



**JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD AGENDA**  
**203 E. PLAQUEMINE STREET**  
**JENNINGS, LOUISIANA**  
**(337) 824-1834**

**POLICY AGENDA**

**MEETING TIME: Tuesday, August 17, 2021**  
**After 5:00 p.m. Finance meeting**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Chairman, Phillip Arceneaux, Charles Bruchhaus, Donald Dees, Terry Leger and Paul Trahan.

**Roll Call for Policy Committee Members for determination of a quorum:**

Arceneaux	Bruchhaus	Dees	Leger	Trahan
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**Roll Call for Other Members present:**

Bordelon	Bouley	Cap	Dobson	Doise	Segura	Singletary	Perry
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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. VOTE TO CHANGE THE ORDER OF TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED AND TO ADD NEW ITEMS NOT ON THE ORIGINAL AGENDA.**

MOTION BY:	SECONDED BY:	PUBLIC COMMENT	DISCUSSION	VOTE
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**III. Adopt the following new or revised policies:**

**1. STUDENT CONDUCT: File JCD**

Effective: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

The *Student Conduct* policy reflects statutory additions requiring the School Board's Code of Conduct to include "progressive levels of minor through major infractions and identify corresponding minor through major interventions and consequences." The new statutory language also requires that the Code of Conduct reserve expulsions for the major tier of infractions involving weapons or drugs, or when the safety of students and staff has been put in jeopardy. The Code of Conduct is also required to include the appeal process for expulsion. Forethought has included the required language in the *Student Conduct* policy addressing the development of the Student Code of Conduct.

**2. DISCIPLINE: File JD**

Effective: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Act 473 stresses that School Boards endeavor to address student behavior "with a focus on evidence-based interventions and supports and to prioritize interventions in the class and school in lieu of out-of-school disciplinary measures. Act 473 removes the list of specific behaviors for which teachers were to correct students for violating school rules, including among others, bullying, disruption of classes, and foul language. Act 473 includes a list of possible disciplinary actions by a *school employee*. The list, although not new to the statute, has been added to the *Discipline* policy. The revision to the statutory language guiding student removal from classrooms pares down the list of behaviors warranting removal to: preventing orderly instruction of other students; posing an immediate threat to safety of students or teachers; or, violating the *Student Code of Conduct*. Previously a student in kindergarten through grade six was not to be permitted to return to class for at least thirty minutes. Act 473 reduces the upper limit to grade five. Likewise, the subsequent language changed to reflect grade six through twelve. It also expands on the counseling session that the principal or designee is to conduct with the removed student. The list of disciplinary measures from which a principal must implement at least one before a student is readmitted has been expanded to include additional measures such as referral to counseling or the school building level committee, peer mediation, and loss of privileges. In addition to other changes, conferences with parents can be done in person, by telephone, or other virtual means. The list of definitions in §17:416 was also revised.

The list is included in the *Discipline* policy, and referenced in the *Suspension* and *Expulsion* policies to avoid duplication.

### **3. SUSPENSION: File JDD**

Effective: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

The *Suspension* policy now addresses *out of school* suspension or assignment to alternative placement. Notice to parent or legal guardian is now allowed by electronic communication. New to the policy for some systems is language regarding suspension for damage to property. Previously the statute only included damages to property owned by or contracted to the school system, but has been expanded to include property owned by a school employee or student. The student may not be readmitted until payment in full has been made for the damage, an alternative restitution plan has been executed, an alternative payment plan has been arranged, or until directed by the Superintendent. The appeals allowed for students who were expelled but subsequently had the expulsion reduced to suspension now includes the qualification that the parent or legal guardian of the student has ten (10) *school* days to appeal the ruling of the School Board to the district court.

In regards to mandatory suspension, the allowed length for a knife has been extended by a half inch to two and one-half (2½) inches. Students suspended for ten (10) days or fewer are now allowed to receive “the same credit originally available for such work” as opposed to “partial or full” credit.

### **4. EXPULSION: File JDE**

Effective: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Act 473 now requires the same notification process for expulsion as for suspension and assignment to alternative placement. The *Expulsion* policy includes new language reflecting advising the student of the accused misconduct, and notification of the parent or legal guardian setting a time and place for a conference with the principal or designee. If the parent or legal guardian fails to attend the conference within five (5) school days of notification, the truancy laws shall be effective. A hearing shall be conducted by the Superintendent or his/her designee within fifteen (15) days of the recommendation for expulsion by the principal. The School Board is required to provide written notice of the hearing to the student and parent or legal guardian, and advise them of their rights. Until the hearing, the student shall remain suspended with access to classwork and the opportunity to earn academic credit. A student expelled for longer than ten (10) days shall receive academic instruction at an alternative setting. The parent or legal guardian of the student has ten (10) *school* days to appeal the ruling of the School Board to the district court. Other changes include:

- provisions of the mandatory recommendation for expulsion shall not be applied to virtual instruction received by a student in the student’s home;
- the allowed length for a knife has been extended by a half inch to two and one-half (2½) inches.
- additional qualifications have been added addressing the length of time of expulsion for a student who has committed a felony or been convicted of acts which would have constituted a felony if committed by an adult;
- A student expelled for firearms, knives, weapons, or drugs shall not be enrolled or readmitted to a “regular public school of the school system” on a probationary basis prior to the completion of the period of expulsion “at the school system’s alternative setting” without producing written documentation of enrollment or participation in an appropriate rehabilitation or counseling program.

### **5. STUDENT ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE: File JCDAC**

Effective: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Under the section Referral of Student Required in the *Student Drug and Alcohol Use* policy, revised statutory language clarifies that the *principal or his/her designee* shall refer a student to an alcohol and drug abuse treatment professional. This section of the policy is new for some School Boards.

### **6. DANGEROUS WEAPONS: File JCDAB**

Effective: August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

The new statutory definition of *firearm* has been added to the *Dangerous Weapons* policy.

**7. EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS: FILE DJ**  
effective upon approval

Jeff Davis School Board would like to amend the following policy to increase the amount of Superintendent approval from \$4,000 to \$10,000 for expenditures. No expenditure of funds shall be made where the expenditure would be more than funds available, unless approved by the School Board.

MOTION BY:	SECONDED BY:	PUBLIC COMMENT	DISCUSSION	VOTE
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**DISCUSSION:**

1. Graduation stoles, cords and attire.

**IV. ADJOURN**

MOTION BY:	SECONDED BY:	PUBLIC COMMENT	DISCUSSION	VOTE
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IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW, A COPY OF THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE AT THE MEETING PLACE OF SAID BOARD ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2021 BY 4:00 P.M.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT, IF YOU NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT DEBBIE AT 337-824-1834 DESCRIBING THE ASSISTANCE THAT IS NECESSARY.