or corporations upon such terms as most economically advantageous to the School District.

Replacement and Purchase of Instructional Materials by Students/Parents

Students shall be held responsible for the cost of replacing any instructional materials lost, destroyed, or unnecessarily damaged. Failure to provide payment for the damage or loss may result in the suspension of the student from participation in extra-curricular activities, or the debt may be satisfied by the student performing community service activities at the school site as determined by the school principal.

A student or their parent(s) may purchase a copy of the designated course instructional materials, regardless of format, for the District's purchase price, including shipping, plus ten percent (10%).

Cost of materials may be charged for materials used in those activities beyond the basic curriculum in which a student elects to participate, particularly in activities where the product becomes the property of the student.

Process for Parents and Residents to Contest Adoption of Instructional Materials

The following individuals may file an objection to the adoption of a specific instructional material:

A. parents of students in the District; and

B. residents of the county.

For purposes of this policy, "resident" means a resident of the county who has maintained his/her residence in Florida for the preceding year, has purchased a home that is occupied by him/her as his/her residence, or has established a domicile in Florida pursuant to F.S. 222.17.

Filing a Petition

A parent or resident must file a petition with the Board within thirty (30) calendar days after the Board's adoption of specific instructional material on a form provided by the Board. The petition form shall be publicly available by visiting any school in person or by accessing the link on the Board's website. The petition must be signed by the parent or resident, include the required contact information, and state the objection to the instructional material based on the criteria set forth in F.S. 1006.31(2) or 1006.40(3)(d).

Timeframe for Hearing

When the thirty (30) calendar day period following Board adoption of the instructional material in question has expired, the Board will conduct at least one (1) open public hearing before an unbiased and qualified hearing officer for all timely petitions received.

Hearing Officers

Hearing officers are not employees or agents of the District with the exception of any agreement entered into for purposes of conducting the hearings set forth herein. Hearing officers shall be selected annually by the Board from a list of candidates provided by the Superintendent.

Procedures for Hearings

Petitioners will have an adequate and fair opportunity to be heard and present evidence to the hearing officer. Hearings shall be conducted as follows:

A. The petitioner may make an opening statement.

B. The District's representative may make an opening statement.

C. The petitioner may present evidence (including documents and testimony from witnesses) that instructional material does not meet the criteria of F.S. 1006.31(2) or 1006.40(3)(d) if it was selected for use in a course or otherwise made available to students in the School District but was not subject to the public notice, review, comment, and hearing procedures under F.S. 1006.283(2)(b)8., 9., and 11.

D. The District representative may present evidence (including documents and testimony from witnesses) that the instructional material does meet the criteria of F.S. 1006.31(2) or 1006.40(3)(d) if it was selected for use in a course or otherwise made available to students in the School District but was not subject to the public notice, review, comment, and hearing procedures under F.S. 1006.283(2)(b)8., 9., and 11.

E. The petitioner may make a closing statement.

F. The District representative may make a closing statement.

Within fourteen (14) days of the date of the hearing, the hearing officer shall submit a recommended order to the Board. The Board shall consider the recommended order and enter a final order at a publicly noticed Board meeting. If the petitioner proves that instructional material does not meet the criteria required under F.S. 1006.28, or contains prohibited material under that statute, it shall be removed in accordance with Florida law. The Board's decision is final and not subject to further petition or review.

Hearings under this policy are not subject to the provisions of F.S. Chapter 120.

Parent and Resident Objections to Instructional Material Used in Classrooms, Made Available in a School Library, or Included on a Reading List

Parents and residents of the county may object to the use of a specific instructional material in the classroom, made available in a school library, or included on a reading list based on the criteria set forth in F.S. 1006.28(2)(a)2. or F.S. 1014.05(1)(c).

For purposes of this policy, "resident" means a resident of the county who has maintained their residence in Florida for the preceding year, has purchased a home that is occupied them as their residence, or has established a domicile in Florida pursuant to F.S. 222.17.
Parents and residents of the county should make any such objection in writing to the principal identifying the specific instructional material and stating the basis for the objection.

The principal will review the objection and may meet with the teacher or objector, or both, in an attempt to resolve the objection, which may include using an alternative instructional material. If the objection is not resolved to the objector's satisfaction, the principal shall refer the matter to the appropriate District-level curriculum supervisor.

The District-level curriculum supervisor will meet with the objector and attempt to resolve the objection. If the objection is still not resolved to the objector's satisfaction, the matter will be referred for a hearing, using the hearing procedures set forth in Policy 2520.

If the Board finds that the instructional material does not meet the criteria under F.S. 1006.28(2)(a)2.a. or that any other material contains prohibited content under F.S. 1006.28(2)(a)2.b., the district will discontinue use of the material for any grade level or age group for which such use is inappropriate or unsuitable. The decision of the Board shall be final.

Free School-Related Instructional Materials

Free instructional materials may be accepted for classroom and school purposes under conditions that meet all the following criteria:

A. The initiative for securing the materials should be of the type that teachers seek rather than materials forwarded to them to promote the interests of an outside agency.

B. The materials should fill a legitimate purpose of the school curriculum.

C. The advertising feature of the materials should be minimized.

D. Educational films should contain a minimum amount of commercial advertising.

Equipment or Instructional Materials Vendors

The principal may permit vendors to demonstrate and show only that equipment and instructional materials which can be used to improve the instructional program and which are under consideration for purchase by the school.

New Worlds Reading Initiative

The New Worlds Reading Initiative, created by the Florida Department of Education, provides high-quality, free books directly to K-5 students who are reading below grade level and to improve the literacy skills of students in K-12~~score below a level 3 in the preceding year's statewide English Language Arts Assessment (ELA), or having a substantial reading deficiency~~. The District ~~school district~~ must notify parents of eligible students upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school year options for specific book topics or genres in order to maximize student interest in reading~~in writing and provide them with the application form, which must allow for the selection of specific book topics or genres for the student~~. The ~~d~~District must coordinate monthly book deliveries with the program administrator beginning no later than October and continuing through at least June. ~~However, for the 2021-2022 school year only, delivery may begin no later than December 31, 2021.~~ The ~~d~~District must participate in the initiative by partnering with local nonprofit organizations and raising awareness by using marketing materials provided by the program administrator. A student's eligibility for the initiative continues until promotion to grade 6 or until the parent opts out of the initiative.

The District shall coordinate with each charter school it sponsors for the purposes of identifying eligible students, notifying parents, coordinating book deliveries, providing the opportunity to annually select book topics and genres, and raising awareness of the initiative.

Revised 7/24/18
Revised 1/25/22
Revised 9/13/22

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3120.04 - **EMPLOYMENT OF SUBSTITUTE AND PART-TIME INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF**

When it becomes necessary to employ instructional personnel on a temporary basis, such employment is on a limited-time basis for the purpose of filling a vacancy for which a regular employee cannot be found, or to perform some task of a temporary nature. This employment shall end at the close of the school term, at the end of the fiscal year, or at the time when the temporary task is completed.

A. Substitute Teachers

The School Board authorizes the employment of State and District certificated substitute teachers pursuant to Florida law. The employment of substitute teachers shall be in accordance with a planned program developed by the District.

Each school principal is authorized to employ a substitute teacher when an instructional staff member is unable to perform assigned duties. The principal shall obtain substitute teachers from the approved list published by the Personnel Office.

In the absence of a regular teacher, a substitute teacher shall be employed under the following conditions:

1. All substitute teachers shall observe the same hours and perform the same duties as regular teachers.

2. Each substitute teacher shall conduct classes according to lesson plans and schedules prepared by the teacher who is absent.

3. The principal shall determine whether substitutes will be responsible for the extra-curricular duties assigned to the regular teacher. Each substitute shall leave for the returning teacher a summary of the work covered and work assigned to students.

4. Compensation of substitute teachers shall be established by the Board.

5. Each substitute teacher shall file a complete set of fingerprints as required in Policy 3121.01 - Employment History and Criminal Background Checks.

6. A school may issue a substitute performance report requesting removal of a substitute from service to the school. Three (3) substitute performance reports during the school year, or ten (10) reports total, will result in termination of the substitute. Additionally, the District may remove a substitute teacher from its approved list of substitute teachers with or without cause. The substitute teacher removed from the approved list shall not have no further recourse against the District unless removal from the approved list is in violation of State or Federal law.

Upon request from an early learning coalition serving students in Manatee County, the District will make available to the coalition a list of persons eligible to act as a substitute teacher in this District.

B. Long-Term Substitute Teachers

In the absence of a regular teacher, a long-term substitute teacher shall be employed when it is known or determined that the regular teacher will be absent for more than thirty (30) consecutive work days or for the remainder of the school year. Long term substitutes working in Title I schools must be compliant with qualifications in current Federal laws.

Substitutes may also serve as long term substitutes where position vacancies exist during which time a school will continue to search by posting the vacant position for a regular employee.

If the long-term substitute is assigned as the primary instructor as defined per Rule 6A-1.0503, F.A.C, the substitute is required to hold the required certification for the course to which they are assigned even if their job code is substitute.

C. Part-Time Instructional Staff

The Superintendent is authorized to employ temporary or part-time personnel as needed to teach less than a full school day or less than a full school year.

Part-time positions for summer programs are handled according to summer program procedures. Other District programs such as after school and migrant tutoring may employ part-time instructors providing they hold appropriate certification.

Employees in bargaining units should refer to the current collective bargaining agreement for additional provisions regarding part-time positions for summer programs.

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8100 - **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS**

The School Board may enter into interlocal agreements for such matters as, but not limited to, the transportation of students, for building rental, for maintenance and upkeep of school plants, for the use of school buses for public purposes, including, but not limited to providing for the needs of the transportation disadvantaged, and for other public purposes. The interlocal agreement may provide for reimbursement to the District in full or in part the proportionate share of the fixed and operating costs incurred.

The public agency receiving services from the Board shall indemnify and hold harmless the Board from any and all liability.

The District is prohibited from entering into any interlocal agreement that prohibits or limits the creation of a charter school. An interlocal agreement entered into by the District for the development of only its own District schools, including provisions relating to the extension of infrastructure, may be used by charter schools.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW AND SCHOOL CONCURRENCY

POLICY

The School District's policy is to plan for adequate public school facilities and to require that schools are available at the adopted level-of-service standards concurrent with development's impacts.

F.S. 163.01
F.S. 1002.3301
F.S. 1003.02
F.S .1006.261

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9800 - **CHARTER SCHOOLS**

F.S. 1002.33 gives the School Board oversight responsibility for all charter schools situated within Manatee County. The Board, referred to as the "sponsor" or "District", designates the Superintendent to receive and review all charter applications. The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board the approval or denial of each charter application and charter contract. The Board shall have final authority, by majority vote, to approve or deny any application and charter contract.

Approved charter schools are public schools and shall receive goods and services from the sponsor as required by law and/or specified through a contract with the sponsor.

If approved, the initial charter shall be for a term of five (5) years, excluding up to three (3) planning years. The sponsor may renew charters under the conditions and for terms as set forth in State law.

In addition, a charter school that satisfied the requirements set forth in State law for designation as a high-performing charter school may receive a modification of its term to fifteen (15) years or a fifteen year (15-year) charter renewal. The charter may be modified or renewed for a shorter term at the option of the high-performing charter school.

The Board shall enter into a charter with a charter operator with the focus on three (3) areas of charter school operations: academic accountability, fiscal management, and governance. The Board, as the sponsor, shall perform the duties provided in F.S. 1002.33.

Student academic achievement for all students is the most important factor when determining whether to renew or terminate a charter. Additionally, the Board has the right to non-renew or terminate any charter **only** if the Board **expressly** finds that one (1) of the following grounds exists by clear and convincing evidence:

A. fails to participate in the State's education accountability system created in F.S. 1008.31, or fails to meet the requirement for student performance as specified in the charter;

B. fails to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management **due to deteriorating financial conditions or financial emergencies determined pursuant to F.S. 1002.**;

C. materially violates the law~~;~~

D. ~~**materially breaches the charter, as described in State law;**~~

E. immediate and serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the charter school's students; and/or

F. ~~**for other good cause shown.**~~

Application Procedure

Potential applicants should send letters notifying the sponsor of their intent to submit an application to open a public charter school no later than July 1st. Such correspondence should be directed to the Department of District Support. Failing to send the letter of intent will in no way negatively impact the application.

