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Charlotte–Mecklenburg Board of Education Approves Two New Policies

Charlotte, N.C. – The Charlotte–Mecklenburg Board of Education approved two new policies – Policy B–OLCA Office of Legal, Compliance, and Advocacy and Policy S–SFRS Student Free Speech – at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 9. Both policies, in part, strengthen compliance with current applicable law and provide guidance within the school environment.

Policy B–OLCA Office of Legal, Compliance, and Advocacy and Policy

Policy B–OLCA creates the Office of Legal, Compliance, and Advocacy (OLCA) that will provide essential legal and operational support to the Charlotte–Mecklenburg Board of Education. Specifically, OCLA will be responsible for:

- Governance advice and board support
- Legal strategy and oversight
- Compliance and accountability
- Risk identification and mitigation
- Policy and advocacy alignment
- Ethical leadership and institutional integrity
- Strategic advice on the evolution of education by keeping the board apprised of legal, regulatory, and policy trends

[For the complete policy, click HERE.](#)

“The Office of Legal Compliance and Advocacy represents a modern governance model that recognizes compliance alone is not enough,” said Board of Education Chair Stephanie Sneed. “To effectively serve students and protect the district, we

must ensure legal compliance, anticipate and mitigate risk, monitor emerging educational trends and legislation, and strategically advocate for policies that support our schools.”

She continued by stating, “This integrated structure was intentionally developed to provide the board and district with the comprehensive oversight and forward-looking capacity necessary to navigate an increasingly complex educational landscape. This structure positions us to be proactive rather than reactive and strengthens our ability to govern effectively in an increasingly complex educational environment.”

Policy S–SFRS Student Free Speech

Policy S–SFRS, Student Free Speech, provides clear guidelines for student free speech that better supports the school environment and helps students engage in productive civic discourse. [For the complete policy, click HERE.](#)

“The policy committee along with our legal department are confident we have a policy that provides clarity and guidance for each of our school leaders that allows students to exercise their first amendment rights while minimizing incidents that could cause disruption,” said Board of Education Vice Chair Gregory “Dee” Rankin who also chairs the board’s policy committee.

He continued by stating, “The Board fully supports students exercising their right to free speech that ensures that schools remain safe places for all of our students and promotes productive civic discourse.”

Update Post the Regularly Scheduled June 9 Meeting

The Board has settled the case of *G.S., a minor v. Charlotte–Mecklenburg Board of Education*. The Board has adopted a new Student Free Speech policy that addresses “spirit rocks” and other expressive activities. Although previously communicated to the community on October 11, 2025, the Board reaffirms and clarifies the following: The students’ painting of the Ardrey Kell spirit rock on September 14, 2025, did not violate the Code of Student Conduct or other school system policies in place at the time. It was not an act of vandalism, and the school did not report the incident to law enforcement. The Board regrets that the student had this experience.

[To learn about the entire meeting, please click HERE.](#) For more information, please email Executive Director of Board Communications Sheri Costa at sheri.costa@cms.k12.nc.us.