

BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY STANDING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 4, 2023
6:30-8:30pm

In-person: Helen Nelson Meeting Room
or join

Virtually: Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/sxw-wrmg-xut>

MEETING MINUTES

- I. Call to Order - 6:37PM
- II. Roll Call - Beth Manke Hutvagner, Danielle Drozd, Stephen Foresi
- III. Public Participation - Ms. Yopp: Expressed concern about Policy 5118 not being brought to the Board Finance Committee as well as Policy Committee for discussion, as she expressed concern that this policy has budgetary implications. Ms. Yopp recommended a joint meeting between the two committees prior to the full Boards review of this policy.
Mr. Lavariere expressed concern with Policy 1312, specifically paragraphs 3 and 8 as follows:

Paragraph 3:

The Board of Education welcomes comments and suggestions for improvement from the citizens whom it serves. Constructive criticism of the schools is welcome whenever it is motivated by a sincere desire to improve the quality of the educational program or to allow the schools to do their tasks more effectively. However, The Board also has confidence in its professional staff and desires to support their actions in order that they be free from unnecessary, spiteful or negative unfounded criticism and complaints. **Therefore, whenever a complaint is made directly to the Board as a whole or to a Board member as an individual, it will promptly be referred to the appropriate school administration for study and possible solution.**

1. ~~Therefore, whenever a complaint is made directly to the Board as a whole or to a Board member as an individual, it will promptly be referred to the appropriate school administration for study and possible solution.~~

OR -

2. Therefore, whenever a complaint is made directly to the Board as a whole or to a Board member as an individual, ~~it will promptly be referred to~~ the board member should refer the matter to appropriate school administration for study and possible solution.

Paragraph 8:

If all other remedies have been exhausted and a complaint cannot be satisfactorily resolved, the complaint may be appealed to the Board of Education. **Individual Board members have no authority to resolve complaints.** No appeal will be heard by the Board and no charges or accusations against an employee will be investigated unless the accusations are in writing, signed by the party making the complaint, and presented to the Board through the Superintendent.

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NOTE* Furthermore, I feel having a blanket policy of ignoring anonymous complaints sets a dangerous precedent, as some complainants, under certain circumstances, may be fearful to bring forward a complaint with their name associated therewith.

IV. Old Business - None

V. New Business

1. Discussion

a. Review the following policies based on full Board feedback from 12/14/22 meeting:

- i. Policy [1312: Public Complaints](#) - The team discussed this policy and notes from the full Board meeting. Revisions were made, specifically, language was stricken and language added (highlighted in green).
- ii. Policy [5118: Admission: Non-resident Students](#) (Revised and Combined to Remove Policy [3240: Tuition Fees](#)) - The team discussed this policy and notes from the full Board meeting. The team also discussed the public concern regarding the financial impact of this policy and contemplated the recommendation for a joint subcommittee meeting between the Board Finance and Policy committees. It was determined that we would bring this policy to the full Board on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 and leave it up to the Board if a joint committee meeting is necessary. No revisions were made.
- iii. Policy [6161.1: Library/Media Materials Selection](#) The team discussed this policy and notes from the full Board meeting. No revisions were made. It is recommended for vote during the full Board meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2023
- iv. Policy bylaw [9132: Standing Committees](#) The team discussed this policy and notes from the full Board meeting. Revisions were made, specifically, language was stricken in the second paragraph based on previously expressed feedback.
- v. Policy [5113.2: Truancy](#) The team discussed this policy and notes from the full Board meeting. No revisions were made. It is recommended for vote during the full Board meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2023
- vi. Policy [5144: Student Discipline](#) The team discussed this policy and notes from the full Board meeting. Revisions were made, specifically, language added (highlighted in green), page 5, Section V. Teacher Request - Behavior Intervention Meeting, item D.
- vii. Policy [5113.21 Student Absences and Excuses, Awards or Recognition for Attendance](#) The team discussed this policy and notes from the full Board meeting. A request was made to add an additional Mental Wellness day for students, increasing from 2 to 3 days total. There were questions concerning the documentation of those days as outlined in the policy. Mr. Foresi was charged with looking into the statute and providing the committee with feedback during our next meeting to continue the discussion.

VI. Public Participation - Ms. Yopp expressed appreciation advocating for the three mental health days and us listening and considering those for students.

VII. Adjournment - 8:03PM

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