Final Charter School Application

~~**Final applications for a public charter school that are to be opened at the beginning of the sponsor's next school year, or to be opened at a time agreed to by the applicant and the sponsor, will be accepted no later than the close of business, on the submission deadline of February 1st, or before. If the submission deadline falls on a non-business day, the deadline shall be postponed to the same time on the next business day. Applications may be mailed or hand delivered but receipt by the sponsor must be on or before the deadline.Beginning in 2018 and thereafter, the District shall receive and consider applications received on or before the close of business on February 1st of each calendar year for charter schools to be opened eighteen (18) months later at the beginning of the District's school year, or to be opened at a time determined by the applicant. The District will not accept applications received later than February 1st.**~~

The District shall receive and consider charter school applications for charter schools to be opened at a time determined by the applicant. In addition, the Florida Charter School Review Commission, as

authorized under F.S. 1002.3301, may solicit and review applications for charter schools to be located in this District. Within three (3) calendar days after an applicant submits an application for a charter school to the Commission for a charter school to be located in this District, the applicant must also provide a copy of the application to the District by submitting it to the Charter School Department electronically and by paper copies.

Within thirty (30) calendar days after receiving a copy of the application, the District may provide input to the Commission on a form prescribed by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE). If the Commission approves the application, the Board shall enter into a charter contract with the approved charter school applicant and serve as the charter school's sponsor in accordance with state law, rules, this policy, and District procedures.

The following pertains to the submission of a final application:

A. An individual, teachers, parents, a group of individuals, a municipality, or a legal entity organized under the laws of this State anticipating submission of an application are urged to contact the Director of District Support for assistance prior to completion of an application.

B. Charter school applicants must participate in training provided by the ~~Florida Department of Education (~~FLDOE~~)~~ after approval of an application but at least thirty (30) calendar days before the first day of classes at the charter school, unless they have participated in qualified training provided by the District.

C. The Board and/or any of its designees shall not take unlawful reprisal against another Board employee because that employee is either directly or indirectly involved with a charter school application.

D. Applicants must submit an application on the FLDOE's Model Florida Charter School Application template and forms according to the District's requirements.

E. The sponsor shall not charge any fees for processing or consideration of a final charter school application. The Board's approval of a charter shall not be predicated on the promise of any future pay of any kind.

F. The applicant and sponsor may mutually agree, in writing, to extend the statutory timeline to consider the charter application. Such agreement shall detail the extension date or timeframe.

Applications shall be submitted to:

The School Board of Manatee County
2501 63rd Street Avenue East
Bradenton, Florida 34203

The sponsor shall review all applications using an evaluation instrument developed by the FLDOE.

Application Contents

A. **State Application Form**

Applications must be submitted using the Model Charter School Application form developed and distributed by the FLDOE.

B. **Statement of Assurances**

Applicants are required to sign under the penalties of perjury the Statement of Assurances form contained within the Model Charter School Application developed and distributed by the FLDOE.

Final Application Evaluation Process

A. The sponsor shall receive and review all final applications using the Florida Chater School Application Evaluation Instrument developed by the FLDOE.

B. The sponsor shall evaluate all timely applications as submitted. During the evaluation process, 1) applications cannot be amended and 2) missing documentation and unsolicited information will not be accepted or considered. However, as required by law, the sponsor shall allow the applicant, upon receipt of written notification, seven (7) calendar days to make technical or nonsubstantive corrections and clarifications, including, but not limited to corrections of grammatical, typographical, and like errors or to add missing signatures, if such errors are identified as cause to deny the final application.

C. The Board shall deny any final application that does not comply with the statutory requirements and/or the Board's instructions for charter school applications.

D. The Board will review only one (1) final application as per Florida statute. The Board shall not review multiple "final" applications during an application cycle.

E. Additional Information

1. The sponsor may solicit information regarding 1) history and background of individual applicants and/or founding/governing boards and its individual members including, but not limited to, a demonstration of the professional experience or competence of those individuals or organizations applying to operate the charter school or those hired or retained to perform professional services; and 2) the description of clearly delineated responsibilities and the policies and practices needed to effectively manage the charter school. A description of internal audit procedures and establishment of controls to ensure that the financial resources are properly managed must be included. This information may be used to evaluate the applicant's ability to operate a charter school.

2. The sponsor may solicit additional information during the review and evaluation of the charter school application such as whether the applicant currently operates charter schools in Florida and if the proposed school will be a replication of an existing school design. This information may be used to evaluate the applicant's ability to operate a charter school.

3. The applicant may provide evidence of prior experience in establishing and operating public charter schools. Evidence of prior experience and success in establishing and operating charter schools shall be weighed in making a determination to recommend approval or denial of an application.

F. If an application is approved by the Board, the applicant is required to revise any sections of the application that do not meet the standard(s) identified in the evaluation. Any revisions must be approved by the sponsor prior to Board approval of the contract.

G. Charter Review Team

The purpose of this team is to evaluate the quality of the written application, the capacity of the group to properly implement the proposed plan, and make a recommendation to the Superintendent for the approval or denial of each application.

The Charter Review Team shall be comprised of members of the Superintendent's Senior Leadership Team or their appropriate designees and other administrators from the following areas of expertise:

1. District Operational Services;

2. District Instructional Services;

3. District Support;

4. Curriculum and Instruction;

5. Facilities;

6. Financial Operations;

7. Human Resources;
8. Exceptional Student Education;
9. Federal Programs and Grants;
10. Transportation;
11. Food Service;
12. other appropriate departments.

By majority vote, the Charter Review Team shall make a recommendation to the Superintendent to approve or deny each application.

All applications will be submitted to the Board by the Superintendent with a recommendation for approval or denial no later than ninety (90) calendar days after the application is received, unless the applicant and the sponsor mutually agree, in writing, to postpone the vote to a specific date, at which time the Board shall approve or deny the application.

If an application is denied, the sponsor shall, within ten (10) calendar days after such denial, articulate in writing the specific reasons, based upon good cause, supporting the denial of the charter application and shall provide the letter of denial and supporting documentation to the applicant and to the FLDOE.

An application submitted by a high-performing charter school that has satisfied the requirements set forth in State law for such designation may be denied by the Board only if the sponsor demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that the application failed to meet one (1) or more of the criteria set forth in F.S. 1002.33(6)(b)(3)(b):

1. The application of a high-performing charter school does not materially comply with the requirements set forth in F.S. 1002.33(3)(a) or, for a high-performing charter school system, the application does not materially comply with F.S. 1002.332(2)(b).
2. The charter school proposed in the application does not materially comply with the requirements in F.S. 1002.33(9).
3. The proposed charter school's educational program does not substantially replicate that of the applicant's high-performing charter school.
4. The applicant has made a material misrepresentation or false statement or concealed an essential or material fact during the application process.
5. The proposed charter school's educational program and financial management practices do not materially comply with the requirements of F.S. 1002.33.

If the Board denies an application submitted by a high-performing charter school, the specific reasons, based upon the criteria set forth in F.S. 1002.33(3)(b), for the denial shall be provided in writing to the applicant and the FLDOE within ten (10) calendar days after such denial.

Appeal of a Decision to Deny a Final Application

Pursuant to State law, an applicant may, no later than thirty (30) calendar days after receiving the Board's final order denying a final application or upon the Board's failure to act on a final application, appeal the Board's decision to the State Board of Education. The applicant shall notify the sponsor of the appeal.

Such appeals shall be conducted in accordance with F.S. 1002.33(6) and applicable State Board rules.

In accordance with State Board rule, the State Board of Education shall by majority vote accept or reject the decision of the Board no later than ninety (90) calendar days after the appeal is filed. The State Board of Education shall remand the application to the Board with its written decision that the Board approve or deny

the application. The Board shall implement the decision of the State Board of Education. The decision of the State Board of Education is not subject to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.

If the Board denies an application submitted by a high-performing charter school, or high-performing charter school system, the sponsor shall, within ten (10) calendar days after such denial, state in writing the specific reasons, based upon the criteria of F.S. 1002.33 supporting its denial of the final application and must provide the letter of denial and supporting documentation to the applicant and to the Department of Education. The applicant may appeal the Board's denial of the final application directly to the State Board of Education pursuant to F.S. 1002.33. **If a high-performing charter school or a high-performing charter school system appeals the denial of an application, the State Board of Education shall determine whether the sponsor's denial was in accordance with F.S. 1002.33(b)3.b.**

The sponsor shall act upon the decision of the State Board of Education within thirty (30) calendar days after it is received. The State Board of Education's decision is a final action subject to judicial review in the district court of appeal. A prevailing party may file an action with the Division of Administrative Hearings to recover reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred during the denial of the application and any appeals.

Appeal of a Proposed Termination or Nonrenewal of a Charter

Before a vote on any proposed action to renew, terminate, other than an immediate termination under F.S. 1002.33(8)(c), or to not renew the charter and at ~~**At**~~ least ninety (90) days before **the end of the local year** ~~**renewing, nonrenewing, or terminating a charter,**~~ the sponsor shall notify the charter school's governing board in writing of its proposed action **to renew, terminate, or not renew the charter**. **A charter automatically renews with the same terms and conditions if notification does not occur at least ninety (90) days before the end of the school year.** The notice shall state in reasonable detail the grounds for the proposed action and stipulate that the charter school's governing board may, within fourteen (14) calendar days after receiving the notice, request a hearing. The hearing shall be conducted by an administrative law judge assigned by the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings. The hearing shall be conducted within ninety (90) days after receipt of the request for a hearing and in accordance with F.S. Chapter 120. The administrative law judge's final order shall be submitted to the Board. The administrative law judge shall award the prevailing party reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred during the administrative proceeding and any appeals.

The charter school's governing board may, within thirty (30) calendar days after receiving the final order, appeal the decision pursuant to F.S. 120.68.

A charter may be terminated immediately if the Board sets forth in writing the particular facts and circumstances **demonstrating** ~~**indicating**~~ that an immediate and serious danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the charter school's students exists**, that the immediate and serious danger is likely to continue, and that an immediate termination of the charter is necessary**. The Board's determination is subject to the procedures set forth in F.S. 1002.33(8)(b) and (c), except that the hearing may take place after the charter has been terminated. The sponsor shall notify in writing the charter school's governing board, the charter school principal, and FLDOE **of the facts and circumstances supporting the immediate termination** ~~**if a charter is terminated immediately**~~. The sponsor shall clearly identify the specific issues that resulted in the immediate termination and provide evidence of prior notification of issues resulting in the immediate termination**, if applicable** ~~**when appropriate**~~. Upon receiving written notice from the board, the charter school's governing board has ten (10) calendar days to request a hearing. A requested hearing must be expedited and the final order must be issued within sixty (60) days after the date of request. ~~**The sponsor shall assume operation of the charter school throughout the pendency of the hearing unless the continued operation of the charter school would materially threaten the health, safety, or welfare of the students.**~~ **The administrative law judge shall award reasonable attorney fees and costs to the prevailing party of any injunction, administrative proceeding, or appeal. The sponsor may seek an injunction in the circuit court in which the charter school is located to enjoin continued operation of the charter school if continued operation would materially threaten the health, safety, or welfare of the students.**

Charter School Obligations Upon Initial Notification of Nonrenewal, Closure, or Termination of a Charter

Upon initial notification of nonrenewal, closure, or termination of its charter, a charter school may not expend more than $10,000 per expenditure without prior written approval from the sponsor unless such expenditure was included within the annual budget submitted to the sponsor pursuant to the charter contract, is for reasonable attorney fees and costs during the pendency of any appeal, or is for reasonable fees and costs to conduct an independent audit.

An independent audit shall be completed within thirty (30) days after notice of nonrenewal, closure, or termination to account for all public funds and assets.

A provision in a charter contract that contains an acceleration clause requiring the expenditure of funds based upon closure or upon notification of nonrenewal or termination is void and unenforceable.

A charter school may not enter into a contract with an employee that exceeds the term of the school's charter contract with the sponsor.

