

**BOE Policy Committee Minutes**  
**Wednesday, October 27, 9:15 AM – 10:15 AM**  
**Municipal Building, BOE Conference Meeting Room**  
**3 Primrose St, Newtown, CT 06470**

**CALL TO ORDER** Meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

**IN ATTENDANCE** Rebekah Harriman, Dan Cruson, Lorrie Rodrigue, Mark Pompano (9:30 am – 9:40 am)  
 Sarah Connell, (1 public)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**APPROVE MINUTES** Rebekah Harriman made a motion to approve the minutes of October 13, 2021. Dan Cruson seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Discussion and possible action:**

Item	Reports
<p><b>Policy 4118.239/4218.239 – Required Covid-19 Vaccinations</b>            S.Connell received an edited policy from Shipman and Goodwin. The committee reviewed the edits and agreed to use the following paragraph as the policy.            “The <u>Newtown</u> Board of Education (the “Board”) recognizes the importance of protecting the health and safety of students, staff and the community during the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order, the Board <u>authorizes the Administration to develop a regulation concerning vaccinations against COVID-19.</u> “            The remainder of the policy will be used as a regulation.            S. Connell will replace all mention of a “Board school” with “District school”.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S. Connell will make the approved edits and bring back for a final review.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy 5162.51/6162.51 – Surveys of Students/Student Privacy</b>            S. Connell edited the policy to mirror Newtown’s current format. The committee agreed to move this policy forward to the BOE for approval without the forms attached. L. Rodrigue will bring the forms to her next A-Team meeting for the Admins to review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S. Connell will send this policy to the 5000 series queue.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Policy 5145.12- Search and Seizure</b> M. Pompano made additional edits to this policy after a BOE member had questions. He made it clear what was included from the old Newtown policy (in blue) and what was new (in red). S. Connell will send this policy back to K. June for BOE second read.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S. Connell will send this policy back to K. June for BOE second read.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy 5145.124 – Breathalyzer</b> There were no questions from the BOE about this policy. The committee agreed there was no need to edit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S. Connell will send this policy back to K. June for BOE second read.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy 3160 – Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers</b> The committee asked T. Vadas to join the meeting to discuss her recommendations regarding this policy. T. Vadas asked to make an additional edit and include a dollar amount for transferring within major object codes. The committee agreed. The edit is as follows: “<u>Transfers</u> between major object codes <u>less than \$10,000</u> may be made without prior Board of Education approval, <u>but will be referenced in the monthly financial report</u>. Notice of major object codes falling into a negative balance will <u>also</u> be included in the monthly financial report.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S. Connell will send this edited policy to K. June for BOE approval. This will be their first read.</li> </ul>

## NEW BUSINESS

### Discussion and possible action:

Item	Reports
<p><b>Policy 4118.21 – Academic Freedom</b> S. D’Eramo was not able to attend the meeting; however, she did send her recommendations to the committee beforehand. S.D’Eramo would like to use Ridgefield’s version of this policy. The committee agreed and loved the language in the policy. D. Cruson suggested that Newtown’s new Coordinator of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion look at this policy before bringing it to the Board. L. Rodrigue loved the suggestion and will ask Mr. Johnson to review this policy when he starts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L. Rodrigue will send this policy to Mr. Johnson for his recommendations and bring back to the committee.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy 4118.211 – Retaliation and Whistle - Blowing</b> S. D’Eramo feels strongly that Newtown does not need this policy and no other surrounding districts currently have one. The committee feels that Newtown may need one and would like to discuss further at a future meeting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S. Connell will invite S. D’Eramo to an upcoming policy meeting</li> </ul>

<p><b>Policy 4118.121 – Display of Religious Symbols and Decorations</b> Due to time constraints, the committee was not able to review this policy and will move it to the next policy meeting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S. Connell will invite S. D’Eramo to an upcoming policy meeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy 4118.22 – Code of Ethics</b> Due to time constraints, the committee was not able to review this policy and will move it to the next policy meeting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S. Connell will invite S. D’Eramo to an upcoming policy meeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy 4118.23 – Conduct of Dress</b> Due to time constraints, the committee was not able to review this policy and will move it to the next policy meeting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S. Connell will invite S. D’Eramo to an upcoming policy meeting</li> </ul>

**UPDATE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Rodrigue did not have any current updates to present to the committee at this time.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** None

A motion was made by R. Harriman to move Policy 5145.12- Search and Seizure, Policy 5145.124 – Breathalyzer and Policy 3160 – Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers forward to the Board of Education for review at the Board of Education meeting to be held on November 3, 2021. D. Cruson seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by R. Harriman to postpone discussion/action on Policy 4118.239/4218.239– Required Covid-19 Vaccinations, Policy 4118.21 – Academic Freedom, Policy 4118.211 – Retaliation and Whistle –Blowing, Policy 4118.121 – Display of Religious Symbols and Decorations, Policy 4118.23 – Conduct of Dress. D. Cruson seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT** Rebekah Harriman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Cruson seconded. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.