

Please add these under my items for the May board meeting along with the information provided below from Terry.

In reviewing our Board policies, Board Policy 3.23 (Emergencies) may be of assistance. Specifically, (1) provides as follows:

- (1) In case of an emergency involving the welfare and safety of students and employees, the Superintendent may suspend any part of these regulations, provided that he or she shall report the fact of and the reason for suspension at the next meeting of the School Board and that the suspension shall expire at the time of such report unless continued in effect by actions of the School Board.*

Fairly summarized, if the current personnel issues are creating an emergency situation due the lack of personnel/volunteers at certain after-school extracurricular activities, I do believe there is authority through this provision to move forward with appointing volunteers before the May Board meeting. However, at the May Board meeting, you will need to report to the Board the reasons why you elected to appoint volunteers without Board approval. Obviously, all volunteers will still be required to pass all necessary and legally required background checks before participating in any activities.

Also, separate from Board policies, it is important to note that Florida law does not require that the Board approve all school volunteers at a Board meeting; rather, F.S. 1012.01(5) provides that volunteers may be appointed "by a district school board or its designee." Moving forward, we may want to consider a revision to Board Policy 3.23 that would enable the Superintendent to serve as the designee of the Board for the appointment of volunteers. This would also help address the timing issues.

Dr. Karen Barber
Superintendent of Schools
Santa Rosa County School District
(850)983-5010