A violation of this section triggers a reversion or clawback power by the sponsor allowing for collection of an amount equal to or less than the accelerated amount that exceeds normal expenditures. The reversion or clawback plus legal fees and costs shall be levied against the person or entity receiving the accelerated amount.

Charter Contract and Contract Negotiation Process

A standard charter contract shall be consistent with this policy and approved by the Charter Review Team to be used as the basis for all charters approved under this policy. All contracts and contract amendments, as approved by the Charter Review Team, must be presented to the Board for approval. The charter contract must contain all information set forth in the Florida Standard Charter Contract or the Florida Standard Charter Renewal contract (F.A.C. 6A-6.0786 Form) as prescribed by the FLDOE.

A. Initial Charter Contract

1. Initial contract shall be for a term of four (4) or five (5) years unless a longer term is specifically required by law.

2. Before a recommendation regarding whether or not the Board should approve an initial contract, evidence of the following shall be provided:

    a. Evidence of a proper legal structure (e.g., articles of incorporation, bylaws, municipal charter). The applicant shall be a not for profit organized pursuant to F.S. Chapter 617.

    b. Except for virtual charter schools, actual locations and evidence that a facility has been secured for the term of the charter, or a deadline for submitting evidence that a facility has been secured. Evidence should include, but is not limited to:

        1. letter of intent from the landlord or mortgagee indicating property usage and term of occupancy;

        2. executed lease or certification of occupancy; and/or

        3. use or occupational license indicating proper use.

    All facilities must meet the requirements set forth in F.S. 1002.33 and comply with all Florida building codes.

B. Charter Contract Negotiations

The sponsor shall have thirty (30) days after approval of an application to provide an initial proposed charter contract to the charter school. The applicant and the sponsor shall have forty (40) days thereafter to negotiate and notice the charter contract for final approval by the Board unless both parties agree to an extension. The proposed charter contract shall be provided to the charter school at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the date of the meeting at which the charter is scheduled to be voted upon by the Board. The FLDOE shall provide mediation services for any dispute regarding this section subsequent to the approval of a charter application and for any dispute relating to the approved charter, except disputes regarding charter school application denials. **If either the charter school or the sponsor indicates in writing that the party does not desire to settle any dispute arising under this section through mediation procedures offered by the Department of Education, a charter school may immediately appeal any formal or informal decision by the sponsor to an administrative law judge appointed by the Division of Administrative Hearings.** If the Commissioner of Education determines that the dispute cannot be settled through mediation, the dispute may **also** be appealed to an administrative law judge appointed by the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings. The administrative law judge has final order authority to rule on issues of equitable treatment of the charter school as a public school, whether proposed provisions of the charter violate the intended flexibility granted charter schools by statute, or on any other matter regarding this section except a charter school application denial, a charter termination, or a charter nonrenewal and shall award the prevailing party reasonable attorney's fees and costs

incurred during the mediation process, administrative proceeding, and any appeals to be paid by the losing party.

C. Request to Extend Negotiations/School Opening

1. The applicant and sponsor may mutually agree to extend the statutory timeline to negotiate and consider approval of the charter contract for a period not to exceed one (1) year from the approved opening date in the charter school application. Requests shall be submitted, in writing, to the District Support Department by an authorized agent of the charter school, detailing the reason for the requested extension.

2. In the event that the statutory timeline to negotiate and enter into a charter contract is extended, the applicant shall update its charter school application prior to resuming negotiations with regard to: (1) updated budget; and (2) applicable application revisions necessitated by the delay.

3. The application shall be automatically rescinded, without further action by the Board, if the applicant does not enter into contract negotiations or open the school within: (1) the timeframe specified by law, or (2) the date of extension which has been mutually agreed upon in writing by both parties.

4. Unless extended pursuant to this policy, an approved applicant shall open its charter school eighteen (18) months later at the beginning of the District's school year following the approval of the charter school application. At the written request of the applicant and at the sponsor's sole discretion, the sponsor may allow an applicant with an approved charter school application to defer the opening of its charter school for up to three (3) school years following the opening date specified in the approved charter school application. In the event that the opening of the approved applicant's charter school is deferred, the applicant shall update its charter school application prior to the opening of the charter school with regard to: (1) updated budget; and (2) applicable application revisions.

5. An approved contract shall be automatically revoked, without further action by the Board, if the applicant does not open the school:

    a. on the first day of school of the initial school year indicated in the contract; or

    b. on the first day of the school year indicated in the approved deferral.

D. Charter Contract Amendments/Modifications

1. A charter may be modified during its ~~**initial term or any renewal**~~ term upon the recommendation of the sponsor or the charter school's governing board and the approval of both parties to the agreement. **Changes to the curriculum which are consistent with State standards shall be deemed approved unless the sponsor and the Department of Education determine in writing that the curriculum is inconsistent with State standards.** All modifications must be mutual and in writing. Unilateral modifications made by the charter school may be the grounds for termination or non-renewal. Modification during any term may include, but is not limited to, consolidation of multiple charters into a single charter if the charters are operated under the same governing board, regardless of the renewal cycle. A charter school that is not subject to a school improvement plan and that closes as part of a consolidation shall be reported by the District as a consolidation. **A request for consolidation of multiple charters must be approved or denied within sixty (60) days after the submission of the request. If the request is denied, the Board shall notify the charter school's governing board of the denial and provide the specific reasons, in reasonable detail, for the denial of the request for consolidation within ten (10) days.**

2. Modifications may be considered by the sponsor for a number of reasons, which may include, but is not limited to, protect the health, safety, or welfare of the students.

3. All contract amendment requests shall be submitted in writing to the District Support Department by an authorized agent of the charter school. Additional information or documentation may be requested for consideration of any amendment requests.

4. The charter school shall provide evidence of governing board approval for all proposed amendments (e.g., governing board resolution, governing board meeting minutes).

5. Requirements for Amendment Requests

a. Education Program Amendments

Significant changes in the curriculum or changes in grade levels constitute a change in the educational program and shall require an amendment that is mutually acceptable and approved by both parties. Requests for such amendments shall include the following information and supporting documentation:

1. justification for change
2. effective date of the change
3. evidence that financial implications, feasibility, and student access issues have been addressed, including provisions for all required resources, staff, and materials
4. evidence of parental support

A high-performing charter school that has met the requirements set forth in State law for such designation shall notify the sponsor of any increase in enrollment by March 1st of the school year preceding the increase. The written notice shall specify the grade levels that will be added. Student enrollment may not exceed the capacity of the facility at the time the enrollment increase will take effect. Facility capacity for purposes of ~~grade level~~ expansion shall include any improvements to an existing facility in which ~~a majority of~~ the students of the high-performing charter school will enroll. If a high-performing charter school notifies the sponsor of its intent to expand, the sponsor shall modify the charter within ninety (90) days to include the new enrollment maximum and may not make any other changes. The sponsor may deny a request to increase the enrollment of a high-performing charter school if the Commissioner of Education has declassified the charter school as high-performing.

b. Location Amendments

1. Changes in locations or addition of location (i.e., relocation, secondary campus, satellite locations) shall include the following information and supporting documentation:
    a. description of location, including identification as permanent or temporary

       If the relocation will be temporary, the request shall include the period of time during which the school will be at the temporary location.

    b. effective date of the relocation
    c. evidence that financial implications, feasibility, and student access issues have been addressed
    d. evidence of parental support for the new facility
    e. evidence of the school's property interest in the facility (owner or lessee)
    f. a disclosure affidavit in accordance with F.S. 286.23, if the school leases the facility
2. Nothing in this policy or State law obligates the sponsor to agree to an increase in the number of facilities, campuses, and/or locations associated with a charter school's operations.
3. The charter school shall not change or add facilities or locations at any time during the term of the charter contract without prior approval of the Board through the contract amendment process. Violation of this provision constitutes a unilateral amendment or modification of this contract and good cause for termination.
4. If the request for a location amendment involves a facility in which other schools are operating, the names of the school(s), the grade levels, number of classrooms, number of students in each class, and the number of students enrolled in each school shall be included in the request, in addition to the information and documentation described in paragraphs a

and b above.

5. No later than thirty (30) days prior to the opening of schools or the initial use of the facility by the school, the school shall have an approved contract and evidence of all necessary permits, licenses, zoning, use approval, facility certification and other approvals required for use of the facility by the local government. A certificate of occupancy or a temporary certificate of occupancy must be provided to the sponsor no later than fifteen (15) calendar days before the first day of school.

c. Enrollment Capacity Amendments

Changes to enrollment capacity shall include the following information and supporting documentation:

1. justification for change
2. effective date of the change
3. evidence of proper facility approvals and/or allowable facility capacity
4. evidence that financial implications, feasibility, and student access issues have been addressed
5. evidence of parental support

A high-performing charter school that has met the requirements set forth in State law for such designation shall be required to notify the sponsor in writing by March 1st of its intent to increase enrollment the following school year. The written notice shall specify the amount of the enrollment increase. The sponsor shall not require a charter school to identify the names of students to be enrolled or to enroll those students before the start of the school year as a condition of approval or renewal of a charter.

6. When a contract is amended or renewed, it shall be updated to comply with this policy and the current standard charter contract **or standard virtual charter contract**.

Pre-Opening Requirements

No later than thirty (30) days prior to the initial use of the facility by the school, the school shall have an approved contract and provide evidence of all necessary permits, licensing, zoning, use approval, facility certification and other approvals required for use of the facility by the local government. Failure to comply may result in automatic rescission of the contract, with no further action by the Board. A certificate of occupancy or a temporary certificate of occupancy must be provided to the sponsor no later than fifteen (15) calendar days before the first day of school.

School Governance/Management

A. Charter schools shall organize or be operated by a not for profit organized pursuant to F.S. Chapter 617, a municipality, or another public entity, as provided by law.

B. Charter School's Governing Board Requirements

1. The charter school's governing board shall be solely responsible for the operation of the charter school which includes, but is not limited to, school operational policies; academic accountability; and financial accountability.

As required by State law, each charter school's governing board must appoint a representative to facilitate parental involvement, provide access to information, assist parents, and others with questions and concerns, and resolve disputes. Furthermore, this representative must reside in the District in which the charter school is located. The individual serving as the parental involvement representative may be a governing board member, charter school employee, or an individual with whom the charter school contracts to represent the board in this capacity. If the governing board oversees more than one charter school in the District, a representative to facilitate parental involvement shall be appointed for each school. The name and contact information for the representative must be provided in writing to parents of children enrolled in the

charter school at least annually and must also be prominently posted on the charter school's website.

The charter school's governing board will consist of at least three (3) voting members, or the number and composition based on the approved charter application. At least one (1) of the voting members will be elected by the parents in an open parent meeting at the school. There will be at least one (1) non-voting teacher representative to the governing board who shall be elected by the teachers at the beginning of each school year.

The charter school's governing board shall meet at least twice per year (F.S. 1002.33(9)(p)(3)). The meetings must be noticed pursuant and compliant with Florida Sunshine Law, open, and accessible to the public and attendees must be provided an opportunity to receive information and provide input regarding the charter school's operations. To the extent feasible, the school's governing board shall consist of members that reflect the diversity of the student population served.

2. Governing board members must:

    a. notify the sponsor of changes in membership in writing within five (5) business days of the change; and

    b. successfully fulfill a level 2 background check by the sponsor, as specified by law upon appointment to the governing board. The background check includes fingerprinting.

Costs of background screening shall be borne by the charter school or the charter school employee.

3. Governing board members must develop and approve by-laws that govern the operations of the board and the charter school prior to execution of the charter contract and annually consult with charter school staff to refine overall policy decision-making of the charter school regarding curriculum, financial management, and internal controls.

4. Governing board members and their spouses are prohibited by State law from serving as an employee of the charter school or receive compensation, directly or indirectly, from the charter school's operations, including but not limited to: grant funds; lease/mortgage payments; or contracted service fees.

