

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Policy Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Policy

Meeting type: Regular

Date of Meeting: 12/11/24

Place of Meeting: Zoom

Members present: Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion

Members absent: Kathy Baker

Other attendees: Ken Craw, James D'Amico, Paul Gouveia, Dom Cipollone, Ed Sbordone

Minutes submitted by: Kim LaTourette

Meeting Access: Policy Subcommittee (12/11/24 at 7:00 p.m.)

Web: <https://zoom.us/j/96695563238> **Dial In: (929) 205-6099**

Meeting ID: 966 9556 3238

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 20, 2024 – Approved by consensus

III. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Policy 5118 – Nonresident Students - Dr. Craw and Paul Gouveia joined the meeting tonight to share information about following and implementing this policy with fidelity, and they would like to provide an update. Paul reviewed the policy and procedures and the collaboration with the town officials, transportation, registrar, and other personnel. He spoke of the number of homes that were sold in town and how many of them have our students living in them, cars that are no longer registered in town, following up on leases, tips from members of the community.....As of today, they conducted 31 investigations/families that have resulted in 26 students being disenrolled, 11 students attempting to enroll nor being able to enroll. As of yesterday, we have 4 more cases open. The "team" looked at 830 data points in order to come to these conclusions. The BOE has sat on a few residency hearings; however, because the evidence is there that they do not live in town, so many do not have hearings. This has required a lot of effort, communication, and a lot of time. Dominic asked about a cost savings to the district...there was a brief discussion of number of staff, how the students are spread out over Kindergarten through 12th grade, and how the per pupil expenditures is going directly to the students that are residents instead of those that are not. This is not a direct cost savings - we are protecting the services that resident students should be getting. The district could look at legal action in the future if needed because it is a crime to take advantage of our school system and town. Perhaps the district should look into receiving compensation for the time students have spent in our district when they are not residents.

B. Policy 5131.81 – Electronic Devices - Dr. Craw and James D'Amico provided an update on this policy. At the end of October, the High School put in the new enforcement of this policy. It has been successful. As of today, 240 devices have been turned in, mostly from classrooms, but also the learning commons, hallways. James thanked his secretarial staff for their help in implementing this policy. About a dozen sets of parents have had to come in to pick up their child's device. There are 13 students that must turn their phones in for certain lengths of time because of repeat offenders. There have been a handful of students that have been resistant to turning over their device and have had to serve Saturday detention for insubordination. Students are adjusting and understanding the importance of the policy. Teachers report that students are paying more attention in the classrooms, they are interacting more over puzzles and games in the library, and actually asking for books. Staff members are seeing less distractions, more engagement in discussions, parent support, and more talking with one another at lunch.

C. Policy 3517.1 - Identification Badges - Dr. Craw and James D'Amico wanted to address this policy again and talk about a plan the High School team would like to put in place. New lanyards have been purchased, as well as plastic holders for the ID's. They must be shown/worn on the person or in a visible location on the student's bag. There was a discussion about students having to show ID when there is a substitute bus driver. Kim spoke of the importance of having an administrator, teacher, and/or SRO present when students are entering the building, to greet students, but to also hold them accountable in having/wearing their IDs. The committee was pleased with Mr. D'Amico and his team for implementing the device and ID policy with fidelity.

IV. OTHER

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of vote: All in favor

Seconded by: Amy Johnson

Meeting adjourned at: 7:38 p.m.