

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Policy Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Policy Meeting type: Regular
Date of Meeting: 2/28/18 Place of Meeting: Central Office Conf. Room
Members present: Greg Flanagan, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan
Member absent: Doug DeRito
Other attendees: Alicia Roy, Rich Sanzo, Mary Stolle, Kimberly LaTourette, Ed Sbordone
Minutes submitted by: Kimberly LaTourette

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
Kimberly LaTourette was elevated to voting status.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 24, 2018 - Regular

Motion: To approve the minutes of January 24, 2018, as amended to include Rick Regan's notes

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Greg Flanagan

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Policy 5135 – Participation in Athletic – no action taken

Policy 5135, adopted by the BOE on Feb. 6, 2001, follows CIAC rules and guidelines. Spring schedule begins March 17th, and there are 47 days to get in 20 games for baseball/softball, and tennis, and 16 for lacrosse. This schedule is set up one year in advance. The district is only allowed to have 3 games per week, can only reschedule a 4th game if one is cancelled due to weather. It is requested to avoid certain dates: prom, DECA fashion show, senior trip, concert nights. Three buses per day are available and every six days, athletes have to have a day off. Officials may not be available or opponents may not be available.

The following questions were discussed: Can there be less of a penalty so that families can go on vacation together? Is it possible to change the timing of spring vacation – possibly March? Could college visits be excused and can this be added to the policy?

The high school principal has looked at other school districts and our policy is very similar to theirs. The Athletic Director is not in favor of changing the policy or making the penalty less, and a junior on the student senate agrees with policy.

B. Policy 5131.81 – Electronic Devices

One of the biggest problems in dealing with electronic devices is inconsistency throughout the district. It was suggested that there be a separate policy for each school. The policy should be updated based on devices. Examples were given concerning how the use of electronic devices is handled. Some devices are on "Do not disturb" or "Off" except for certain times of day. Consequence has been dependent on the teacher...some ask them to put it away, some take it away and give it back at the end of class, some give it to the office, sometimes parents have to pick it up or student is told parents will be called next time it is taken. It was suggested that each school come up with their own practice and the overall board policy can be general and give them discretion. Policy revisions should be consistent, enforceable and have the support of the board.

Motion: To table Policy 5131.81

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Greg Flanagan

Recording of Vote: All in favor

C. Policy 6172.1 – Gifted and Talented Students Program

Discussion centered on including a philosophy statement in the policy and changing the word "may" to "shall." The district may not always use what the state recommends, but may use part or something different. It was decided to table this policy.

Motion: To table Policy 6172.1

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Greg Flanagan

Recording of Vote: All in favor

D. Policy 0521 – Equal Opportunity Employment – Nondiscrimination

F. Policy 4118.11/4218.11 – Nondiscrimination

H. Policy 5145.41 – Nondiscrimination

The same changes were made to all three policies list above.

Motion: To recommend to the full Board Policy 0521, Policy 4118.11/4218.11 and Policy 5145.41 as presented and to suspend the rules to take action on these three policies at the March 1, 2018, meeting.

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded: Greg Flanagan

Recording of Vote: All in favor

E. Policy 1321.2 – Public Videotaping of Educational Activity

It was decided to table this policy in order to obtain more recent updates.

Motion: To table Policy 1321.2

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Rick Regan

Recording of Vote: All in favor

G. Policy 5118.1 – Homeless Students

Motion: To recommend to the full Board Policy 5118.1 as amended

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Greg Flanagan

Recording of Vote: All in favor

I. Bylaw 9327.1 – Board Member Use of Internet Social Networks – Changes include:

9327.1(b) - delete paragraphs two and three; add the following to paragraph six- *When on social media sites, Board members will refrain from disparaging all others on a personal, social, racial, or religious basis.*

9327.1(c) #2 - Avoid deliberating school district business *directly* with ~~a quorum of the other~~ Board members.

Motion: To recommend to the full Board Bylaw 9327.1 as amended

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Greg Flanagan

Recording of Vote: All in favor

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - none

V. OTHER

Motion to adjourn:

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Greg Flanagan

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 9:05 p.m.