



Hernando School District

School Board Informal Meeting

Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

1:00 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Present Vice Chair Shannon Rodriguez
Board Member Michelle Bonczek
Board Member Susan Duval

Absent Board Chair Kayce Hawkins
Board Member Mark Johnson

This meeting was called to order at 1:02 P.M. Also present were Robert Meyers, School Board Attorney; and Ray Pinder, Superintendent. Board members Hawkins and Johnson were absent.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

An informal meeting of the School Board has been scheduled for general discussion among Board Members on Educational Matters

Topics of Discussion:

Bonczek: Valedictorian and Salutatorian designation

Board members discussed the current Valedictorian and Salutatorian designation policy within the Pupil Progression Plan, with specific consideration of a unique student scenario involving completion of both the AICE and IB programs. Mrs. Bonczek presented a situation involving a student who completed both programs, earning significant college credit hours with a high GPA, but who is not eligible for Valedictorian/Salutatorian designation under existing policy due to transferring schools. Mrs. Rodriguez stated that these type of situations have come up in prior years. Board members reviewed the intent and history of the current policy. Concerns were expressed that creating individual exceptions could result in unintended consequences. John Morris, Director of Secondary Programs, provided input regarding: practices in other districts, including program-specific recognitions; and potential impacts of modifying policy on currently enrolled students; the importance of maintaining a consistent and clearly communicated policy framework. Board consensus supported maintaining the current policy without modification. Alternative approaches were discussed to recognize exceptional student achievement, including: allowing schools to provide special recognition at graduation ceremonies. Direction was given for district administration to collaborate with high school principals to develop guidance for identifying and recognizing students with exceptional academic achievements and ensuring that recognition practices are communicated and implemented consistently across schools while preserving site-based flexibility.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 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.