5. Governing board members must participate in FLDOE sponsored charter school governance training to ensure that each board member is aware of his/her duties and responsibilities, pursuant to State Board Rule F.A.C. 6A-6.0784:

    a. Each governing board member must complete a minimum of four (4) hours of instruction focusing on Government in the Sunshine, conflicts of interest, ethics, and financial responsibility as specified in F.S. 1002.33(9)(k). After the initial four (4) hour training, each member is required, within the subsequent three (3) years and for each three (3) year period after that to complete a two (2) hour refresher training on the four (4) topics above in order to retain his/her position on the charter school board. Any member who fails to obtain the two (2) hour refresher training within any three (3) year period must take the four (4) hours of instruction again in order to remain eligible as a charter school board member.

    b. New members joining a charter school board must complete the four (4) hour training with ninety (90) days of appointment to the board.

6. Dispute Procedures (Board versus Charter School Governing Board)

Application, nonrenewal, and termination decisions are not subject to this dispute resolution process and must follow the procedures in F.S. 1002.33, Board policy, and the charter contract. Nothing contained herein shall operate to limit a charter school's rights to utilize the dispute resolution procedures set forth in F.S. 1002.33.

    a. The sponsor and the charter school agree that the existence and the details of a dispute notwithstanding, both parties shall continue without delay their performance under the charter contract, except for any performance, which may be directly affected by such dispute.

    b. Either party shall notify the other party that a dispute exists between them. The notification shall be in writing and shall identify the article and section of the contract that is in dispute and the grounds for the position that such article and section is in dispute. The matter shall be immediately submitted to the sponsor and the charter school's director for further consideration and discussion

to attempt to resolve the dispute.

c. Should the representatives named in paragraph b above be unable to resolve the dispute within ten (10) days of receipt of written notification by one to the other of the existence of such dispute, then the matter may be submitted by either party to the Superintendent and to the school's governing board chair for further consideration and discussion to attempt to resolve the dispute.

d. Should the parties still be unable to resolve their dispute within thirty (30) days of the date of receipt of written notification by one to the other of the existence of such dispute, then either party may proceed with utilizing the dispute resolution procedures set forth in F.S. 1002.33.

7. Conflict Resolution (Charter School versus Parents/Legal Guardians, Employees, and Vendors)
   a. All conflicts between the charter school and the parents/legal guardians of the students enrolled at the charter school shall be handled by the charter school or its governing board. The procedures for handling such conflicts must be set forth in the charter school contract.

   b. Evidence of each parent's acknowledgment of the charter school's Parent Conflict Resolution Process shall be available for review upon request by the Board.

   c. All conflicts between the charter school and the employees of the charter school shall be handled by the charter school or its governing board.

   d. All conflicts between the charter school and vendors of the charter school shall be handled by the charter school or its governing board.

   e. The Board shall be provided with the name and contact information of the parties involved in the charter school's conflict resolution process. The Board shall be notified immediately of any change in the contact information.

C. Management Companies

1. If a management company or a combination of contracted professionals will be managing the charter school, the contract(s) between the charter school and company(ies) shall be submitted to the sponsor for review prior to the approval of the charter school's contract. If a decision to hire any of these entities occurs subsequent to the execution of the charter contract or amendment, the contract(s) between the charter school and company(ies) shall be submitted to the sponsor at least ten (10) days before any payment is made to any of the entities.

2. Any proposed amendments to the contract with the management company shall be submitted to the sponsor for approval prior to execution of that amended contract with the management company by the charter school. A copy of all executed contracts must be provided to the sponsor within the timeframe provided by the charter contract.

3. All management company contracts with the charter school must make it clear that the charter governing body shall retain and exercise continuing oversight over all charter school operations and must contain provisions specifying the ability for the charter school to terminate the contract and must comply with terms as stated in the charter contract between the charter school and the Board. Any default or breach of the terms of the charter contract by the management company(ies) shall constitute a default or breach of the charter contract by the charter school.

4. Neither employees of the management company nor "relatives" of the management company's employees as defined in F.S. 1002.33 shall serve on the charter school's governing board or serve as officers of the charter school.

Employees of Charter Schools

A charter school shall employ or contract with employees who have undergone background screening as provided in F.S. 1012.32. Members of the governing board of the charter school shall also undergo background screening in a manner similar to that provided in F.S. 1012.32 upon appointment to the governing board.

A charter school shall disqualify instructional personnel and school administrators, as defined in F.S. 1012.01, from employment in any position that requires direct contact with students if the personnel or administrators are ineligible for such employment under F.S. 1012.315.

Charter school personnel may not appoint, employ, promote, or advance any relative, or advocate for appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement of any relative to a position in the charter school in which the personnel are serving or over which the personnel exercises jurisdiction or control. An individual may not be appointed, employed, promoted, or advanced in or to a position in a charter school if such appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement has been advocated by charter school personnel who serve in or exercise jurisdiction or control over the charter school and who is a relative of the individual or if such appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement is made by the governing board of which a relative of the individual is a member. For purposes of this policy, the definition of relative shall be as it is defined in F.S. 1002.33(24)(a)(2).

Full disclosure of the identity of all relatives employed by the charter school shall be in accordance with F.S. 1002.33.

The governing board of a charter school shall adopt policies establishing standards of ethical conduct for instructional personnel and school administrators.

The policies must require all instructional personnel and school administrators, as defined in F.S. 1012.01, to complete training on the standards of ethical conduct; establish the duty of instructional personnel and school administrators to report, and procedures for reporting, alleged misconduct by other instructional personnel and school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student; and include an explanation of the liability protections provided under F.S. 39.203 and 768.095. A charter school, or any of its employees, may not enter into a confidentiality agreement regarding terminated or dismissed instructional personnel or school administrators, or personnel or administrators who resign in lieu of termination, based in whole or in part on misconduct that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student, and may not provide instructional personnel or school administrators with employment references or discuss the personnel's or administrators' performance with prospective employers in another educational setting, without disclosing the personnel's or administrators' misconduct. Any part of an agreement or contract that has the purpose or effect of concealing misconduct by instructional personnel or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student is void, is contrary to public policy, and may not be enforced.

Before employing instructional personnel or school administrators in any position that requires direct contact with students, a charter school shall conduct employment history checks of each of the personnel's or administrators' previous employer(s), screen the instructional personnel or school administrators through use of the educator screening tools described in F.S. 1001.10(5), and document the findings. If unable to contact a previous employer, the charter school must document efforts to contact the employer.

The Board shall terminate a sponsor's charter if the sponsor knowingly fails to comply with F.S. 1002.33(12)(g).

School Operations

A. The sponsor **may** ~~**shall**~~ not impose any policies or practices to limit charter school enrollment except as may be permitted in accordance with State law. **The Board may not impose additional reporting requirements on a charter school as long as the charter school has not been identified as having a deteriorating financial condition or financial emergency under F.S. 1002.345.**

B. The sponsor may document, in writing, any discrepancies or deficiencies--whether fiscal, educational, or related to school climate--and the steps and timelines for correction and additional monitoring. At a minimum, copies will be provided to the charter school's governing board chair, charter school principal and appropriate sponsor staff.

C. The charter school shall obtain the appropriate facility capacity approvals from the jurisdictional authority where the facility is located (i.e., county, municipality, or both). The sponsor, at its discretion, may accept a letter from the architect of record specifying the capacity if the capacity is not provided by the facility's jurisdictional authority. The sponsor may withhold monthly payments for FTE that exceed capacity specified by the charter contract or approved facility capacity.

D. The charter school's calendar will be consistent with the beginning of the sponsor's calendar for the first school year **or at a time determined by the charter school governing board. The charter school** ~~**and**~~ must provide instruction for **at least the** ~~**the minimum**~~ number of days and minutes required by law for other public schools **and may provide instruction for additional days**. Should the charter school elect to provide a summer program**, additional school days,** or year-round school, the charter school shall notify the sponsor, in writing, each year to ensure appropriate record keeping.

E. Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbooks, Parent Contracts, and Application of Board Policies

1. Only the Board may expel a student.

2. The charter school may follow the Board's Student Code of Conduct or an alternate code of conduct approved by the sponsor. The charter school shall provide the sponsor with a copy of an approved alternate student code of conduct annually if the school is not following the sponsor's Student Code of Conduct. Any amendments must be approved by the Board prior to implementation. Evidence of governing board approval is required for amendments.

3. Any student/parent handbooks and parent contracts shall also be submitted to the sponsor for approval prior to implementation. Any amendments must be approved by the sponsor, prior to implementation. Evidence of governing board approval is required for amendments.

4. The charter school may be required to provide proof of parent/guardian's receipt of student code of conduct, handbook, or parent contract.

5. Violations of parent contracts shall not result in involuntary withdrawal of a student in the same school year of the violations. Violations of the parent contract may result in the student not being re-enrolled or loss of enrollment preference for the following school year.

6. The Board shall not apply its policies to a charter school unless mutually agreed to by both the sponsor and the charter school. If the Board subsequently amends any agreed-upon Board policy, the version of the policy in effect at the time of the execution of the charter, or any subsequent modification thereof, shall remain in effect and the sponsor may not hold the charter school responsible for any provision of a newly revised policy until the revised policy is mutually agreed upon by the charter school.

F. Charter School Student Transfers

The process for student transfers will follow Board policies and procedures.

G. Food Service and Transportation

Transportation and food services are the responsibility of the charter school. These services must be provided according to District, State, and Federal laws, rules, and regulations.

H. Facility Leases

1. If a charter school will be leasing or subleasing a facility, the contract(s) between the charter school and landlord or sub-lessor shall be submitted to the sponsor for review and approval.

2. Any amendments to the lease shall be submitted to the sponsor for review prior to execution, by the charter school.

3. A copy of all executed contracts must be provided to the sponsor within the timeframe provided by the charter contract.

4. Any default or breach of the terms of the charter contract by the lessor/sub-lessor may constitute a default or breach of the charter contract by the charter school.

I. Academic Accountability

1. The Superintendent or designee shall have ongoing responsibility for monitoring all approved charter schools with regard to the charter school's progress towards achieving the goals established in the charter. The Superintendent or his/her designee(s) shall have access to the charter schools at all times.

2. The sponsor shall monitor adherence to the educational and related programs as specified in the approved application, charter, curriculum, instructional methods, any distinctive instructional techniques to be used, reading programs and specialized instruction for students who are reading below grade level, compliance with State standards, assessment accountability, and achievement of long- and short-term goals. An analysis comparing the charter school's standardized test scores to those of similar student populations attending other public schools in the District will also be conducted.

    a. In the event a charter school earns a grade of "D" or "F" in the grading system set forth in State law, the director and a representative of the governing board of the charter school shall appear before the sponsor to present information concerning each contract component having noted deficiencies and shall prepare and submit to the sponsor for approval a proposed School Improvement Plan to

raise student achievement. The proposed School Improvement Plan must meet the requirements set forth in State law. The charter school shall implement the proposed School Improvement Plan once approved by the sponsor.

b. If a charter school earns three (3) consecutive grades of "D", two (2) consecutive grades of below a "C", the charter school governing board shall take corrective action as set forth in F.S. 1002.33. The corrective action must be implemented in the school year following receipt of a third consecutive grade of below a "C". If the charter school does not improve by at least one (1) letter grade after two (2) full school years of implementing the corrective action, the charter school must select and implement a different corrective action in accordance with F.S. 1002.33. If the charter school does improve to a "C", it is no longer required to implement the corrective action; however, the charter school must continue to implement strategies identified in the School Improvement Plan.

c. Upon publication by the FLDOE of the list of charter schools that meet the criteria set forth in paragraphs I.2.a. and b. above, the sponsor shall notify, in writing, each charter school in the District that appears on the list that it is required to submit a School Improvement Plan and to appear before the sponsor. Pursuant to State Board rule, such notification may be delivered electronically, provided there is proof of receipt.

   The notification shall include the following:

   1. The date, time, and location of the publicly noticed meeting at which the director and a representative of the charter school governing board shall appear before the sponsor. For purposes of this requirement, "director" shall mean charter school director, principal, chief executive officer, or other management personnel with similar authority. The appearance shall be no earlier than thirty (30) calendar days and no later than ninety (90) calendar days after the sponsor's notification is received by the charter school.

   2. The date by which the charter school must submit its proposed School Improvement Plan to the sponsor for review by staff, which shall be no earlier than thirty (30) calendar after notification.

   3. Whether the charter school is required to select a corrective action.

d. The sponsor shall notify the charter school, in writing, within ten (10) calendar days of its decision to approve or deny the School Improvement Plan.

