

**BOE Policy Committee Minutes
Wednesday, December 9, 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 8:37 a.m.

IN ATTENDANCE Rebekah Harriman-Stites, Dan Cruson, Lorrie Rodrigue, Suzanne D’Eramo, Sarah Connell

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

APPROVE MINUTES Rebekah Harriman-Stites made a motion to approve the minutes of November 25, 2020. Dan Cruson seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action:

Item	Reports
Policy 4114- Transfer/ Reassignment The committee agreed with the final version. R. Harriman-Stites made a motion to send this policy to the 4000 series queue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• S. Connell will add this policy to the 4000 series queue.
Policy 4115 – Evaluation/Supervision S. Connell reached out to CABA regarding renumbering policies. CABA explained that it is a technical change and not needed to go forward to the BOE for approval. S. Connell will renumber Newtown’s existing policy and add to the website.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• S. Connell will send the new renumbered to the website.
Policy 4115.3 – Evaluation Coaches M. Memoli and L. Rodrigue met regarding this policy and combined some aspects of Newtown’s current policy with CABA’s version. The form that is used currently was also added to the policy. The committee approved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• S. Connell will add this policy to the 4000 series queue.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action:

Item	Reports
<p>Policy 5145.5- Sexual Harassment/Discrimination</p> <p>The committee requested to look at this policy again before the BOE’s 2nd read. The committee agreed to add language that is mentioned in the Racial Harrasment of Students policy. The edits are as followed:</p> <p>On page (a), the committee changed the definition of Sex discrimination to: <i>“Sex discrimination involves treating someone unfavorably because of that person’s sex. Discrimination against an individual because of gender identity, including transgender status, or sexual orientation is also in violation of this policy.”</i></p> <p>On page (b), S. Connell will add the following language under <i>“Procedure”</i>: <i>Students and staff are expected to report any incidents of sexual discrimination or harassment that occur on school grounds, during after school activities, or during off campus school events. School personnel are required to follow appropriate protocols, laid out in the regulation, for handling issues brought forward, including reporting incidents to school administrators who are responsible for investigating and employing appropriate disciplinary measures consistent with school policy. Students in grades K-12 are encouraged to reach out to trusted adults when they either witness or experience issues related to sexual discrimination and harassment. An Anonymous Alert app is available to students in grades 9-12 for students to report issues of concern confidentially”</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• S. Connell will send the final version to K.June for BOE final approval.
<p>Policy 1311.1- Political Activities of School Employees</p> <p>R. Harriman-Stites asked the committee to look at this policy in response to a complaint made by an employee about an article of clothing that could be interpreted as political. D. Cruson made the point that it is not possible to have a policy regarding this because you cannot prove intent in this particular case. L. Rodrigue suggested that she speak with R. Mills regarding this issue and how Admin should handle these situations in the future. The committee agreed. D. Cruson also mentioned that</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committee to review

the BOE should not be a part of this decision and it should be Administration's responsibility to take action after receiving legal advice.	
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UPDATE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

A motion was made by Rebekah Harriman-Stites to send Policy 4114- Transfer/ Reassignment, Policy 4115.3 – Evaluation Coaches to the 4000 series queue. Dan Cruson seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Rebekah Harriman-Stites to send Policy 5145.5- Sexual Harassment/Discrimination to the Board. Dan Cruson seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION None

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.