APPROVED

Brighten Academy

Minutes

Policy/Governance Committee Committee Meeting

Date and Time
Monday October 5, 2026 at 6:10 PM

Committee Members Present
E. Hammonds, R. Coffee

Committee Members Absent
J. Smith, L. Bryant

Guests Present
S. Littles

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

E. Hammonds called a meeting of the Policy/Governance Committee Committee of Brighten Academy to order on Monday Oct 5, 2026 at 6:14 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

E. Hammonds made a motion to approve the minutes from Policy/Governance Committee Meeting on 09-14-26.
R. Coffee seconded the motion.

The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Policy/Governance Committee

A. Info Only

Annual Policy Review (October):
F36 Staff Telework
F36-E1 Staff Telework Agreement
Mrs. Knight will review this policy and the accompanying agreement for updates and clarification as it was originally created during Covid.

F37 Staff Participation in Political Activities
Mrs. Knight will review this policy for updates and clarification

F38 Staff Protections
Title of this policy is misleading. Mrs. Knight will review for revisions.

F39 Staff Leave
This was updated and approved in July 2026.

F40 Code of Ethics for Staff
Mrs. Knight will review for revisions.

DCSS Policy Updates
No known policy updates at meeting time.

DOE Policy Updates - Sept. and Oct. 2026
-State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.40 sets Georgia's K-3 early literacy and dyslexia mandates, prohibiting the three-cueing system and requiring universal screening three times a year. [1]

-Georgia State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.11 governs student promotion, placement, and retention standards across public schools in the state. [1]

-Georgia State Board of Education (SBOE) Rule 160-3-1-.07 mandates a comprehensive, statewide Student Assessment Program requiring all public school students in kindergarten through 12th grade to participate in state-designated testing instruments. [1, 2]
Administered strictly by certified educators, the program evaluates student mastery of state-adopted academic content standards to guide instruction, identify performance gaps, and support school accountability. [1, 2, 3]

B.

Discussion

D13, F43, I2 - All three policies have been reviewed and edited by legal counsel and are ready for vote.

H7 - Food Services Charges
Mrs. Knight gave an update as Ms. Knight continues to work through the list. Some students were charged for food that should have received free or reduced prices. A policy revision may be ready soon. We will bring this back at the next committee meeting.

G7: Athletic Student Health Requirements
G7-E1: Athletic Student Health Forms
Mrs. Knight submitted proposed changes to G7. Richard shared there should be additional revisions based on "Return to School" vs. "Return to Play," per concussion protocol. Mrs. Knight will research this policy further and we will bring this back for discussion at the next committee meeting.

F34: Staff Requirements
F35: Staff Conflict of Interest
These two policies will be up for vote at the 10/19 Governing Board Committee.

B1-E1: Board Functions (entire year)
The entire policy index section is under review/revision by Mrs. Knight and Dr. Littles. They will alert the committee when they are ready for review and voting.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
E. Hammonds