

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION NEW FAIRFIELD, CT**

### **Policy Subcommittee Meeting**

Name of Subcommittee: Policy

Meeting type: Regular

Date of Meeting: 10-28-20

Members Present: Kathy Baker, Samantha Mannion, Rick Regan, Stephanie Strazza

Other Attendees: Dr. Pat Cosentino, Julie Luby, Katherine Matz

Minutes Submitted by: Stephanie Strazza

Meeting Access: Policy Subcommittee (10/28 at 7 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/91557962741>

Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 915 5796 2741

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. September 23, 2020 - Regular

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of September 23, 2020 as presented.

Made by: Kathy Baker

Seconded by: Rick

**Recording of Vote:** All in favor

### **III. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Policy 1331 - Vaping

B. Policy 4118.231/4218.231 – Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco

C. Policy 5131.6 – Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco

The committee discussed Policy 1331-Vaping as a stand alone policy. Samantha mentioned potential redundancy, being that the policy is written in both the 4000 (staff) and 5000 (students) series. It was suggested that community members, when using school facilities and/or grounds, should adhere to all existing staff and student policies, and this can be implemented by cross referencing existing policies in Policy 1331.

Samantha suggested developing one policy under the 1000 series that encompasses community use of school specifically to include 4118.231/4218.231 and 5131.6. The committee agreed to review the 1000 series to ensure that the series aligns with all policies in 4000 and 5000 series. Dr. Cosentino suggested moving 4118.231/4218.231 and 5131.6 to the full board for approval.

**Motion:** To table policy 1331-Vaping pending review of 1000 series.

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

**Record of Vote:** All in Favor.

D. Policy 4111.3 – Minority Recruitment Policy

The committee determined that Policy 4111.3 did not need action and should be listed under information items.

**Motion:** To move Policy 4111.3 - Minority Recruitment from action to information item.

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Rick Regan

**Recording of Vote:** All in favor.

E. Bylaw 9000 – Role of Board and Members (Powers, Purposes, Duties)

Rick reported on his review of the board bylaws. He did find any items that needed revision within the bylaw.

F. Bylaw 9010 – Limits of Authority - There were no suggested revisions.

G. Bylaw 9012 – Legal Responsibilities of Board of Education - There were no suggested revisions.

H. Bylaw 9020 – Public Statements

The Committee discussed the bylaw and reiterated that press releases were to come from the board as an entity only, not individual members, Formal public statements must be from chair or delegated by the chair. Committee discussed revising the last sentence but decided to leave it as written.

I. Bylaw 9030 – Commitment to Democratic Principles in Relation to Community, Staff and

Students – The committee discussed the following revisions:

In the last sentence of the first paragraph, add the word designee, sentence should state “Hence, the basic line of communication for administrative matters shall be through the Superintendent *or her/his designee.*”

1. Staff Communications to the Board: Edit last sentence to say *Board’s Deliberation* and delete the phrase *problems of staff concern.*

3. Visits to School: Replace the word “would” with “*will*” in the last sentence.

J. Bylaw 9030.1 – Conflict in Public Education The committee agreed to remove section IV *Conduct at Public Meetings*, from Bylaw 9030.1, and list the section under 9030.2. In agreement with Dr. Cosentino, the committee will have Gail review policy 9030.1 prior to doing so, to determine if adding section 9030.2 is a viable solution. Rick discussed music with secular themes, as potentially conflicting with different religious preferences. Pat reiterated that the music department is fully aware of all laws and policies regarding this matter. Stephanie mentioned that secular music, which is considered necessary repertoire, is permitted for teaching purposes. The committee discussed business literature being distributed at school. Dr. Cosentino confirmed we do not allow the distribution of literature representing “for profit” businesses. Literature from non-profit organizations, such as the local girl and boy scouts, may be allowed in circumstances. Samantha asked if the board has an existing policy specifically related to business literature. The existing policy could be cross referenced within Bylaw 9030.1. The committee will consider the addition of such a policy if one does not already exist. The committee agreed to the following revisions to Bylaw 9030.1 under section *Religious Guidelines Sample Questions and Answers:*

Question 8: omit the phrase “This is not basically different from reporting on the political positions of Democratic or Republican candidates.”

Question 10: Omit the word “these”, replace “exempt” with “excused”.

K. Bylaw 9040 – Board-Related Responsibilities - Rick reported that he did not see any issues or suggest revision to Bylaw 9040.

**Motion:** To move Policy 4118.231/4218.231-Alcohol Drugs, and Tobacco, Policy 5131.6-Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco, Bylaw 9000 – Role of Board and Members (Powers, Purposes, Duties), Bylaw 9012 – Legal Responsibilities of Board of Education, and Bylaw 9020 – Public Statements to the full board for approval.

Made By: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

**Record of Vote:** All in favor

**Motion:** To table Bylaws 9030 and 9030.1 pending review.

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Rick Reagan

**Record of Vote:** All in favor

#### **IV. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Policy 4111.3 – Minority Recruitment Policy

Dr. Cosentino spoke about the addition of new staff members, paraprofessionals and teachers, who represent diverse backgrounds and ethnicities. She also discussed the development of an equity and diversity committee. Julie Luby has planned for EdAdvance to conduct an equity audit of high school English curriculums and textbooks. The audit will indicate areas of need for improvement. Rick asked if the committee would review the components of policy, to determine the efficacy of the district’s minority recruitment efforts.

Samantha suggested adding this review to the agenda at the end of every year going forward.

**V. OTHER** - Kathy committed to review the next set of bylaws. Stephanie committed to the review 1000 series for redundancies, and to pair the policies of the community series to the 4000 and 5000 series. Rick inquired about the video from the policy subcommittee meeting that was held on 9/23/20 not being posted.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn** at 8:11 p.m.

Made by: Samantha Mannion

**Record of Vote:** All in Favor.

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.