

MINUTES OF THE WBOE POLICY COMMITTEE

November 10, 2020

VIA WebEx Meeting No. [j.php?MTID=m60a43c853d8308381eaae704f6450f52](https://wboe.com/j.php?MTID=m60a43c853d8308381eaae704f6450f52)
Meeting Number (access code): 146 671 2593 Meeting Password: 7QJwmENbM66

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Genovese called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM.

IN ATTENDANCE: Maegan Genovese, Chair; Dan Cowan, Lynn Piasyck, Dr. Jeffrey Townsend, Board of Education Members; Christine Syriac, Interim Superintendent, Cheryl Mammen, Special Services Director; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

The Committee reviewed the following policies:

- 4118.237 Masks (Staff) / 5141.8 Masks (Students)
- 4000.1 Title IX (Staff) / 5145.44 Title IX (Students)

Sentiment was expressed that the policy was fundamentally flawed and based on opinion. The policy should be simplified and state that masks should be worn when in the building and then identify specific exemptions. Alternate language modifications were provided in addition to the CABE recommended language adjustments in response to recent legislative changes. There was general consensus that the agreed upon language modifications would be made in both the student and staff policies. Changes made include:

- ❖ Page 1 first paragraph, first sentence, strike the word “students”.
- ❖ Page 1 under Definitions – Face Covering/Mask – delete the CABE suggested statement “Evidence shows that the proper wearing of facial masks or coverings helps stop the spread of the virus, which is currently by droplets when an individual coughs, sneezes or talks” as it is a duplication and appears in the first paragraph.
- ❖ Page 2 under School Building and Grounds – 3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence eliminate the comma after “provider” and add the word “or” in its place. In the 4th paragraph, first sentence change “supports” to “adopts”.
- ❖ Page 3 under School Building and Grounds – 2nd paragraph change “supports” to “adopts”. In the 5th paragraph, last sentence, replace “which” with “and”.
- ❖ Page 4 under School Building and Grounds – 2nd paragraph, last sentence strike “however”.
- ❖ Page 5 under Violations of this Policy – first sentence strike “whether by students or” and replace with “by”.

No language changes were made to either of the Title IX policies. Discussion ensued for whether to utilize “Preponderance of Evidence” under *Standard of Evidence and Written Determination* as suggested by administration who attended several state-wide workshops on the topic. Several committee members were urged to utilize “Clear and Convincing Evidence” as the standard as it was regarded as a “higher bar”. Since the committee could not reach agreement, the selection would be referred to the full Board for discussion. It was also agreed Board Counsel would also be consulted to attain guidance on which option would best serve an elementary district.

Committee members agreed that each of the policies reviewed would be submitted to the WBOE for 30-day review. It was also requested that policies be provided in “word” format instead of “pdf” to allow for additional changes by committee members.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:07 AM