   1. The sponsor may deny a School Improvement Plan if it does not meet the requirements of State law. If denied, the sponsor shall provide the charter school, in writing, the specific reasons for denial and the timeline for its resubmission.

   2. Either the charter school or the sponsor may request mediation pursuant to State law if the parties cannot agree on a School Improvement Plan. Mediation will be before the American Arbitration Association of any other mutually agreed arbitrator. Each party will bear their own costs and expenses.

e. As required by State law, the sponsor will review the School Improvement Plan annually to monitor the charter school's continued improvement.

   1. The director and a representative of the governing board of the charter school shall appear before the sponsor at least once per year to present information regarding the progress of intervention and support strategies implemented by the charter school pursuant to the School Improvement Plan and, if applicable, to review the corrective actions taken pursuant to I.2.c above.

   2. At the meeting, the sponsor will identify the services that the District will provide to the charter school to assist the charter school in addressing its deficiencies, and following the meeting, these services will be communicated, in writing, to the director.

   3. A charter school that improves at least one (1) letter grade is not required to submit a new School Improvement Plan but must continue to implement the strategies identified in the approved School Improvement Plan and continue to report annually to the

sponsor. The sponsor shall notify, in writing, each charter school implementing a School Improvement Plan of the requirement to appear before the sponsor to present information regarding the progress of the approved School Improvement Plan. The notification shall include the date, time, and location of the publicly noticed meeting at which the director and a representative of the charter school shall appear.

f. The Board shall terminate the charter if the charter school earns two (2) consecutive grades of "F", unless one of the exceptions set forth in State law is applicable.

g. The laws applicable to School Improvement Plans and corrective actions do not limit the Board's authority to terminate the charter at any time in accordance with State law.

3. The charter school may make annual progress reports to the sponsor at the request of the Board.

4. Exceptional Student Education (ESE)
   a. The sponsor is the Local Educational Agency (LEA) for all Board-approved charter schools and will serve ESE students in the same manner as students attending other public schools in the District. ESE students attending Board-approved charter schools shall be provided supplementary and related services on site at the charter school to the same extent to which the Board has a policy or practice of providing such services on site to its other public schools. The Board shall provide funds under Part B of the IDEIA to Board-approved charter schools on the same basis as the School District provides funds to the Board's other public schools.

   b. ESE students will be educated in the least restrictive environment. The charter school shall ensure that ESE students are provided with programs and services implemented in accordance with Federal, State, and local policies and procedures and specifically the IDEIA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and other related statutes and State Board of Education rules. If an IEP team determines that the charter school cannot meet the needs of an ESE student, the charter school and the sponsor agree to provide the ESE student with the appropriate placement as determined by the IEP team in accordance with State and Federal law.

   c. The sponsor shall provide ESE administration services to charter schools which shall be set forth in more detail in the charter.

   d. With respect to the provisions of special education and related services:

      1. The sponsor shall be responsible for conducting initial evaluations of students referred for potential special education and gifted placement in accordance with Federal and State statutes.

      2. The charter school shall deliver all educational and related services indicated on a student's IEP, Section 504 Plan, or EP. The sponsor may provide related services through a separate contract between the charter school and the Board. The charter school shall also be responsible for all reevaluations.

      3. The sponsor shall appoint an "ESE Staffing Specialist" who may, at the sponsor's discretion, attend all IEP meetings and meetings related to the provision of special education and related services to charter school students. The charter school must provide notice to the ESE Staffing Specialist of all such meetings. The ESE Staffing Specialist shall serve as the LEA representative at all meetings.

      4. The charter shall further set forth the specific roles and responsibilities of the charter school and the Board with respect to exceptional student education.

   e. Non-compliance may result in the Board's withholding of subsequent payments to the charter school without penalty of interest (including State capital payments), and may result in non-renewal or termination for good cause.

5. English Language Learners (ELL) -- Students who are of limited proficiency in English will be served by ESOL certified personnel. The charter school shall demonstrate an understanding of State and Federal requirements regarding the education of English language learners, be committed to serving the full range of needs of ELL students, create and implement sound plans for educating ELL students that reflect the full range of programs and services required to provide all students with a high quality education, and

demonstrate capacity to meet the school's obligations under State and Federal law regarding the identification, assessment, and education of ELL students.

6. The Board may, in accordance with State law, require all charter schools to submit to the sponsor a school improvement plan to ensure a plan to maintain or raise student academic achievement within the timelines specified by the Board and the FLDOE.

J. Financial Accountability

1. In order to provide comparable financial information to that reported for other public schools, charter schools shall maintain all financial records in accordance with the accounts and codes prescribed in the most recent issuance of the publication titled, *Financial and Program Cost Accounting and Reporting for Florida Schools*. Charter school governing boards shall also annually adopt and maintain an operating budget as required by F.S. 1002.33(9)(h). Charter schools shall provide annual financial reports and program cost report information by the deadlines specified in the charter contract, in the State-required formats for inclusion in the Board's reporting in compliance with F.S. 1011.60(1) and 1002.33(9)(g). The financial statements are to be prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles using governmental accounting, regardless of corporate structure F.S. 1002.33(9)(g). The annual financial audit must be in the State-required format by an independent CPA firm.

   At the discretion of the charter school's governing board, a charter school may elect to follow generally accepted accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, but must reformat this information for reporting according to the requirement set forth in the paragraph above.

   High-performing charter schools are required to submit financial statements in accordance with and within the timeframes stated in F.S. 1002.33.

2. Title I: A charter school that is eligible to receive Title I funds shall submit an approved Title I Schoolwide Plan within three (3) months of becoming a designated Title I school. Failure to submit an approved plan will result in withholding of Title I funds.

3. Financial Policies: The charter school shall establish and implement accounting and reporting policies, procedures, and practices for maintaining complete records of all receipts and expenditures. The charter school shall provide a copy of these policies to the sponsor annually.

4. Payments to charter schools by the Board
   a. The Board shall make timely and efficient payment and reimbursement to charter schools, including processing paperwork required to access special State and Federal funding for which they may be eligible. Payments of funds as described in F.S. 1002.33(17)(b). The payment shall be issued no later than ten (10) working days after the Board receives a distribution of State or Federal funds or the date the payment is due pursuant to F.S. 1002.33(17)(e). Timing of receipt of local funds by the Board shall not delay payment to the charter school of the funds identified in F.S. 1002.33(17). Payments will be made in accordance with existing charter school contracts that predate this policy, State statutes are controlling. **If the Board has not received its allocation due to its failure to submit an approved District salary distribution plan, the Board must still provide each charter school within the District that has submitted a salary distribution plan its proportiate share of the allocation.**

   b. Capital Outlay Payments – The sponsor shall make payments to the school upon receipt of all required supporting documentation as referenced in section 8.h. – Capital Outlay Payment Process.

   c. Miscellaneous Payments – The Board shall make timely miscellaneous payments to the charter school upon receipt of funding from FLDOE for various programs including Title I. The Board's payment is subject to the charter school's fulfillment of its responsibilities under the applicable State and Federal laws.

      Unless otherwise mutually agreed to by the charter school and the sponsor, and consistent with State and Federal rules and regulations governing the use and disbursement of Federal funds, the sponsor shall reimburse the charter school on a monthly basis for all invoices submitted by the charter school for Federal funds available to the sponsor for the benefit of the charter school, the charter school's students, and the charter school's students as public school students in the District. Such Federal funds include, but are not limited to, Title I, Title II, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds. To receive timely reimbursement for an invoice, the

charter school must submit the invoice to the sponsor at least thirty (30) days before the monthly date of reimbursement set by the sponsor. In order to be reimbursed, any expenditure made by the charter school must comply with all applicable State rules and Federal regulations, including, but not limited to, the applicable Federal Office of Management and Budget Circulars, the Federal Education Department General Administrative Regulations, and program-specific statutes, rules, and regulations. Such funds may not be made available to the charter school until a plan is submitted to the sponsor for approval of the use of the funds in accordance with applicable Federal requirements. The sponsor has thirty (30) days to review and approve any plan submitted pursuant to this paragraph.

d. Conditions for Non-payment – The Board may withhold payment, without penalty of interest, for violation of law or as specified in the charter school contractual agreement. This includes, but is not limited to: failure to comply with financial requirements, failure to provide proper banking wiring instructions, exceeding contracted enrollment capacity or allowable facility capacity, insufficient instructional minutes and/or days, inappropriate facility licenses, approvals and/or permits, and failure to obtain successful background clearance for potential employees, contractors, and/or governing board members.

5. Financial Reports: Charter schools shall provide the sponsor with a concise, uniform, monthly financial statement pursuant to F.S. 1002.33(9)(g). A high-performing charter school may provide a quarterly financial statement in the same format and requirements as the uniform monthly financial statements. Charter schools shall maintain and provide financial accountability information as required in this section.

6. Annual Financial Statements
   a. Unaudited June 30th year-end financial statements shall be submitted to the Board within the timelines specified by the charter contract. These financial statements must be prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles using governmental accounting.

   b. Annual Financial Audit - The charter school agrees to submit to and pay for an annual financial audit, in compliance with Federal, State, and Board regulations, showing all revenue received, from all sources, and all expenditures for services rendered. The audit shall be conducted by an independent certified public accountant selected by the governing board of the charter school, and shall be delivered to the sponsor in compliance with the charter contract. If the charter school's audit reveals a deficit financial position, the auditors are required to notify the charter school's governing board, the Board and the Florida Department of Education in the manner defined in the charter contract. No later than May 1st of each year, the charter school must formally notify the sponsor of the name, address, and phone number of the auditor engaged to perform the year end audit.

      1. Selection Procedures -- Charter schools shall use auditor selection procedures when selecting an auditor to conduct the annual financial audit pursuant to the processes described in F.S. 218.39 and 218.391, which includes, but is not limited to: the establishment of an audit committee and request for proposal (RFP) for audit services, public advertisement of RFP, and development of evaluation and selection criteria.

      2. Requirements -- Pursuant to F.S. 218.391, the procurement of audit services shall be evidenced by a written contract embodying all provisions and conditions of the procurement of such services. An engagement letter signed and executed by both parties shall constitute a written contract. The written contract shall, at a minimum, include the following:

         a. a provision specifying the services to be provided and fees or other compensation for such services

         b. a provision requiring that invoices for fees or other compensation be submitted in sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance with the terms of the contract

         c. a provision specifying the contract period, including renewals, and conditions under which the contract may be terminated or renewed

   c. Failure to comply with the timely submission of all financial statements in the required format specified by the sponsor, shall constitute a material breach of the charter contract and may result in the Board's withholding of subsequent payments to the charter school without penalty of

interest, (including state capital payments), and may result in non-renewal or termination for good cause.

7. Capital Outlay Funding

Pursuant to F.S. 1013.62(4), the application for, approval of, and process for documenting expenditures from charter school capital outlay funds shall be in accordance with the procedures specified by the Commissioner of Education.

Before receiving capital outlay funds the charter school governing board must enter into a written agreement with the Board. Such agreement must provide for the reversion of any unencumbered funds and all equipment and property purchased with public education funds to the ownership of the Board, as provided for in F.S. 1013.62(3), if the charter school terminates operations. Any funds recovered by the State shall be deposited in the General Revenue Fund.

As required by State law, the Board shall remit capital outlay funds to a charter school no later than February 1st of each year, as required by F.S. 1002.32(3)(e), based on the amount of funds received by the Board.

