

MINUTES OF THE WBOE POLICY COMMITTEE

July 30, 2020

VIA WebEx Meeting No. MTID=m5fdd927d69a314929202c27b8d9d408b
Meeting Number (access code): 146 112 9618 Meeting Password: BVnE8dFcx52

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Genovese called the meeting to order at 2:09 PM.

IN ATTENDANCE: Maegan Genovese, Chair; Dan Cowan, Lynn Piasyck, Joyce Shavers, Dr. Jeffrey Townsend, Board of Education Members; Robert F. Gilbert, Superintendent; Stacey Katz, Nursing Supervisor; Nicole Chick, Liz Heagney, Katie McCollom, Jean Molot, Nicole Rizzo, Teachers; Jennifer Cooper, Janet Criscuolo, Teacher Assistants; Joan Grogan, Lauren Hudson-Krieger, Alexis Loss, Lauren Miller, Parents; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

The Committee reviewed the following policies:

- 4118.237 Masks (Staff) / 5141.8 Masks (Students)
- 4118.238 Self-Quarantine (Staff) / 5141.81 Self-Quarantine (Students)
- 6114.81 Emergency Suspension of Policy During Pandemic

It was suggested that in Policies 4118.237 and 5141.8, the language regarding the wearing of masks be modified to remove “required” and replace with “encouraged”. Several committee members believed the language should be maintained as originally written. Discussion ensued for what defined the “magic” number for masks not being required and the enforceability of this policy. Changes made include:

- ❖ Page 1 under Definitions - Face Covering / Mask – the second sentence be moved to the last sentence in the first paragraph.
- ❖ Page 2 under School Building and Grounds – 5th paragraph, 4th sentence adding of a semi colon following the words instruction and feet.
- ❖ Page 3 under Masks Breaks – 3rd paragraph strike words “no more than one class is outside at a time”. *This same change was also made in Policy 5141.8.*

Policies 4118.238 *Self-Quarantine (Staff)* and 5141.81 *Self-Quarantine (Students)* changes made include:

- ❖ Page 1 under Travelers and Connecticut Residents Affected No. 1 the web site for the list of identified states would be added as this information is continuously changing. This same change was also made on Page 2 under “5B”.
- ❖ Testing requirements were changed from 72 hours to 48 hours. Discussion ensued for whether students whose parents travel on business would be required to quarantine. Parents have to be able to work and the suggested language creates an unintended consequence. It was noted that if a parent and/or spouse travels to high-risk / affected states, to protect BRS students and staff, the child should have to quarantine unless the parent tested negative 48 hours prior to returning to Connecticut.
- ❖ On Page 5, under Communication of Policy, Number 5 was changed to “a copy of this policy will be distributed to all district employees with confirmation received”.

Policy 6114.81 *Emergency Suspension of Policy During Pandemic* changes made include:

Concern was expressed for the Board not being informed immediately and suggested “notification within 48 hours” be included. It was also suggested that a log be maintained inclusive of what policy, the reason why and the date. Discussion occurred for whether this would be counterproductive and further complicate what is already an “emergency” situation. This is a global issue and broader than Connecticut. A simple email indicating who, what, why and when should suffice.

There was agreement that each of the policies reviewed would be submitted to the WBOE for 30-day review. It was also noted that each policy would be extracted from the 30-day review to ensure the full Board had a discussion as a sentiment existed that these policies were unnecessary and that further language modifications should be made.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:02 PM