



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT
Volusia County School Board Meeting
Reported by Ann Harrell

January 13, 2026

The Volusia County School Board met in regular session with Chairperson Ruben Colon, presiding. Members: Ms. Jamie Haynes, District 1; Ms. Krista Goodrich, District 2; Mrs. Jessie Thompson, District 3; Donna Brosemer, District 4; and Mr. Ruben Colón, District 5. Also present: Dr. Carmen J. Balgobin, Superintendent and Attorney Evans.

Key takeaways:

- High school graduation rate for class of 2025 is the highest in the district's history. Volusia County schools' 95.6% rate is higher than the state average of 92.2%.
- The district is ninth in the state for its overall graduation rate.
- Students at Edith I. Starke Elementary in Deland moved into a brand new building, and the attendance boundaries for Starke and Freedom Elementary schools were changed.
- During public input, Vernell Spar, music teacher at Turie T. Small Elementary, encouraged the School Board to find solutions to the unsafe conditions of the playground at Turie T. Small Elementary School. Mrs. Spar is Turie T. Small Elementary's Teacher of the Year.
- The next Regular Session of the Volusia County School Board will be held on February 10, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Admin Center in DeLand.