8. Review and Audit
   a. The Board has the right at any time to review and audit all financial records of the charter school to ensure fiscal accountability and sound financial management pursuant to F.S. 1002.33. The charter school shall provide the sponsor with a copy of the management letter from any audits as well as any responses to the auditor's findings with a corrective plan that shall be prepared and submitted within thirty (30) days from the date of the management letter.

   b. Deteriorating Financial Condition and Financial Emergencies (F.S. 1002.345)

      1. Deteriorating Financial Condition – "Deteriorating financial condition" means a circumstance that significantly impairs the ability of a charter school or a charter technical career center to generate enough revenues to meet its expenditures without causing the occurrence of a condition described in F.S. 218.503(1).

         a. A charter school shall be subject to an expedited review by the Board upon the occurrence of any of the conditions specified in F.S. 1002.345(1)(a)(1)-(4).

         b. The Board shall notify the governing board and the Department of Education within seven (7) business days after one or more of the conditions set forth in F.S. 1002.345(1)(a)(1)-(4) are identified or occur.

         c. The governing board and the Board shall develop a corrective action plan and file the plan with the Commissioner of Education within thirty (30) business days after notification is received as provided in paragraph 9(b)(1)(b) herein. If the governing board and the Board are unable to agree on a corrective action plan, the Commissioner of Education shall determine the components of the plan. The governing board shall implement such plan.

         d. Failure to implement the corrective action plan within one (1) year shall result in additional action prescribed by the State Board of Education, including the appearance of the chair of the governing board before the State Board of Education.

      2. Financial Emergency – If a financial audit conducted by a CPA in accordance with F.S. 218.39 reveals that one (1) or more of the conditions in F.S. 218.503(1) have occurred or will occur if action is not taken to assist the charter school, the auditor shall notify the governing board of the charter school, as appropriate, the Board, and the Commissioner of Education within seven (7) business days after the finding is made. If the charter school is found to be in a state of financial emergency pursuant to F.S. 218.503(4), the charter school shall file a financial recovery plan pursuant to F.S. 218.503 with the Board and the Commissioner of Education within thirty (30) days after being notified by the Commissioner of Education that a financial recovery plan is needed.

3. Annual progress of the corrective action plans and/or financial recovery plans shall be included in an annual progress report to the Board.

4. The Board may require periodic appearances of governing board members and charter school representative.

c. Finance and the District Support Department shall collaborate to review and monitor financial statements, corrective action plans, and financial recovery plan(s) submitted by the charter school(s). The sponsor shall report progress and when applicable, make recommendations. At least one (1) representative of the charter school shall be available to answer questions.

Inability to cure a deteriorating financial condition and/or status of financial emergency may result in termination of the charter school contract.

9. Grants

a. If the Board is required to be the fiscal agent for a grant, the charter school shall comply with the Board's grant procedures as indicated in the charter contract. The sponsor will withhold indirect costs at the approved rate or if applicable, a reduced rate, unless indirect costs are not allowed in the grant.

b. The sponsor shall receive written approval from the charter school to include the charter school in a District-wide grant. The appropriate pro-rata share of grants will be allocated to the charter school, as defined by the grant awarded.

c. The charter school is required to maintain adequate records to support grant-funded programs for the minimum years prescribed by the law. The sponsor may review these records, upon reasonable notice.

10. Health, Safety, and Welfare of Staff and Students

Each charter school is required to have an emergency plan that covers weather emergencies, lockdowns, fire, etc.

Carefully planned and executed fire exit drills shall be conducted at the beginning of each semester, at times designated by the principal, following instruction of all classes regarding exits to be used in case of fire. At least one (1) fire exit drill shall be conducted every month school is in session. Any emergency evacuation drill (e.g., "crisis event"), completely performed, may be substituted for a required fire exit drill in a given month. All drills and all deficiencies affecting egress shall be documented in writing.

Inspections of all buildings including educational facilities, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities for casualty safety, and sanitation shall be conducted at least once during each fiscal year. Conditions that may affect environmental health and safety or impair operation of the plant will be reported, with recommendations for corrective action.

Each school cafeteria must post in a visible location and on the school website the school's semiannual sanitation certificate and a copy of its most recent sanitation inspection report.

Under the direction of the fire official appointed by the Board, fire-safety inspections of each educational and ancillary plant located on property owned or leased by the charter school's governing board, or other educational facilities operated by the charter school's governing board, shall be made no sooner than one (1) year after issuance of a certificate of occupancy and annually thereafter. Such inspections shall be made by persons properly certified by the Division of State Fire Marshal to conduct fire-safety inspections in public educational and ancillary plants.

A copy of the fire safety inspection report shall be submitted to the sponsor and the county, municipality, or independent special fire control district providing fire protection services to the school facility within ten (10) business days after the date of the inspection, in accordance with Florida statute.

Alternate schedules for delivery of reports may be agreed upon between the charter school's governing board, the Board, and the county, municipality, or independent special fire control district providing fire protection services to the site in cases in which delivery is impossible due to hurricanes or other natural disasters. Regardless, if immediate life-threatening deficiencies are noted in the report, the report shall be delivered to the Board and to the county, municipality, or independent special fire control district providing

fire protection services immediately.

K. Charter School Website

Each charter school shall maintain a website that enables the public to obtain information regarding the school; the school's academic performance; the names of the governing board members; the programs at the school; the name and contact information for the representative who facilitates parent involvement; any management companies, service providers, or education management corporations associated with the school; the school's annual budget and its annual independent fiscal audit; the school's grade pursuant to F.S. 1008.34; and, on a quarterly basis, the minutes of governing board meetings.

Board Annual Report Submission

The Board shall submit an annual report to the FLDOE in a web-based format to be determined by the FLDOE. The report shall include the:

A. number of ~~final~~ applications received **during the school year and up to** ~~on or before~~ February 1st and each applicant's contact information;

B. date each application was approved, denied, or withdrawn; and

C. date each final contract was executed.

Each year, by November 1, ~~**Beginning August 31, 2013**~~ the Board shall submit to the FLDOE the information set forth in A through C **for the previous year**.

Facilities

No later than January 1st, the FL DOE shall annually provide to the District a list of all underused, vacant, or surplus facilities owned or operated by the District as reported in the Florida Inventory of School Houses. The District may provide evidence to FL DOE that the list contains errors or omissions within thirty (30) days after receipt of the list. By each April 1st, FL DOE shall update and publish a final list of all underused, vacant, or surplus facilities owned or operated by the District, based upon updated information provided by the District. A hope operator establishing a school of hope may use an educational facility identified in this section as prescribed in F.S. 1002.33(7)(d).

Nonexclusive Interlocal Agreements

The Board may enter into nonexclusive interlocal agreements with Federal and State agencies, counties, municipalities, and other governmental entities that operate within the geographical borders of the District to act on behalf of such governmental entities in the inspection, issuance, and other necessary activities for all necessary permits, licenses, and other permissions that a charter school needs in order for development, construction, or operation. A charter school may use, but may not be required to use, the District for these services. The interlocal agreement must include, but need not be limited to, the identification of fees that charter schools will be charged for such services. The fees must consist of the governmental entity's fees plus a fee for the Board to recover no more than actual costs for providing such services. These services and fees are not included within the services to be provided pursuant to F.S. 1002.33(20). **Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an interlocal agreement, or ordinance that imposes a greater regulatory burden on charter schools than on the District or that prohibits or limits the creation of a charter school is void and unenforceable. An interlocal agreement entered into by the District by the development of only its own District schools, including provisions relating to the extension of infrastructure, may be used by charter schools.**

Services

The Board will provide certain administrative and educational services to charter schools. These services shall include contract management services; full-time equivalent and data reporting services, exceptional student education administration services; services related to eligibility and reporting duties required to ensure that school lunch services under the National School Lunch Program, consistent with the needs of the charter school, are provided by the Board at the request of the charter school, that any funds due to the charter school under the National School Lunch Program be paid to the charter school as soon as the charter school begins serving food under the National School Lunch Program and that the charter school is paid at the same time and in the same manner under the National School Lunch Program as other public schools serviced by the Board; test administration services, including payment of the costs of State-required or

Board-required student assessments; processing of teacher certificate data services; and information services, including equal access to **the sponsor's** student information systems that are used by public schools in the District. Student performance data for each student in a charter school, including, but not limited to, State mandated testing scores, standardized test scores, previous public school student report cards, and student performance measures, shall be provided by the Board to a charter school in the same manner provided to other public schools in the District.

The Board may withhold an administrative fee for the provision of such services which shall be a percentage of the available funds defined in F.S. 1002.33(17)(b) calculated based on weighted full-time equivalent students. If the charter school services seventy-five percent (75%) or more exceptional education students as defined in F.S. 1003.01(3), the percentage shall be calculated based on unweighted full-time equivalent students. The administrative fee shall be calculated as follows:

A. Up to five percent (5%) for the following:

    1. enrollment of up to and including 250 students in a charter school as defined in F.S. 1002.33(20);

    2. enrollment of up to and including 500 students within a charter school system which meets all of the following:

        a. includes conversion charter schools and nonconversion charter schools;

        b. has all of its schools located in the same county;

        c. has a total enrollment exceeding the total enrollment of at least one school district in Florida;

        d. has the same governing board for all of its schools; or

        e. does not contract with a for-profit service provider for management of school operations;

    3. enrollment of up to and including 250 students in a virtual charter school: and,
    4. **Up to two percent (2%) for enrollment of up to and including 250 students in an exceptional student education center that meets the requirements of the rules adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to F.S. 1008.3415(3).**

B. Up to two percent (2%) for enrollment of up to and including 250 students in a high-performing charter school as defined in F.S. 1002.331

The Board will not charge charter schools any additional fees or surcharges for administrative and educational services in addition to the maximum percentage of administrative fees withheld pursuant to this policy. **The Board will not charge or withhold any administrative fee against a charter school any funds specifically allocated by the Legislature for teacher compensation.**

The Board shall provide the FLDOE by no later than September 15th of each year the total amount of funding withheld from charter schools pursuant to this policy and Florida law for the prior fiscal year.

If goods and services are made available to the charter school through the contract with the Board, they shall be provided to the charter school at a rate no greater than the Board's actual cost unless mutually agreed upon by the charter school and the Board in a contract negotiated separately from the charter. When mediation has failed to resolve disputes over contracted services or contractual matters not included in the charter, an appeal may be made to an administrative law judge appointed by the Division of Administrative Hearings. The administrative law judge has final order authority to rule on the dispute. The administrative law judge shall award the prevailing party reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred during the mediation process, administrative proceeding, and any appeals to be paid by the party whom the administrative law judge rule against. To maximum the use of State funds, the Board shall allow charter schools to participate in the sponsor's bulk purchasing program if applicable.

The governing body of the charter school may provide transportation through an agreement or contract with

the Board. The charter school and the Board shall cooperate in making arrangements that ensure that transportation is not a barrier to equal access for all students residing within a reasonable distance of the charter school as determined in its charter.

School Safety Requirements

Each charter school in the District must comply with the requirements of F.A.C. 6A-1.0018 and Florida law pertaining to school safety, including the requirement that charter schools coordinate with the District's School Safety Specialist. See also, Board Policy 8405 (*School Safety and Security*) and Policy 8407 (*Safe-School Officers*).

Interpretation

If a court or agency of competent jurisdiction invalidates any provision of this policy or finds a specific provision to be in conflict with the Florida Constitution, Florida statutes, the Florida Administrative Code, or any rule or policy prescribed by the FLDOE, then all of the remaining provisions of this policy shall continue unabated and in full force and effect.

In the event that an existing charter school contract provision is found to be inconsistent with this policy, the charter contract provision prevails. Any charter approved after the adoption of this policy is required to be fully consistent with this policy.

If there is any conflict with this policy, F.S. 1002.33 et. seq. and other regulatory statutes are prevailing. Existing charter school contracts that predate this policy remain in full force and effect absent a controlling Federal or State statute.

Charter School Responsibilities and Adherence to Florida Statutes

Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (16) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
1002.33 Charter schools.— (16) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.—
(b) Additionally, a charter school shall be in compliance with the following statutes:
1. Section 286.011, relating to public meetings and records, public inspection, and criminal and civil penalties.
2. Chapter 119, relating to public records.
3. Section 1003.03, relating to the maximum class size, except that the calculation for compliance pursuant to s. 1003.03 shall be the average at the school level.
4. Section 1012.22(1)(c), relating to compensation and salary schedules.
5. Section 1012.33(5), relating to workforce reductions.
6. Section 1012.335, relating to contracts with instructional personnel hired on or after July 1, 2011.
7. Section 1012.34, relating to the substantive requirements for performance evaluations for instructional personnel and school administrators.
8. Section 1006.12, relating to safe-school officers.
9. Section 1006.07(7), relating to threat assessment teams.
10. Section 1006.07(9), relating to School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting.
11. Section 1006.1493, relating to the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool.
12. Section 1006.07(6)(c), relating to adopting an active assailant response plan.
13. Section 943.082(4)(b), relating to the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool.
14. Section 1012.584, relating to youth mental health awareness and assistance training.

