## **POLICY 1.015**

**5-E** I recommend the Board approve the proposed new Policy 1.015, to be entitled "Parental/Family Involvement."

[Contact: Chuck Shaw, 434-8779.]

## **♦** Development

• This version includes minor amendments proposed at the initial development reading on June 3 and a subsequent minor amendment suggested by a Board member as delegated by the Board on June 3.

**CONSENT ITEM** 

1 2		PROPOSED NEW POLICY 1.015			
3 4	PARENTAL/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT				
5 6 7	<ol> <li>Definitions Unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms have t following meanings in this Policy:</li> </ol>				
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8 9	<u> </u>	<ul> <li>Parent: Although involvement of a student's mother, father, or legal guardian is the specific focus of this Policy, the Board recognizes that all persons</li> </ul>			
0		concerned with the education of students should work together cooperatively			
1		to meet the needs of students; thus, as used herein, the term "parent" refers in			
2		a broad sense to any of the caring adults who play a significant role in the care			
3		of a student enrolled in the School District, such as the student's mother,			
4		father, legal guardian, grandparent, aunt, uncle, adult sibling, or mentor.			
5	<u> </u>	o. School: As used herein, the term "school" refers in a broad sense not only to			
6		the sites providing the customary K-12 program, but also to the			
7		prekindergarten, adult education, and community education programs.			
8	2.	Parental/Family Involvement: A School-Home Partnership			
0	<u> </u>	Farental/Family involvement. A School-Home Partnership			
9	<u> </u>	a. The Board recognizes that among the factors necessary to improve learning			
0	-	<u>are:</u>			
1		i. a sound instructional program; and			
2		ii. consistent voluntary involvement of parents and other influential adults.			
3	<u> </u>	o. The Board recognizes that parental involvement is a desirable element in			
4		effective education, and that student achievement can reach higher levels			
.5		when parents, schools, and the community work together in a collaborative			
6		endeavor to support student learning. To assist with achieving the intent of			
.7		this paragraph, the Office of Public Affairs shall be available to assist schools			
8		in developing and distributing information encouraging parental involvement.			
9	9	c. Although parents are of diverse cultures, languages, and needs, they share			
0		the desire for the educational success of their children. Hence, the programs			
1		and practices established by the District, in collaboration with parents and			
2		communities through the school improvement process, shall support family			
3		involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and their families.			

d. Accordingly, the School Board seeks to actively bring together families,
 schools, and the community in the education of children. Schools have the
 responsibility to involve parents, and parents have the responsibility to
 become involved in the school.

- 3. Communication.-- In accordance with Fla. Stat. § 230.23(15)(b), the Board encourages teachers and administrators to keep parents and guardians informed of student progress, student programs, student attendance requirements and the availability of resources for academic assistance.
  - a. Special efforts should be made to assist parents in understanding the needs, responsibilities, and educational rights of the student.
  - b. Communication with parents should be in the home language as documented by the TERMS student demographic screen, unless the parent states in writing that he/she is more comfortable with another language.
  - 4. Family-Friendly Schools.-- The school building should be a welcoming place, clearly accessible to parents, consistent with established security procedures and the principal's authority under the School Code and case law. Parental access shall not interfere with rights of students, teachers, and school administrators to have an orderly instructional environment.
- 5. Flexible Time.-- The Board is supportive of District employees being given flexible time to visit their children's schools. Further, the Board hereby encourages Palm Beach County businesses to adopt practices that promote their employees' parental participation in education.
- 6. Accommodation of Parent Schedules.-- The Board supports flexibility in school personnel's use of creative methods of accommodating parents' schedules, within the parameters of the School Code, State Board of Education Rules, and sound educational principles.
- 7. National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs.-- The School Board endorses the following standards as set forth in the National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs as adopted by the National PTA:
  - a. Standard I: Communicating. -- The Board encourages communication between the home and the school that is on-going, interactive, and reasonably accommodates all parents, including those with limited English proficiency or disabilities. Interaction with parents should be handled in a non-judgmental

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manner that recognizes a variety of parenting styles, family structures, and circumstances; as well as individual differences reflected in the values, cultures, and diversity of the student population. Regular parent/teacher dialogue is encouraged at all grade levels.

- b. Standard II: Parenting.-- The Board is supportive of basic adult literacy and programs on topics such as nutrition, health, self-esteem, parent-child communication, motivation, discipline, child development, monitoring television viewing, monitoring Internet usage, assisting with homework, and other topics that enable parents to be full partners in the education of their children.

- c. Standard III: Student Learning.— The Board endorses assisting parents to play an integral role in student learning by providing parents information on grade-level expectations and their children's progress toward proficiency, specific activities that can be done at home, and how to partner with teachers to maximize student achievement.

- d. Standard IV: Volunteering.-- The Board is supportive of the creation of meaningful volunteer opportunities and ensure that parents are welcome in the school pursuant to Board Policy 2.53, "Volunteers in Public Schools," and that their support and assistance are sought.

e. Standard V: School Decision-Making and Advocacy.-- The Board encourages the involvement of parents as full partners in the decisions and practices of the school that affect children and families through the school improvement process, the School Advisory Council (SAC), PTA/PTO, and other decision-making groups as appropriate.

f. Standard VI: Collaborating with the Community.-- The Board supports the strengthening of school programs, family practices, and student learning through the integration of community resources and business partnerships consistent with Fla. Stat. § 230.23005(5). Schools and parent groups should actively recruit persons to serve as role models and mentors.

## 8. Parent Resources

a. Where feasible, schools should set aside space within the building for parents to meet, obtain resource information about parenting, the school system, and specific materials and strategic and strategies to use at home with their children.

100	<ul> <li>b. Schools should seek</li> </ul>	<u>to identify a parent liaison whose primary responsibility</u>		
101	would be to ascerta	ain the needs of parents and to communicate this		
102	information to appropr	iate school staff.		
103	9. Office of Family Involve	ement Consistent with the recommendation of the		
104	Superintendent, the Board	will act in accordance with Fla. Stat. § 230.23(5)(a) to		
105	establish an Office of Family Involvement ("OFI"). Establishment of the OFI wi			
106	include the Superintenden	t's recommendation, and the Board's designation, of a		
107	Family Involvement Coordinator, who shall be responsible for:			
108	a. promoting parent/far	<u>nily involvement in schools through the schoo</u>		
109	improvement process;	· •		
110		<u>rith various District departments and community groups</u>		
111	and agencies; and			
112	a facilitation the insulance	autation of this Dalian		
112	c. facilitating the implement	entation of this Policy.		
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114	SPECIFIC AUTHORITY:	§§ 230.22(1), (2); 230.23(22); 230.23005(5), Fla. Stat.		
115	<u> </u>	33		
116	LAWS IMPLEMENTED:	§§ 230.03(2); 230.22(1); 230.23(15); 230.23005(5).		
117		231.07; 231.085(1), Fla. Stat.		
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119	PUBLICATION CITED:	National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement		
120		Programs, issued by the National PTA (1998), ISBN		
121		<u>0-88109-002-6</u>		
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123	<u>HISTORY:</u>	<u> </u>		

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24	Legal Signoff:	
	The Legal Department has reviewed proposed development by the Board.	Policy 1.015 and finds it legally sufficient for
	Attorney	Date