

BOE Policy Committee Minutes
3 Primrose Place, Newtown, CT
May 9, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m.

In attendance: Michelle Embree Ku, Rebekah Harriman-Stites, Keith Alexander, Joe Erardi, Gino Faiella, Mark Pompano

Public Participation:

None

Approval of Minutes: M. Ku made a motion to approve the minutes of April 25, 2016. R. Harriman-Stites seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Action	Follow-up
Policy 1120 – Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings – A discussion took place regarding public participation at Board meetings by staff that are not Newtown residents. M. Ku spoke to Rebecca Adams, Legal Counsel at CAFE, who provided recommendations for the policy on public participation at Board meetings. The committee agreed to recommend “a revised recommended policy to consider” provided by CAFE to the Board of Education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Reilly to submit a copy of the CAFE policy with recommended changes to the Board of Education for review.
Policy 1205 – Participation by the Public – The committee agreed to review this policy in conjunction with a policy addressing the construction of the agenda and not incorporate any of this policy into Policy 1120.	
Policy 3524 - Hazardous Materials in Schools – G. Faiella presented the committee a draft of the regulation. After some discussion it was decided that G. Faiella will add language into the regulation regarding contractors and hazardous materials in the schools. He will also include in the regulation high school administration being informed about hazardous materials in the schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G. Faiella will add language into the regulation regarding contractors and hazardous materials in the schools. He will also include in the regulation high school administration being informed about hazardous materials in the schools.

<p>Policy 5131.6 – Alcohol Use, Drugs, and Tobacco (including Performance Enhancing Substances) – Continued discussion on replacing current Policy 7-701 – Substance Abuse Administrative with new policy. J. Erardi reported after reviewing current regulation 701.1, the NHS Athletic Handbook and the Code of Conduct all pertinent information is included in the new policy. J. Erardi reported that he contacted the Board’s attorney regarding the use of the breathalyzer at school events. The attorney stated that the policy is appropriate as written. The committee agreed to recommend replacing the policy presently numbered 7-701 with the “recommended policy including sections pertaining to inhalant drugs and performance drugs” provided by CABA along with updates to our presently numbered regulation 7-701.1 to the Board of Education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Reilly to submit a copy of the CABA policy with recommended changes to the BOE review.
<p>Policy 5132 - Student Dress and Grooming – After reviewing the feedback from the Leadership Team the committee changed the wording in the regulation to make it clear as to what was prohibited. M. Reilly will follow-up with the Leadership Team that requested more time to review the regulation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Reilly will follow-up with the Leadership Team that requested more time to review the regulation.
<p>Policy 5145.53 – Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth – The Board’s attorney requested more time to review the policy. Action was postponed to a future meeting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Reilly will follow-up with BOE attorney.

NEW BUSINESS

J. Erardi spoke to the committee about a request from Cultural Home to bring a student from Italy to the High School next school year. J. Erardi will write a policy and bring it to the committee for their review at their next policy meeting.

Action	Follow-up
<p>Policy 5125 – Student Records: Confidentiality (FERPA) – The committee asked M. Reilly to invite D. Mailloux-Peterson to the next committee meeting to review Policy 5125.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Reilly will invite D. Mailloux-Peterson to the next committee meeting to review Policy 5125.

<p>Policy 5145.122 – Use of Dogs to Search School Property – Lieutenant Robinson of the Newtown Police Department had a few concerns regarding our currently policy 7-402 that he discussed with M. Pompano. The committee reviewed our current policy and several other policies provided by CABE. The committee agreed to use “a separate policy on this issue” provided by CABE. A few changes were made to the CABE policy that reflected our present practice. M. Reilly will update the policy. M. Pompano will review updated policy with Lieutenant Robinson.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Reilly will update policy. • M. Pompano will review updated policy with Lieutenant Robinson.
<p>Policy 9323 – Construction of the Agenda – The committee asked M. Reilly to bring a copy of our current policy to the next committee meeting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Reilly will bring a copy of our current policy to the next committee meeting. Policy 1205 to be considered in conjunction with these policies.

Discussion/action was postponed to a future meeting:

Item	Responsibility
Policy 3281.1 – Business/Industry/Corporate Involvement in Education	R. Harriman-Stites
Policy 3452 - Revolving Funds	R. Harriman-Stites
Policy 3453 - School Activity Fund	R. Harriman-Stites
3453.1 – Unexpended Class Funds	R. Harriman-Stites
3454 – Gate Receipts and Admission	R. Harriman-Stites
3455 – High School Concession Stand	R. Harriman-Stites
3523.11 – Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones)	R. Harriman-Stites
3541 – Transportation	M. Ku
3541.1 – School Bus Riders	M. Ku
3541.2 – Responsibilities and Duties	M. Ku
3541.21 – Boards of Education	M. Ku
3541.22 – Employee Duties: Driver	M. Ku
3541.23 – Bus Contractor	M. Ku
3541.24 – Transportation: Parent/Guardian Responsibility	M. Ku
3541.3 – Route Services	M. Ku
3541.311 – Riding Other Than Assigned Bus	M. Ku
3541.312 – Daycare Center Transportation	M. Ku
3541.313 – Video Cameras on School Transportation	M. Ku
3541.32 – Special Transportation for School Related Trips	M. Ku
3541.33 – Special Transportation for Exceptional Children	M. Ku
3541.34 – Special Transportation for Non Public School Purposes	M. Ku
3541.341 – Non Public School Students	J. Erardi
3541.342 – Senior Citizens	J. Erardi
3541.343 – Outside Agencies/Organizations	J. Erardi
3541.35 – Bus Driver Safety/Emergency Procedures	J. Erardi
3541.4 – Transportation Equipment	J. Erardi
3541.41 – Maintenance	J. Erardi
3541.42 – Vandalism	J. Erardi

3541.43 – School System Owned Vehicles	J. Erardi
3541.44 – Privately Owned Vehicles	J. Erardi
3541.5 – Transportation Safety Complaints	J. Erardi
3541.51 – Denial of Transportation (Hearings)	J. Erardi
3541.6 – Bus Drivers	J. Erardi
3541.7 – Student Behavior	J. Erardi
3541.8 – Student Bus Assignments	J. Erardi
3541.9 – Accident Reports	J. Erardi
3542 – Food Service	R. Harriman-Stites
3542.1 – Purpose and Facilities	R. Harriman-Stites
3542.2 – Responsibilities and Duties	R. Harriman-Stites
3542.21 – Board of Education	R. Harriman-Stites
3542.22 – Employees	R. Harriman-Stites
3542.3 – Menus and Services	R. Harriman-Stites

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 9:54 a.m.

Submitted: Michelle Ku, Policy Committee Chair

Telephone Conversation with Rebecca Adams, Legal Counsel, CABE 5/28/2016

RE: Public Participation at Meetings

There are at least two considerations when writing policy that might include residency requirements for public comment at public meetings:

1 – The school district employs people and may serve students (tuition-paying) who live outside of the town boundaries. As a public body, interested in hearing from all perspectives, it is in the Board’s best interest to leave the participation open to anyone (while recognizing that reasonable limits on the length of speech or topic may be imposed).

2 – By limiting speech to residents only, the Board could be opening itself to legal action based on the First Amendment. The Board cannot “restrict a person’s right to speak based on their identity.”