Revised 10/23/18
Revised 8/11/20

F.S. 39.203
F.S. Chapter 120
F.S. 218.39
F.S. 218.391
F.S. 218.503
F.S. 286.23
F.S. 768.095
F.S. 1001.10
F.S. 1001.41
F.S. 1002.31
F.S. 1002.33
F.S. 1002.3301
F.S. 1002.345
F.S. 1008.31

F.S. 1008.34
F.S. 1011.60
F.S. 1012.01
F.S. 1012.315
F.S. 1012.32
F.S. 1013.12
F.A.C. 6A-1.0081
F.A.C. 6A-1.099827
F.A.C. 6A-2.0020
F.A.C. 6A-6.0781
F.A.C. 6A-6.0784
F.A.C. 6A-6.0786
F.A.C. 6A-6.07862
F.A.C. 6A-6.0787

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8407 - SAFE-SCHOOL OFFICERS

For the protection and safety of students, school personnel, visitors, and property, the District shall partner with local law enforcement agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility in the District, including charter schools. A Safe-School officer shall be present, at a minimum, during the school day when the school facility is open for instruction as defined by the approved school calendar (See, Policy 8210 - *School Calendar*).

Definitions

"Safe-School officer" means a school resource officer, a school-safety officer, a school guardian, or a school security guard, as identified in F.S. 1006.12.

"School facility" means a public K-12 school, including a charter school, with a Master School Identification Number (MSID) number as provided under F.A.C. 6A-1.0016, with the following exceptions:

A. Schools with separate MSID numbers that are located at the same physical location and are co-located with each other are a single-school facility.

B. Schools that are located at separate physical locations and are not co-located, but share one MSID number are separate school facilities.

C. A school facility does not include:

1. schools without a physical location for instruction of students, such as virtual schools, virtual instruction programs, virtual course offerings, franchises of the Florida Virtual School and virtual charter schools;

2. settings where instruction is provided in a county jail or state prison, in a Department of Juvenile Justice facility or program, in a hospital, or while a student is homebound;

3. schools that provide only prekindergarten or adult education;

4. technical centers under F.S. 1004.91; and

5. private schools, regardless of whether or not their students receive State scholarship funds under F.S. Chapter 1002.

Training

Safe-School officers must complete mental health crisis intervention training using a curriculum developed by a national organization with expertise in mental health crisis intervention. The training shall improve officers' knowledge and skills as first responders to incidents involving students with emotional disturbance or mental illness, including de-escalation skills to ensure student and officer safety.

Limitations

An individual must satisfy background screening, psychological evaluation, and drug test requirements and be approved by the Manatee County Sheriff before participating in any training required by F.S. 30.15(1)(k) which may be conducted only by a sheriff.

School Resource Officers

The School Board will enter into cooperative agreements with law enforcement agencies for the provision of school resource officers. School resource officers must be certified law enforcement officers as defined in F.S. 943.10(1) and employed by a law enforcement agency as defined in F.S. 943.10(4). School resource officers shall:

A. undergo criminal background checks, drug testing, and a psychological evaluation; and

B. abide by Board policies and consult with and coordinate activities through school principals.

With respect to matters relating to employment, school resource officers shall be responsible to their law enforcement agency, subject to agreements between the Board and law enforcement agency. Activities conducted by school resource officers which are part of the regular instructional program of schools shall be under the direction of school principals.

The powers and duties of law enforcement officers shall continue throughout school resource officers' tenure.

School Guardians (The Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program)

The Board utilizes school guardians pursuant to The Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for appointing school guardians. Prior to appointing school guardians, the Superintendent must verify through evidence provided by the Manatee County Sheriff that potential school guardians have met all the requirements set forth in F.S. 30.15.

School guardians do not have the power of arrest or the authority to act in any law enforcement capacity except to the extent necessary to prevent or abate an active assailant incident.

In support of school-sanctioned activities for purposes of F.S. 790.115, the following individuals may serve as a school guardian:

A. a District employee or personnel as defined under F.S. 1002.01 who volunteers to serve as a school guardian in addition to his/her official job duties; or

B. a District employee who is hired for the specific purpose of serving as a school guardian.

Prior to appointing school guardians, the Superintendent must provide the Board with evidence from the Manatee County Sheriff demonstrating that potential school guardians have met all the requirements set forth in F.S. 30.15.

Pursuant to Florida State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.0018, Florida schools are also required to establish a policy for safe-school officer assignment outside the regular school day, including during, before, and after school, summer school, during extracurricular activities, and for school-sponsored events.

School administration is responsible for determining if safe-school officers are needed for extracurricular activities and after school events. School administration will consider the number of persons present, the ratio of staff members to students, and any other safety and security measures available.

The School Safety Specialist, in consultation with the Chief of Safety & Security, Law Enforcement, and the learning community and/or Executive Directory of Secondary Schools, may require schools to add or implement additional safety and security measures for extracurricular activities and after school events.

Safe-School officers will be assigned during the summer session based on the availability of resources.

Notification of Incidents Involving Safe-School Officer Discipline, Dismissal or Discharge of a Firearm

A. Discharge of a Weapon

"Discharge" means to fire a gun or firearm.

The Superintendent must notice the Office of Safe Schools when a Safe-School officer assigned to any school facility in the District discharges a firearm in the exercise of Safe-School officer duties, other than for training purposes, as provided in F.S. 1006.12 (5). Notification must be made no later than seventy-two (72) hours of the incident by submitting Form SSON-2021 to SafeSchools@fldoe.org.

The Superintendent is also responsible for notifying the Manatee County Sheriff immediately after, but no later than seventy-two (72) hours after, a Safe-School Officer discharges their firearm in the exercise of their duties other than for training purposes. the occurrence of the following:

B. Dismissal or Discipline

"Dismissal" means a Safe-School officer is permanently relieved of their position. Dismissal or termination is involuntary and initiated by the employer, including firings or other discharges for cause. "Discipline" means a Safe-School officer received a behavior-related official reprimand.

The Superintendent must notify the Office of Safe Schools when a Safe-School officer assigned to a school facility in the District has been disciplined for misconduct or has been dismissed from their duties as a Safe-School officer by their employer, including in cases where the officer is reassigned or moved to another school location, whether by a school district, charter school, law enforcement agency, or private security company, as provided F.S. 1006.12 (5). Notification must be made no later than seventy-two (72) hours of the dismissal or disciplinary action by submitting Form SSON-2021 to SafeSchools@fldoe.org.

C. The Superintendent must notify the Office of Safe Schools when there is an allegation of misconduct that results in a Safe-School officer being placed on administrative leave or reassigned pending completion of an investigation using the procedure set forth in F.A.C. 6A-1.0018 (18)(b)1. Within fifteen (15) days of completion of the investigation, updated information regarding the result of the investigation must be provided to the Office of Safe Schools.

The Superintendent is also responsible for notifying the Manatee County Sheriff immediately after, but no later than seventy-two (72) hours after, a Safe-School Officer is dismissed for misconduct or disciplined.

D. The Superintendent shall adopt and implement procedures to verify that charter schools, law enforcement agencies, and private security firms employing or contracting with Safe-School officers timely report discipline and dismissal of Safe-School officers and any discharge of an officer's weapon outside of training activities, so that the District can meet the reporting requirements under Florida law.

Crisis Intervention Training

Each Safe-School Officer who is also a sworn law enforcement officer must complete mental health crisis intervention training using a curriculum developed by a national organization with expertise in mental health crisis intervention. The training must improve the officer's knowledge and skills as a first responder to incidents involving students with emotional disturbance or mental illness, including de-escalation skills to ensure student and officer safety.

Each Safe-School Officer who is not a sworn law enforcement officer must receive training to improve the officer's knowledge and skills necessary to respond to and de-escalate incidents on school premises.

Revised 7/27/21
Revised 3/8/22
Revised 12/13/22

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9142 - **Educational Non Discrimination Policy** – Revised DRAFT

The School District of Manatee County (District) supports equal access to education for all stakeholders: students, families, and staff within the school district community regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, or marital status except as authorized by law.

Discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, or marital status against a student or an employee in the state system of public K-12 education is prohibited. No person shall, on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, or marital status, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any public K-12 education program or activity, or in any employment conditions or practices within the District except as authorized by law.

The District shall develop and implement methods and strategies to increase the participation of students of a particular race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability status in programs and courses in which students of that particular race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability status have been traditionally underrepresented, including, but not limited to, mathematics, science, computer technology, electronics, communications technology, engineering, and career education.

AGENDA ITEM NO. III.2

School Board of Manatee County
February 17, 2023 - Workshop

Title
Construction Update | School Support Center - *updated February 13, 2023*

Executive Summary
Mr. Joseph Ranaldi, Chief Operations Officer, and the Construction Services team will present a construction project update on the School Support Center Renovation.

~~Accompanying meeting materials were not available at the time of publication of the agenda and may be supplemented if such materials become available in accordance with F.S. Section 120.525.~~

Contact
Submitting Department: Construction Services
Initiated By: William Horton

Attachments:
School Support Center Presentation - added February 13, 2023

SCHOOL SUPPORT CENTER



Presented By: Joe Ranaldi
Chief Operations Officer
February 17, 2023

Proposed Renovation/Remodeling

Project Scope

- Upgrade to Mechanical, Electrical, & Plumbing Systems
- Upgrade to Life Safety Systems (Fire Alarm, Sprinkler System)
- Enhance Security on All Floors & Building Perimeter
- Upgrade Building Envelope to Include Windows and Roofing
- Upgrade Finishes Throughout Building
- Remodeling of Select Spaces to Include Board Room & Offices
- Additional Costs to include Architect/Engineer Fees, Building Official, Testing, FFE, Technology, and SDMC Staff Expenses
- 2022-23 Capital Budget for **Renovation/ Remodeling $ 16,700,600**

Design Status

- Architect/Engineer Selected and is Pending Board Approval
- Architect/Engineer to Undertake Program Evaluation to Include Scope Validation and Budget Assessment as First Phase

Estimated Market Value of Present Building & Site

- Appraisal was Not Conducted but Comps were Evaluated
- Estimated **Market Value is $10,000,000 – $11,000,000.**

New Construction Costs/Budget

ESTIMATED COST OF CONSTRUCTION – PRESENT FACILITY SIZE ON OWNED SITE

New Construction Class A or B Office

- Replace 75,000 SF Office
- Undertake Site Design of Approximately 2 Acres
- Estimated Building Cost Per Square Foot $435
- Estimated Cost per Acre $750,000
- Contingency of 10% for Unforeseen Conditions/Escalation
- Hurricane Hardening
- Budget for **New Construction $ 40,400,750**

Additional Project Costs:

- Additional Costs to include Architect/Engineer Fees, Building Official, Testing, FFE, Technology, and SDMC Staff Expenses
- Budget for **Additional Expenses $5,250,000**

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST $45,650,750

AGENDA ITEM NO. III.3

School Board of Manatee County
February 17, 2023 - Workshop

Title
Construction Update | Palma Sola Elementary School - *updated February 13, 2023*

Executive Summary
Mr. Joseph Ranaldi, Chief Operations Officer, and the Construction Services team will present a construction project update on Palma Sola Elementary School.

~~Accompanying meeting materials were not available at the time of publication of the agenda and may be supplemented if such materials become available in accordance with F.S. Section 120.525~~.

