

**BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT**  
**Policy Subcommittee Meeting**

Name of Subcommittee: Policy

Meeting type: Regular

Date of Meeting: 2/25/26

Place of Meeting: Zoom

Members present: Kathy Baker, Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion

Members absent:

Other attendees: Ken Craw, Kris Woleck, James D'Amico, Scott Rohwedder, Karen Gruetzner, Dr. Jennifer Hilderbrand, Paul Gouveia, Ed Sbordone

Minutes submitted by: Kim LaTourette

Meeting Access: Policy Subcommittee (2/25/26 at 7:00 p.m.) Web:

<https://zoom.us/j/97339257721> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 973 3925 7721

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. January 28, 2026 - Regular

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of January 28, 2026, as presented

Made by: Kathy Baker

Seconded by: Kim LaTourette

**Recording of Vote:** All in favor

## **III. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Policy 5131.81 – Electronic Devices** - Dr. Craw shared that a representative from each school would speak and share a presentation tonight. This is an update on what has been done this year and what we are looking for during the next school year. Dr. Woleck shared a presentation with the committee. We will discuss cell phones as well as personal devices, like laptops. There was a brief review of our policy for cell phones at each level. Dr. Hilderbrand shared an update from the elementary school. They have seen minimal offenses; the students have been great. Many of their offenses are with apple watches. Mrs. Gruetzner shared an update concerning the MS. This has been successful because of the consistent implementation from the staff. They are seeing more compliance this year than last year. They are also promoting this at some of their events as well, like the spring dance. Mr. D'Amico and Mr. Rohwedder increased the enforcement of the device-free classrooms. They are down to 87 referrals this year as opposed to the 369 when this was first put in place last November. The students like having some flexibility to use their cell phones to communicate with family members and coaches. We may need to address the use during study halls.

**1. Cell Phone Update** - These notes were listed in the above item.

**2. Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Update** - Paul Gouveia spoke about the challenges with some HS students bringing their own device. They pretty much have access to their phones on their laptop. There are also issues with data protection and AI use. Some students are using other tools that are not approved by the district and providing them with a different experience than students with a school issued device. Budget wise, we are able to provide each student with a school issued device. Samantha asked if we will be able to continue doing that in the future. Right now, we replace them in 3rd, 6th, and 9th grades so they carry them for a few years. Then we are able to use them for parts as well if needed. We also have high-end devices in the labs for students to use. Another issue we meet is having students ready for standardized testing. The HS admin has been discussing communication that will go home to families and students. It will be a change for some of them; however, the educational and security needs are priority. We do not think there will need to be a change to the policy, the student handbook at the HS may need to be updated, and communication clear to families and students, but this will be managed.

**IV. OTHER** - none

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn: Made by:** Samantha Mannion

**Recording of vote:** All in favor

**Seconded by:** Kim LaTourette

**Meeting adjourned at:** 7:41 p.m.