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Duval County Public Schools changes position on how it will give public notice for meetings



Submitted by [Topher Sanders](#) on January 7, 2013 - 12:56pm

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The Duval County School District failed to provide notice for Monday night's School Board meeting in the manner it stated it would after previous problems with meeting notices.

There was no notice for Monday's meeting posted on the district's bulletin board at its headquarters, which spokeswoman Jill Johnson said in July was the place the district needed to posted notices in order to comply with state law. And as of Sunday evening, the district also didn't have a public notice for the meeting on the section of its web site dedicated for public notices.

Alerts for tonight's meeting have been on the homepage of district's website, the district said an email with the meeting's location and time was sent to more than 27,000 people on Dec. 5, an agenda for the meeting was also posted on the district's web site on Dec. 31 and the media was aware of the meeting.

For those reasons the district's attorney Karen Chastain said proper notice to the public has been given.

"We've given notice in time and in a manner that enables the general public and the media to attend," Chastain said.

Johnson said the district doesn't have to provide notice for public meetings in one consistent place, which is a departure from the district's previous stance. Johnson did say, however, that going forward the district would provide notice on its bulletin board.

The district said the same thing in July when it canceled one meeting and rescheduled another after the Times-Union alerted the school system it failed to provide proper notice for meetings.

Johnson and Chastain also said the district would comply with the Attorney General's Office's suggestion around proper notice, which includes correspondence with the media.

The Attorney General's Office also suggest notices be prominently displayed at the agency's office and that the notice come a week prior to the meeting.

The School Board has a healthy agenda tonight including the consideration of several key positions that Superintendent Nikolai Vitti wants to complete the first phase of his reorganization, approval of it class-size compliance plan and the whether to suspend two teachers for multiple weeks.

Courts have previously held action taken in meetings lacking proper public notice to be void.

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