Contact
Submitting Department: Construction Services
Initiated by: William Horton

Attachments:
Palma Sola ES Presentation - added February 13, 2023

PALMA SOLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

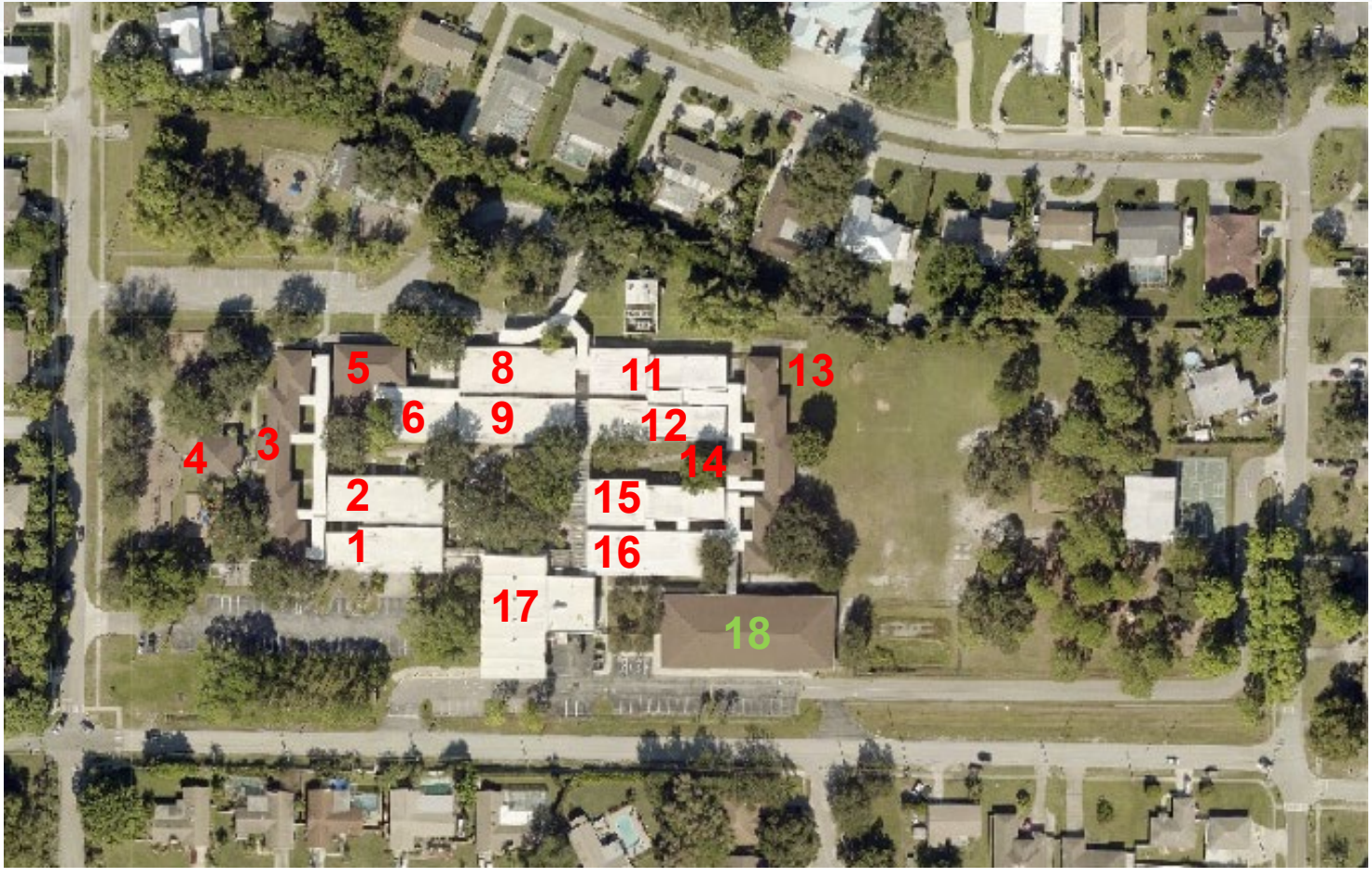
Facility Assessments (Jacobs & Castaldi)

Estimated Operating Costs

Cost of Proposed Construction

Presented By: Joe Ranaldi
Chief Operations Officer
February 17, 2023

Palma Sola Aerial



Facility Assessments

JACOBS REPORT – April 2019

FACILITY COST INDEX (FCI) RATINGS BY CAMPUS
RANKED BY CONDITION

FACILITY	5-YEAR FCI SCORE	ACTION	BUDGET
Tara Elementary	35.9%	Under Design	$ 35,200,000
Palma Sola Elementary	34.5%	Pending	$ 22,200,000
School Support Center	34.3%	Project Architect/Engineer Selected	$ 16,700,000
Blackburn Elementary	33.7%	Under Design	$ 29,300,000
W.D. Sugg Middle	33.4%	Under Construction - Complete 6/2023	$ 57,100,000
Gene Witt Elementary	33.3%	Complete	$ 17,000,000
Oneco Elementary	32.1%	Under Design	$ 34,150,000
Carlos E. Haile Middle	31.9%	Under Design	$ 46,200,000
Braden River Middle	30.7%	Complete	$ 26,000,000

CRITICAL ISSUES TO CONSIDER Capacity Issues, Regional Growth, Environmental Issues, COPS Funding, Traffic Issues, Castaldi Analysis

WHAT IS THE FACILITY COST INDEX (FCI)? FCI is the total cost of needed building repairs and renewal divided by the current cost of replacing the building. Each campus FCI score reflects the current condition of the campus: good, fair, or poor.

Facility Assessments

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - CASTALDI REPORT/ANALYSIS – March 2022

Age of Facilities

- Buildings 1 & 2; 7-12; & 15-17 – 61 Years Old
- Buildings 3-5; & 13 – 32 Years Old
- Building 18 – 16 Years Old

Consultant Findings:

- Campus Does not Meet District Facility Standards, Building Codes, Accessibility Code, or District's Long-Term Plan
- Educational Efficiency (PK-5 Program) is Significantly Lacking due to Campus Existing Physical Conditions
- Buildings Campus Wide Require Architectural, Structural, Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing Systems Upgrades
- Renovation/Modernization of Older Campus Buildings was Assessed and Found not to be Financially Feasible when Compared Against New Construction.

Campus Recommendations:

- Demolish All Buildings 61 & 32 Years Of Age – DOE Confirmed
- Renovate Modernize Building 18 – DOE Confirmed

Operations

OPERATING COST COMPARISON
SCHOOL YEARS 19/20 – 21/22

UTILITY/SERVICE	SCHOOL AVERAGE COST 2019-2022	SCHOOL COST PER STUDENT 2019-2022	AVERAGE DISTRICT COST PER STUDENT 2019-2022	% ABOVE AVERAGE
Electric	$ 164,449	$ 398.18	$ 257.44	35.3%
Natural Gas	$ 39,936	$ 96.70	$ 28.74	70.3%
Water	$ 4,214	$ 10.20	$ 10.03	1.8%
Waste Water	$ 9,725	$ 23.55	$ 17.74	24.7%
Refuse Costs	$ 11,964	$ 28.97	$ 21.22	26.8%
TOTAL	$ 230,289			

REVENUE & EXPENSE REPORT

	SCHOOL REVENUES 2021-2022	SCHOOL EXPENSES 2021-2022	SCHOOL GAIN/LOSS 2021-2022	DISTRICT AVERAGE GAIN/LOSS
Food Service	$ 320,722	$ 340,739	$ (20,017)	$ 71,250

Construction Costs/Budget

ESTIMATED COST OF CONSTRUCTION – PRESENT 750 STUDENT STATION

New Construction

- Replace all Building 32 to 61 Years Old
- Estimated Square Footage of 80,600
- Estimated Square Footage Cost $350
- Budget for **New Construction $ 28,210,000**

Renovation/Modernization:

- Renovate/Modernize Building 18
- Square Footage of 12,400
- Budget for **Renovation/Modernization $2,480,000**

Additional Project Costs:

- Additional Costs to include Architect/Engineer Fees, Building Official, Testing, Asbestos Abatement, FFE, Technology, and SDMC Staff Expenses
- Budget for **Additional Expenses $1,300,000**

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST $31,990,000

Alternative Construction Costs/Budget

ESTIMATED COST OF CONSTRUCTION – 500 STUDENT STATION CAMPUS

New Construction

- Replace all Building 32 to 61 Years Old
- Estimated Square Footage of 46,000
- Estimated Square Footage Cost $350
- Budget for **New Construction $ 16,100,000**

Renovation/Modernization:

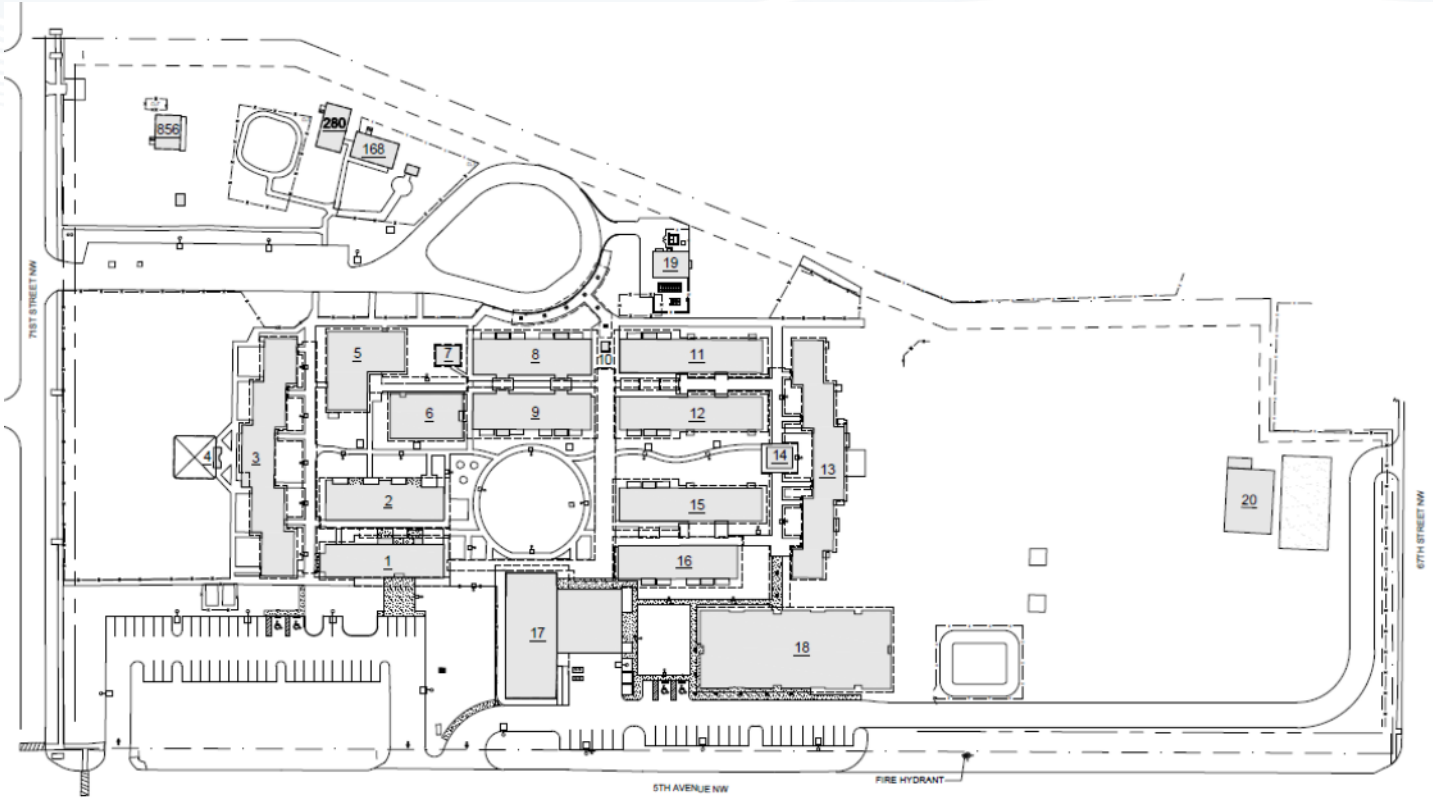
- Renovate/Modernize Building 18
- Square Footage of 12,400
- Budget for **Renovation/Modernization $2,480,000**

Additional Project Costs:

- Additional Costs to include Architect/Engineer Fees, Building Official, Testing, Asbestos Abatement, and SDMC Staff Expenses
- Budget for **Additional Expenses $1,000,000**

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST $19,580,000

QUESTIONS?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17
18
7101 STREET NW
67TH STREET NW
5TH AVENUE NW
FIRE HYDRANT
SITE PLAN
SCALE: 1" = 100'-0"