

TITLE: Unitary Status Advisory and Oversight Committee

POLICY:

The Orange County School District obtained unitary status through a federal court order and voluntarily entered into a settlement of all claims with the plaintiffs in that litigation. The Unitary Status Settlement Agreement (“Settlement Agreement”) required Orange County Public Schools (“OCPS”) to undertake certain mandates and provide certain reporting as it pertains to the construction of new facilities, the retention and recruitment of a diverse staff, and the notification to all parents and students of middle and high school students of extra-curricular activities.

In an effort to ensure compliance with these terms, The School Board of Orange County, Florida (“Board”) voluntarily adopted Policy BDF to create the Unitary Status Advisory and Oversight Committee (“USAOC”) to assist the Superintendent and the Board in ensuring that these terms have been met.

(1) Composition of the USAOC.

The USAOC shall consist of no less than eight (8) individuals. The nominees for the USAOC shall be comprised of one (1) voting member and one (1) alternate appointed by each of the eight (8) Board members. All members, including alternates, of the USAOC shall, at all times while serving on the USAOC, be residents of Orange County, Florida. Except for the initial term for members of the USAOC nominated by the School Board Member representing districts 1, 2, and 3 as well as the School Board Chair, all other nominees, including alternates, shall be appointed to serve a term of no less than two (2) calendar years. USAOC appointees may also be reappointed for additional terms at the discretion of the Board. All nominees must be approved at a regular meeting by a majority vote of the Board.

(2) Vacancies.

In the event of a vacancy on the USAOC due to resignation, non-residency in Orange County, death, disability, or any other cause, the corresponding Board member shall nominate a replacement to serve the remainder of the original term. Such replacement nominee shall be appointed to the USAOC, but only upon confirmation by a majority vote of the Board.

(3) Purpose.

The USAOC shall be created to advise the Board as follows:

- (a) To ensure OCPS compliance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement are being undertaken in good faith by OCPS;
- (b) To review any reports issued by the Superintendent to the Board as directed in the Settlement Agreement and to make recommendations to the Board based on those reports, as

necessary;

- (c) To review any existing or future Board policies that are adopted or proposed as a result of the Settlement Agreement, including current Board Policies GCE and JJ, and to make recommendations to the Board, as necessary; and
- (d) To monitor the schedule of all school replacement, renovation, and addition projects identified in the Settlement Agreement so as to confirm that such projects are being completed on a timely basis as provided for in the Settlement Agreement and that the design of such facilities are sufficiently adequate to support and provide a complete_range of educational opportunities, including existing and new technologies as they are developed, to the extent they can be identified, equal to those available at the appropriate (by grade level) educational prototype designs that have been created and constructed by the district.

(4) Meetings.

The USAOC shall hold no fewer than four (4) meetings each calendar year. Notice of each meeting shall be posted at the Ronald Blocker Educational Leadership Center and held in accordance with all applicable provisions of Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine law. For all meetings, the USAOC should include in their agenda a section allowing the public to provide input on any items being considered. The USAOC may reasonably limit the time each member of the public can speak.

The USAOC shall conduct its initial proceedings pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order and may adopt such necessary and legally permissible rules or procedures for self-governance from time to time by a majority vote of its members. USAOC shall also establish a schedule of regular meetings, including times and locations.

(5) Quorum and Voting Members.

At any meeting of the USAOC, quorum shall be established when a minimum of five (5) voting members of the USAOC are present. A voting member shall be defined as a either a voting member duly approved by the Board or, in the event that a voting member is not present, the alternate member appointed by the same School Board Member. During the meeting, the alternate shall stand in the place of the regular voting member and shall be entitled to all voting privileges as the regular voting member until such time as the voting member attends the meeting.

(6) Election and Duties of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

At its initial meeting, the USAOC shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair. The initial term shall be no less than twelve (12) months. The Vice-Chair shall automatically become the Chair at the start of the following calendar year. At the last regularly scheduled meeting of the USAOC, a new Vice-Chair shall

be elected. Any past Chair of the USAOC may continue to serve on the USAOC and may subsequently be re-elected as Vice-Chair.

(7) Annual Reporting.

The USAOC shall provide an annual written report to the Board. Such report shall be presented by August 1 of each year. The USAOC shall be responsible for determining the content of the report, although the Board may request that specific items be included in any future reports. The report may include recommendations to the Board or the Superintendent to ensure compliance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement. At the discretion of the Board, the Chair of the USAOC may be requested to make an oral report to the Board.

(8) Support.

The USAOC shall be entitled to the support of Board staff and specifically the OCPS Office of Legal Services shall provide necessary staff to serve as the clerk and recording secretary to the USAOC and to assist with any annual reports. The Board General Counsel, or designee, shall serve as legal counsel to the Committee and all legal questions shall be submitted to the OCPS Office of Legal Services.

(9) Advisory Nature of the USAOC.

The recommendations of the USAOC to the Board and/or the Superintendent are advisory in nature only.

(10) Termination and Cessation of the USAOC.

The USAOC may only be terminated upon a vote of the Board. It is imperative that the district have the oversight of the USAOC to ensure the terms of the Settlement Agreement continue to be met. The Board also reserves the right to amend the composition or purpose of the USAOC through the adoption of any amendments to this policy.

SPECIFIC AUTHORITY: Section 1001.41, Florida Statutes

ADOPTED: 08/23/2011

REVISED: 12/10/2013; 08/09/2022