

BOE Policy Committee Draft Minutes
3 Primrose Place, Newtown, CT
April 4, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m.

In attendance: Michelle Embree Ku, Rebekah Harriman-Stites, Joe Erardi, Mark Pompano, Lorrie Rodrigue, Michelle Faila

Public Participation: None

Approval of Minutes: R. Harriman-Stites made a motion to approve the minutes of March 28, 2016. M. Ku seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Action	Follow-up
<p>Policy 7-701 – Substance Abuse – Policy was reviewed to make sure there are no conflicting statements with new Policy 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process. – The committee agreed to recommend the updated policy to the Board of Education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee agreed to recommend the updated policy to the Board of Education.
<p>Policy 7-701.1 – Substance Abuse Administrative Procedures – Policy was reviewed to make sure there are no conflicting statements with new Policy 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process – The committee reviewed the CABA Sample Policies 5131.6 – Alcohol Use, Drugs, and Tobacco (including Performance Enhancing Substances). The committee liked the policy provided by CABA labeled “A recommended policy including sections pertaining to inhalant drugs and performance drugs”. Under the section of Inhalant Abuse the wording “18 years of age or older” was removed to reflect no student will sell inhalant materials to another student. Under the Performance-Enhancing Drugs section of the policy the reference to student athletes was removed to include all students. The committee requested the Athletic Director to review this section of the policy on Performance-Enhancing Drugs before the next policy committee meeting. Under the section of Tobacco/E-Cigarette Use by Students nicotine products and nicotine gum was added to the list of prohibited items. The committee discussed medical marijuana and this policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Reilly will make revisions to the policy and forward a copy to the committee for their review prior to their next meeting. • L. Rodrigue will verify with the school nurse that personnel and coaches do not dispense any medication without a physician’s note (including over-the-counter drugs). • M. Reilly will forward the section on Performance-Enhancing Drugs of Policy 5131.6 to Gregg Simon for his review and feedback. • Prior to our next meeting, M. Ku will forward questions she received about the use of breathalyzer at events.

Policy 0523 – Equity and Diversity Policy 5145.53 – Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth – M. Failla explained to the committee how she became involved with the Transgender Policy and gave the committee an overview of the Equity and Diversity Policies and the Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth Policy. She said we currently have students in our school system that identify as transgender. M. Failla feels the best way to handle these cases is on a case to case situation. She feels a policy might make it a more open environment for students and families. L. Rodrigue told the committee that we need to be welcoming to all groups and explained to the committee that at the High School staff works with the families and students that identify as transgender. Dr. Rodrigue told the committee that transgender students not only have a high suicide rate but they also have a high dropout rate. She said identification of name is very important to the transgender student. M. Failla said the language in the policy is very important. She also said a really big piece that is missing is K-12 professional development for all staff. L. Rodrigue indicated that the High School will be hosting a speaker for staff development. R. Harriman-Stites asked if we needed two policies. She felt that having separate policies would send a really good message. L. Rodrigue thought one policy would be easier to work with since it is beneficial to work with the transgender students on a case to case basis. M. Pompano thought separate policies would be better and easier for the educators to understand. M. Ku was in favor of separate policies. M. Reilly will compile the policies and ask CAFE and our attorney if we should have two separate policies and what sample policy we should use. The committee agreed to relook at these policies at a future meeting.

- M. Reilly will compile the policies and ask CAFE and our attorney if we should have two separate policies and what sample policy we should use.

Policy 1120 – Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings

- Discussion/action was postponed to a future meeting.

<p>Policy 1314/1324 – Fund-Raising and Solicitation – The Policy Committee will present to the Board the changes agreed upon at their last meeting. The committee will revisit the policy in the near future with a broader lens. R. Harriman-Stites asked L. Rodrigue if the Board could get a fund-raising report from the High School. L. Rodrigue said she would be able to provide a report for the Board. She also said there has always been a fund-raising protocol overseen by the AP Office. The High School knows who is fund-raising and the money being collected. J. Erardi informed the committee that we have received legal advice to separate from private entity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Rodrigue will look into whether the Booster Clubs have their own checkbooks and report back to the committee.
<p>Policy 3532.1 - Liability Insurance –</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion/action was postponed to a future meeting.
<p>Policy 5132 - Student Dress and Grooming – J. Erardi and Riland Abazi, BOE Student Representative, meet with students at the Reed School, Middle School and High School last year to discuss the dress code policy. L. Rodrigue gave the committee an overview on her findings from the High School meeting. She believes the word distracting should be taken out of the policy and asked that the new policy be positive; for instance, dressing professionally rather than listing what can't be worn. The committee asked M. Failla to look at the policy and bring back any suggestions. The committee agreed to use the policy provided by CABE. They will come to the next policy meeting with specific recommendations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee will provide recommendations to the dress code policy at the next committee meeting.
<p>Policy 6172.5 – Pilot Programs – M. Ku presented the committee with the draft policy that the Curriculum and Instruction committee put together. The committee agreed to send the updated policy forward to the Board of Education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee agreed to recommend replacing the policy presently numbered 8-205 with the modified “sample policy to consider” provided by CABE to the Board of Education.

Public Participation: None

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by M. Ku and seconded by R. Harriman-Stites. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Submitted: Michelle Ku, Policy Committee Chair

Minutes are in draft form. Any corrections will be discussed and noted in minutes of subsequent meetings of the BOE Policy Subcommittee.