

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Policy Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Policy

Meeting type: Special

Date of Meeting: 5/20/25

Place of Meeting: Zoom

Members present: Kathy Baker Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette,

Members absent: Samantha Mannion

Other attendees: Ken Craw, James D'Amico, Dominic Cipollone, Sue Huwer, Ed Sbordone

Minutes submitted by: Amy Johnson

Meeting Access: Policy Subcommittee (5/20/25 at 7:00 p.m.)

Web: <https://zoom.us/j/97786372146> **Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 977 8637 2146**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 30, 2025

Motion: To approve the minutes of April 30, 2025, as presented

Made by: Kim LaTourette

Seconded by: Amy Johnson

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Policy 5118 – Nonresident Students - Residency Update

Ken updated the Policy Subcommittee on the residency initiatives. Ken said it was an active year and thanked Paul and the registrar for their hard work. Paul shared information on the data they are looking at for residency. Every month we get a report from the tax collector on homes bought and sold. There was an issue with the car transfer report, but it is working on getting cleaned up. The partnership with the town is working out great. We are also getting tips from staff, the bus company, community members, etc. We investigated 23 families last year and 24 families this year. With our new policies and procedures, we are able to prevent registration of nonresident students. There are currently 13 active investigations as of the June meeting.

B. Policy 5131.81 - Electronic Devices

Ken said this was a follow up from a previous update. We have had the policy about 8 months so far. Policy was updated to read "further violations of this policy shall be addressed by discipline in accordance with the student code of responsibility and respect and considered level 2 or above violations of section II: respect, courtesy and honesty and section IV respect for orderly teaching/learning environment." James recalls Saturday detention is the most effective discipline. The reason for this policy is their health. We take it very seriously. Kim says she likes it and when we find a consequence that works, she is in favor. Sue recalls that the new language is too vague. Sue says she would recommend a stronger offense on third offense. Ken says that level 2 and 3 are not working. James wants the same footing that we have in other policies. Ken said we want to build a common understanding in the community and James has some plans to make some adjustments next year. James says he is building the schedule for next year and broadening the definition of "classroom". Phones are detractors from work. Admin team hasn't reached consensus on the bell to bell regarding the cell phone conversations. Bell to bell needs to be a community conversation. Dom says it's ironic that we want our kids protected and we have to get the community behind the bell-to-bell conversation. Sue says that kids need to learn to manage cell phone use to be ready for college and workforce. Sue mentions a group called "Screen Savers." There is a toolkit on how to talk to parents and teachers. Kim makes a motion to move to the full board. Kathy agrees that this needs to move to the full board. Kathy says we need to teach them how to regulate phone use. Dom says we need to provide meaningful learning for our kids.

Motion: To bring Policy 5131.81 - Electronic Devices to the full Board

Made by: Kim LaTourette

Seconded by: Amy Johnson

Recording of Vote: All in favor

C. Policy 7000 - Concepts and Roles in Planning for Educational Facilities

Ken says that we have had a few requests from the community to name facilities after individuals. The board wants to be consistent in how we recognize individuals, and the preferred way is via the Hall of Honor. James and his team will review once a year the nominations and process. James said that this establishes guidelines and that requests are equitable and consistent. Ken says that we have a great spot on the first floor for the Hall of Honor.

Motion: To bring Policy 7000 – Concepts and Roles in Planning for Educational Facilities to the full Board at the next meeting with suspension of the rules.

Made by: Kim LaTourette

Seconded by: Amy Johnson

Recording of Vote: All in favor

IV. OTHER

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Kim LaTourette

Seconded by: Amy Johnson

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 7:59 p.m.