

BOE Policy Committee Minutes
Wednesday, October 28, 2020
Virtual Meeting 8:30 A.M.

In consideration of public health, open meetings and the Governor's Executive Order No. 7B dated March 10, 2020 regarding PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID- 19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE - FURTHER SUSPENSION OR MODIFICATION OF STATUTES; this meeting will include an option for the public to phone in to listen to the audio of the meeting. Please note that public comment will be received by phone at the beginning and end of this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

IN ATTENDENCE Rebekah Harriman-Stites, Dan Cruson, Lorrie Rodrigue, Suzanne D'Eramo, Donna Culbert, Sarah Connell

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

APPROVE MINUTES Rebekah Harriman-Stites made a motion to approve the minutes of October 14, 2020. Dan Cruson seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action:

Item	Reports
<p>Policy 5145.42 – Racial Harassment</p> <p>A BOE member submitted their questions to the committee. The edits that were approved by the committee are:</p> <p>On page (a), in the second paragraph, the committee will change the word different to unwelcomed.</p> <p>On the same page, #1 will change to: <u>when conduct towards a student that is based on race has a negative impact on the well-being of the student, whether that conduct is performed by other students within an educational setting or by district employees or their agents when acting within the scope of their official duties; or</u></p> <p>And #2 will change to “when the education<u>al</u>...”</p> <p>In the next paragraph on the same page, a few minor edits were made. The committee change the words “at once” to <u>promptly</u> and added the language “<u>or any district staff member</u>” to the second sentence.</p> <p>The last change was adding a sentence to page (b) that states: <u>A summary of all such incidents and their dates of</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• S. Connell to send this policy to K. June for the BOE's second read.

<p><u>resolutions shall be included in the annual report required as outlined in Policy 0523.</u></p> <p>The committee felt confident in the changes they made. R. Harriman-Stites made a motion to send this policy back to the Board for their second read. D. Cruson seconded.</p>	
<p>Policy 4118.237/4218.237/5141.8 – Face Masks/Coverings</p> <p>The committee asked D. Culbert her thoughts on this policy. D. Culbert reviewed this policy found no issue with the policy. However, in the regulation, D. Culbert and the committee agreed to change the language on the last page to: “<u>Students shall be offered face covering breaks during the school day as determined appropriate by the Administration.</u> <u>A face covering break consists of the student removing the face covering from the student’s own nose and mouth for a short period of time. School district personnel supervising students shall only permit a face covering break when individuals who are indoors or outdoors are a minimum of 6 feet apart whenever possible or other District approved mitigating measures (such as physical barriers) have been implemented. Additional protective measures would be implemented whenever possible, such measures include social distancing, physical barriers, increased ventilation, hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfection, and exclusion of ill individuals. When practicable, school personnel supervising students shall schedule face covering breaks outdoors.</u>”</p> <p>This policy is a required policy so the committee agreed to send this to the next BOE meeting for their first read.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Connell will send this policy to K. June for BOE first read.
<p>Policy 4112.6 – Personnel Records</p> <p>S. D’Eramo presented her final version of this policy and the committee agreed with the edits. R. Harriman-Stites made a motion to add this policy to the 4000 series queue. D. Cruson seconded.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Connell will add this policy to the 4000 series queue.
<p>Policy 4112.8 – Nepotism, Husband/Wife Employment</p> <p>D. Cruson recused himself from this conversation given his wife’s employment. R. Harriman-Stites stated that she does not feel comfortable being the only BOE member making a decision on his policy so she is requesting that S. Connell invite M.Ku as an ex officio to the next policy meeting. D. Cruson agreed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Connell will invite S. D’Eramo and M.Ku to an upcoming policy meeting.

A motion was made by Rebekah Harriman-Stites to postpone discussion/action on Policy 4112.8 – Nepotism, Husband/Wife Employment. Dan Cruson seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Rebekah Harriman-Stites to send Policy 5145.42 – Racial Harassment, Policy 4118.237/4218.237/5141.8 – Face Masks/Coverings for Board review. Dan Cruson seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Rebekah Harriman-Stites to send Policy 4112.6 – Personnel Records to the 4000 series queue. Dan Cruson seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

UPDATE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Rodrigue stated that she is excited about the policies that we are moving forward because today is the first PEAC meeting with the new subgroup “Diversity and Equity”. The community seems to be engaged and excited about the opportunity to work with the BOE on this topic.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Deborra Zukowski, 4 Cornfield Ridge Road, Newtown CT. Ms. Zukowski interpreted #1 and #2 on Policy Policy 5145.42 – Racial Harassment. She stated that she interpreted #1 that conduct that was directed towards a particular person and #2 was when it was not. She gave examples of video meetings interruptions or overhearing a joke between two colleagues. Ms. Zukowski will work on other language for the next BOE meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Rebekah Harriman-Stites made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Cruson seconded. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.