

POLICY 2.591

4-B I recommend the Board adopt the proposed new Policy 2.591, to be entitled "Advocacy, Including Lobbying, On Behalf of the School District of Palm Beach County." [CONTACT DR. JOSEPH ORR, 649-6888]

, Adoption

, The Board voted to approve the proposed revisions in the Special Board Meeting on Policies held February 25, 2002.

, A related policy, Policy 2.59, concerning political activities, is presently being revised and may be presented to the Board for development in the future.

PROPOSED NEW POLICY 2.591

**ADVOCACY, INCLUDING LOBBYING, ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY**

1. The School Board of Palm Beach County finds a clear and concrete public, educational purpose in encouraging district employees and community members to voluntarily participate in contacting the federal and state legislative and executive branches to advocate the board's position on legislative or budgetary issues affecting the district school system, because the board reasonably expects that such lobbying activities will result in improving educational opportunities for students of the district school system by means of increased funding (through passage of budgetary appropriations), legislation, or rules and regulations that are more practical or favorable to the district's educational program.
2. To achieve this purpose, the superintendent/designee may recommend, to the board, *Calls to Action* or other lobbying activities regarding specific issues. Alternatively, the superintendent/designee may direct that *Calls to Action* be initiated on issues that have been voted upon by the board or upon which the board has otherwise taken a position (or which the superintendent determines to be consistent with the board's prior positions and this policy, if insufficient time exists for board action on an issue that appears to have immediate potential impact on the district.)
3. For any such *Calls to Action* or other lobbying activity, the board declares a public, educational purpose in the reasonable use of district-owned computers, e-mail and telecommunications systems, or other interschool, intra school, or intra district communications (including newsletters, stationery, and postage), to inform district employees and members of the community concerning issues and their potential impact or implications for the district, and to advocate positions that would be in the best interests of the district.
4. For *Calls to Action*, communications methods which impose little or no additional costs may be preferred, such as e-mail and fax transmissions.
5. However, it shall further be deemed a fitting and proper school purpose to expend reasonably-budgeted district funds on postage, other mailing costs and materials, or long-distance telephone expenses incurred by employees using district equipment to respond to a *Call to Action*, or other lobbying efforts, by voluntarily contacting their state or federal legislators (or the Governor or President, as appropriate) regarding identified issues. (If employees or community members use their own

42 telecommunications equipment or postage, it shall be construed that they are
43 voluntarily "donating" any expense incurred, which shall not be reimbursable.)
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45 6. The superintendent and designee(s) who are registered as lobbyist(s) shall be among
46 those employees authorized to engage in lobbying activities for this purpose during
47 regular working hours. However, other than the superintendent and these designees,
48 activities of employees in contacting their legislative or the executive branches or
49 urging others to do so must not interfere with the employee's regular job duties and
50 responsibilities.
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52 7. Nothing in any other policy, including Policy 2.59 and Policy 3.29, shall be construed
53 as prohibiting district employees from contacting state or federal decision-makers with
54 district communications equipment during working hours for approved *Calls to Action*.
55 To the extent that Policy 2.59 or Policy 3.29 may be deemed inconsistent with this
56 policy, the terms of this policy shall control.
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59 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: §§ 230.22(2); 230.23(22); 230.23005(10), Fla. Stat.

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61 LAWS IMPLEMENTED: §§ 230.03(2); 230.23(15)(a); 230.23005(5), Fla. Stat.
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63 FLORIDA ATTORNEY
64 GENERAL OPINION
65 REFERENCED:

02-13

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67 HISTORY: 1 / 2002
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70 Legal Signoff

71 Proof of Notice of Policy Development

72 Proof of Policy Adoption

73 Estimated Cost Form