

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Policy Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Policy Meeting type: Regular
Date of Meeting: 11/16/22 Place of Meeting: Zoom
Members present: Kathy Baker, Samantha Mannion, Amy Johnson, Stephanie Strazza
Members absent:
Other attendees: Ken Craw, James D'Amico, Karen Gruetzner
Minutes submitted by: Kathy Baker
Meeting Access: Policy Subcommittee (11/16/22 at 7 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/92672219313>
Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 926 7221 9313

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 26, 2022 - Regular

Motion: To approve the minutes of October 26, 2022, as presented

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Policy 1312 – Public Complaints – The amendments to the policy were discussed. Committee confirmed that the amendments to the policy included language surrounding public hearings being held that potentially violate FERPA law. The Committee agreed that the language was clear, and the amendments acceptable to move forward.

B. Policy 1331 – Smoke Free Environment

James D'Amico reported that the high school plans to administer a survey from the New Fairfield Prevention Council. James reported that they found twelve suspensions this year for vaping, and three were repeat offenses. The building administration is looking into counseling responses. A smoking cessation program was discussed. Ken suggested that middle school, grades 7 and 8, be included in the survey. Karen Gruetzner reported two incidents at the Middle School in the previous year. Dr. Craw stressed the importance of tobacco-use education from late elementary through high school. Dr. Craw discussed the option of detectors. Samantha agreed with the strategy. Plans to raise funds and to purchase were discussed. The efficacy of the sensors was discussed. James mentioned that adult monitoring was an effective deterrent, but the implementation was difficult. Dr. Craw agreed that a multi-pronged approach was necessary. The committee stressed the importance of correcting the issue immediately. Students are unable to safely use the bathrooms at school due to the excessive vaping issue in the bathrooms. The conclusion was to administer a survey to collect data, ramp up the education piece, review potential board policies with specific consequences, and funding to administer staff monitors and/or sensors. Dr. Craw also suggested parent engagement as a component. The education components will be referred to curriculum subcommittee, the policy subcommittee will review additional policies. Full board to review detectors and survey results. Policy will be tabled.

C. Policy 5132 – Dress and Grooming – Kathy Baker reported that a meeting was held with students to voice their concerns. One major concern was misinformation about what the policy states.

Motion: To move Policy 1312 - Public Complaints to the full Board for approval

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

Recording of Vote: All in favor

Motion: To table Policy 1331 - Smoke Free Environment and Policy 5132 - Dressing and Grooming

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

Recording of Vote: All in favor

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - none

OTHER – Samantha asked that Policy 5132 be continued on next month's agenda.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Amy Johnson

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 8:25 p.m.