

DAVID'S BOE MEETING BRIEF

Breaking down Board of Education meetings

POLICY REVIEW

During the work session on November 25, the board reviewed nine policies. Most of these policies were due for their three-year re-evaluation and did not have any substantial changes.

One significant addition is the Gifts, Bequests, Donations, and Solicitations policy. This policy aims to create a consistent and transparent process for soliciting and accepting gifts, bequests, and donations for Wicomico County Public Schools and its individual schools. It sets clear approval thresholds based on gift value—from principal approval under \$2,500 to formal Board action at \$25,000+ or when real property is involved—to ensure appropriate oversight.

The Political Solicitation in Schools policy was also updated. The revised version broadens the scope of non-permissible activities to include anyone on school property. Previously the list only applied to staff. Prohibited actions now encompass:

- Actively soliciting votes or contributions for or against specific candidates, political parties, political organizations, or ballot propositions
- Distributing campaign literature.

After gathering public feedback, the board approved seven revised policies on December 9. The remaining two policies are scheduled to return for discussion at the January 27 work session. These include:

- A new policy related to the Student Representative to the Board position for the 2026-2027 school year.
- A new graduation policy aimed at expanding permitted regalia for students, such as the Seal of Biliteracy medal, which was requested by parents last school year.

STAR RATINGS

Wicomico schools showed strong progress in the 2025 state ratings.

- 96% of Wicomico schools earned a 3-star rating or higher, surpassing the Maryland average of 86%.
- Six schools improved their ratings, including Fruitland Primary, Fruitland Intermediate, Westside Primary, Westside Intermediate, Pittsville Middle, and Wicomico High.

CONSENT ITEMS

- Personnel Matters: At each meeting the Board approves appointment of staff, leaves of absence for medical or to further the staff member's education, promotions, and separations. Since these are personnel related, discussion occurs in a closed session.
- Contracts for:
 - Local Area Network Equipment
 - Computer and Peripheral Recycling
 - Electrical
 - Fencing
- Authorizing a change in school bus contractor name.
- Approve school bus contractors' requests to purchase new school buses for the 2026-27 school year.
- Retirement and OPEB Investment Trustees.

Consent Items are non-controversial items voted on at once to streamline meetings. Board members either previously discussed the items or they had the opportunity to in advance.

REORGANIZATION

Each December, state law mandates that the Board must reorganize by selecting its Chair and Vice Chair. For the year 2026, the Board has elected Gene Malone as Chair and David Plotts as Vice Chair.

HOLIDAY CARDS

Dr. Stauffer recognized the three students whose holiday card designs were selected for use by WCPS:

- Ivanna Pacheco, 4th grader
- Marly Point DuJour, 7th grade
- Sadie Buckingham, 11th grade



2025 Holiday Card Designs