



Hernando School District

School Board Workshop

Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

2:00 PM

District Office-Board Room
919 N. Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34601

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Board Chair Kayce Hawkins
Vice Chair Shannon Rodriguez
Board Member Michelle Bonczek
Board Member Susan Duval
Board Member Mark Johnson

This meeting was called to order at 2:01 P.M. Also present were Robert Meyers, School Board Attorney and Ray Pinder, Superintendent.

PRESENTATIONS

1. [27-3927](#) Presentation of RoboKind Program Data

Attachments: [Robokind Board Presentation - Program Evaluation 7.28.2026](#)
[Program Evaluation Form - Robokind 7.13.2026](#)
[Budget Sheet NO Financial Impact ACC](#)

Anna Jensen, Director of Exceptional Student Education; Stephanie Doran, Supervisor of Exceptional Student Education; and Christina Dancsak, SLP, came forward to present this item.

Ms. Duran provided an overview of the RoboKind program and its use in supporting students with autism spectrum disorder and other disabilities. The presentation included information regarding program implementation, instructional applications, student engagement, and curriculum areas supported by the program, including social communication, emotional regulation, executive functioning, literacy, phonics, and conversational skills.

Staff reported that RoboKind was implemented during the 2025-2026 school year at five schools: Explorer K-8, Floyd Elementary School, Spring Hill Elementary School, Pine Grove Elementary School, and Weeki Wachee High School. Staff reported high levels of student engagement and described student participation through both robot-based and avatar-based instructional sessions.

*Board members discussed:
Student participation and engagement levels.
Duration of student involvement in the program.*

Teacher implementation and classroom integration.
Potential future expansion of the pilot.
Methods for measuring student outcomes and program effectiveness.
Teacher feedback and utilization rates.
Opportunities for Board members to observe implementation at school sites.
Financial history and ongoing funding considerations.

Board members emphasized the importance of obtaining measurable data regarding student participation, teacher utilization, and student outcomes to support future funding decisions. Staff acknowledged the need to develop additional data collection methods and agreed to provide information regarding participating schools, therapists, trained teachers, and opportunities for site visits.

Staff reported that the initial purchase of five robots and one year of programming was funded through millage funds at a cost of approximately \$100,000. A subsequent four-year curriculum subscription for all five robots was funded through ESSER funds at a cost of \$129,900, with funding extending through 2028.

2. [27-3954](#) Presentation on Hernando County School District Bullying Prevention efforts.

Attachments: [Bullying Data and Procedures Training](#)
[Budget Sheet Sept 2021 Revised NO Financial Impact ACC](#)

Jill Kolasa, Director of Student Services; and Angela Miller-Royale, Coordinator of Student Services, came forward to present this item.

Staff reviewed statutory definitions of bullying and harassment, reporting requirements, investigation procedures, and the distinction between substantiated and unsubstantiated incidents. District discipline data from the previous three school years was presented and discussed. Staff noted trends in bullying and harassment incidents across elementary, middle, K-8, and high school levels.

Board discussion included:

Trends in bullying and harassment data.

The absence of reported bullying incidents at the high school level during the previous three years.

Teacher perceptions regarding classroom support and student discipline.

Consistency of discipline implementation and communication.

Opportunities to obtain direct teacher feedback.

Student threat awareness and prevention education.

Parent education and community outreach efforts.

Staff reported that the District remains fully compliant with statutory training requirements and continues to provide bullying prevention training for students, staff, and parents. Initiatives discussed included the anti-bullying video contest, Unity Day activities, Acts of Kindness Week, operation of the District Bullying Prevention Committee, and plans to introduce an elementary bullying prevention contest. Staff also reported that evidence-based bullying prevention programs are currently under review. Board members encouraged continued dialogue with teachers to better understand

concerns regarding classroom support and student discipline.

3. [27-3957](#) Review of the District's Tentative 2025-2026 5-Year Work Plan by Jim Lipsey

Attachments: [27-3957 2025-26 Work Plan Presentation](#)
[27-3957 Budget Sheet NO Financial Impact](#)
[07-28-26 Workshop Handout Item 27-3957](#)

Jim Lipsey, School Planner; and Brian Ragan, Director of Facilities and Construction, came forward to present this item.

Mr. Lipsey explained that review of the Work Plan occurred later than usual due to delays in state enrollment projections and the availability of the Department of Education's Educational Facilities Information System (EFIS). The Five-Year Work Plan serves as the District's capital financial planning tool and outlines facility needs, capital projects, and anticipated revenues.

Staff reviewed:

The Work Plan balance and financial feasibility requirements.

Capital project funding assumptions.

Capacity planning considerations.

Future school expansion projects.

Implications of concurrency requirements associated with capacity projects.

The current status of proposed additions and future school construction projects.

Board members discussed the timing of planned projects, including tennis court resurfacing and track replacement at Central High School, and renovations underway at Eastside Elementary School. Staff clarified the status of those projects and explained how project timing may shift within the Work Plan to satisfy state balancing requirements.

Staff advised that the final Work Plan would be presented to the School Board for approval at the August 11, 2026, meeting following any additional revisions requested by the Department of Education.

GENERAL COUNSEL

ADDENDUM ITEMS

GOOD OF THE ORDER/BOARD DISCUSSION

School Board Comments

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 P.M.

Superintendent

Board Chair

Mission Statement

The Hernando County School District Collaborates with students, parents and other community stakeholders to effectively prepare all students for a successful transition into a diverse and changing world.
