

BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY STANDING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 18, 2022
5:30-7:30pm

In-person: Helen Nelson Meeting Room
or join

Virtually: Google Meet joining info
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/tvo-hjzp-dpd>

MEETING MINUTES

- I. Call to Order -
Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Danielle Drozd at 5:31PM
- II. Roll Call -
In attendance included: Mrs. Danielle Drozd, Committee Chair, Mrs. Beth Manke Hutvagner, Ms. Jessica Weaver, Stephen Foresi, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
- III. Public Participation
No public participation
- IV. Old Business
None
- V. New Business
 - 1. Discussion
 - a. **Bus Policy -**
The committee took time to read Policies 3541 and 3541.5. Mr. Foresi then reviewed information from the October 12, 2022 Board meeting, regarding a vote to engage in a pilot program for Kindergarten students. The process would include a letter to all families to solicit participation, data collection during the fall and winter months, and an opportunity to review participation and other data collected (pre-K information, projected enrollments, consideration of new developments, vehicle and personnel expenses, etc.) to make a determination in the Spring of 2023. The committee agreed that we would not revisit the Transportation policy until the information was available in the Spring of 2023 based on the pilot. Mrs. Drozd asked if we had any information or updates on pilot participation. Mr. Foresi shared that the participation in the pilot closes in three days, and to date, we have one participant. The last item we discussed concerning Transportation policy was to consider using a lottery system for those interested, and make the determination of how many seats to pull in the lottery based on the amount of “room”, or available seats, on the bus.
 - b. **Book Policy**
The committee took time to read Policies 6161, 6161.1, 6144 and 5145.4. Our purpose for reviewing these policies was to determine if any changes in policy were required to address issues concerning the appropriateness of book/material selection in our libraries and classrooms. After a review of each policy and deep discourse, specifically around the implementation of the policies opposed to concerns with the actual policy, the following revisions will be recommended to the full Board for consideration in Policy 6161.1: Change “Appropriateness for the” in Criteria 5 to “Consideration of”. Another recommended change is in the final paragraph. It is recommended that the full Board consider the following change: From “appropriate” to “meet the five criteria listed above.” The last recommendation is to add language from and reference to

our Public Complaint, Policy 1312, directly into this policy, Policy 6161.1. Our discussion also included an update that a committee of individuals will be meeting on November 1, 2022 to review the implementation process of book/material selection. This committee will be updated on the outcomes from that meeting during our November 9, 2022 meeting.

c. **Bylaws**

Time was taken to read, review and discuss the following policies, Policy 9132 - Committees, and Policy 9326 - Minutes. Robert's Rules were also read, discussed and used to inform recommendations. Based on our lengthy discussion, language will be recommended to the full Board to consider clarity in Policy 9132 around who can call a meeting and the setting of a meeting agenda. The committee decided to table this item until the next meeting to take time to learn more about Robert's Rules to ensure there is no conflict in how we craft language for this policy to the procedures outlined in Robert's Rules. It is also recommended in Policy 9132 to add "ex officio member" to Section 4: Finance and Budget Committee.

Our deliberations around Policy 9326 - Minutes - additional language that is addressed when a Board member's specific comments will be captured into the minutes. It was recommended that language be added to address when a Board member opens with "I'd like to go on the record" that the specifics of their comments will be in the minutes. It is also recommended that Closing Statements from Board members be taken in the minutes along with any rationale given by a Board member during a vote. Lastly, the committee reviewed minutes from Town Council meetings, and requested that minutes be taken in a similar manner for Board meetings - greater specificity.

d. **Hybrid meeting rules**

The committee discussed this matter and decided that we will not create a policy to address hybrid meeting rules. Dr. Fletcher sent out a process for this earlier in the day to address this matter. There is already policy and established practices addressing meeting rules.

e. **Staff Members who request their child attend NPS, including tuition**

The committee discussed how other districts address this matter. The committee also reviewed Policy 3240 from Newington and CABA. Following a review of both policies and our discussions, the committee will recommend that the Board adopt the language in the CABA policy and also include, between the first and second paragraph of the policy:

"Any non-resident employee who wishes to have their child attend a Newington School, when they can be accommodated in existing classes, shall be eligible to attend at fifty percent (50%) of the established annual cost."

2. Updates

a. **Dress Code Policy Implementation - Wellness Classes**

Mr. Foresi reviewed data collected from each school by Principals and Assistant Principals concerning Informal and Formal Dress Code Violations. To date, the data indicated generally positive feedback including less formal and informal complaints than last year. However, the anecdotal feedback did point to a concern from staff that they may not be addressing dress code issues due to a variety of concerns. Therefore, the committee has requested the following:

- i) Learn more from staff about the "concerns" to address dress code issues
- ii) Collect more disaggregated data, such as: #s broken down by gender of student and gender of referring teacher
- iii) Disaggregate data to determine if it is the same student with multiple referrals or many students being referred, the location of incidents, and grade level of incidents
- iv) Gather data from teachers and students

VI. Public Participation

None

VII. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM

NEXT MEETING: November 9, 2022 at 6:30PM - Hybrid

Committee Members: Mrs. Danielle Drozd, Committee Chair, Mrs. Beth Manke Hutvagner
Ms. Jessica Weaver, Stephen Foresi, Assistant Superintendent of Schools