

6Gx53-4.016 STUDENT ELECTIONS:

I. Philosophy: Student elections in Polk County schools provide students with the opportunity to learn and exercise voting privileges inherent in good citizenship. The voting procedures outlined below closely parallel the system used in municipal, county, and state elections, and shall be adhered to by all secondary schools for all class and school-wide elections.

II. Procedures:

A. Voter Eligibility: Classroom students are eligible to vote in their classroom elections and all students are eligible to vote in school-wide elections.

1. Alphabetical Roster: A current classroom or school-wide alphabetical roster shall be used to determine voter eligibility.

2. School Identification Card: If a student's name should not appear on the classroom or school-wide alphabetical roster, the student must present his or her school identification card in order to verify eligibility.

B. Designated Polls: The designated polling location(s) shall be easily accessible to all students and clearly marked with appropriate signs.

1. Date and Time: All students shall be given an opportunity to vote on the designated date and during the designated time.

2. Polling Staff: The designated polling location(s) will be staffed by an administrator or faculty representative and a student representative.

3. Campaigning: The principal shall designate the polling boundaries and there shall be no campaigning within those boundaries.

4. American Flag: The American Flag shall be displayed at all polling locations.

5. Classrooms: Classrooms being used for instruction will be excluded as a polling location.

C. Ballots: The poll worker(s) shall provide a ballot to each student who wishes to participate in the election.

1. Verification of Eligibility and Record of Vote: The polling staff shall verify the student's eligibility to vote and place a checkmark by the student's name on the alphabetical list in order to record that student's vote.

2. Vote: Each student shall mark the ballot and place his or her vote in the ballot box prior to leaving the polling location.

3. Security and Certification: All ballots will be secured in a locked ballot box and certified by the polling staff.

D. Tabulation: Once the election has been closed, the faculty representative shall:

1. Move the ballot box to a secure location;

2. Open the ballot box in the presence of an administrator;

3. Count and/or scan the ballots.

E. Validation and Announcement of Winner(s): The results shall be kept confidential until the principal or designated representative validates the process and authorizes the announcement of the winner(s).

F. Election Materials:

1. Student Election Log: A Student Election Log will be maintained on an NCR form provided by the County Office. Said form shall be signed by the principal and a designated representative with a copy submitted to the Advisor of the Polk Association of Student Councils. The Student Election Log shall include the following:

a. the number of eligible students;

b. the number of students who voted;

c. the date and time the polls opened and closed;

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d. any irregularities in or around the polling locations.

2. Ballots: All ballots and other related materials should be secured for no less than thirty (30) days after an election.

3. Disposal: All election materials will be secured by the faculty representative until the principal or designated representative authorizes disposal.

Statutory Authority: Florida Statutes 1001.32, 1001.41, 1001.42, 1001.43

Laws Implemented:

Adopted: June 28, 1994

Amended: