

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Policy Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Policy Meeting type: Regular
Date of Meeting: 1/26/22 Place of Meeting: Zoom
Members present: Kathy Baker, Samantha Mannion, Amy Johnson, Stephanie Strazza
Members absent:
Other attendees: Dr. Pat Cosentino, Dominic Cipollone, Ed Sbordone, Sarah Roy
Minutes submitted by: Amy Johnson
Meeting Access: Policy Subcommittee (1/26/22 at 7 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/98108097516>
Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 981 0809 7516

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 15, 2021 - Regular

Motion: To approve the minutes of December 15, 2021, as presented

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Policy C-19-1250 - Visitors, Volunteers and Observations in Schools – This is the monthly review of the COVID policies. Dr. Pat said that she wanted to wait another month and not change the policy. She wants to re-evaluate the policy by March 3rd. She reminded us that parents are allowed to come to school if they speak to the principal and coordinate the visit. Amy asked Dr. Pat what she needed to see in order to change the policy. Dr. Pat said that she was looking for our town to be green or yellow and not red. Stephanie, Kathy and Samantha agreed. Maureen Kenny from Consolidated said that she had a parent come into her class to help with the craft. The parent was required to either test negative or provide his/her vaccination card. The parent provided a negative test. Dominic said that there is a meeting at the high school tomorrow. He asked Dr. Pat what the protocol is for that meeting. She responded that people wear masks, and there is no negative test or vaccine card required. Amy asked where it came from that people visiting the school either needed to be vaccinated or provide a vaccine card. Samantha said that it came from the Governor that people coming into public schools need to have vaccine card or negative test. Stephanie said she remembers it coming up during a meeting although it was not adopted into a policy. Dominic asked if the Governor's executive orders do not get renewed, what happens with mask mandates. Samantha said if the orders are terminated, we will have to call a special meeting to re-evaluate this situation and meet in February. Samantha recommended extending this policy for another month.

Motion: To continue this policy and revisit it at the February Policy Sub meeting

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

Recording of Vote: All in favor

B. Policy 1250 - Visits to the Schools - This is the monthly review of the COVID policies. They will be revisited at the February meeting.

Motion: To continue suspension of Policy 1250 and revisit it at the February Policy Sub meeting

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

Recording of Vote: All in favor

C. Policy 1250.1 - Classroom Observations - This is the monthly review of the COVID policies. They will be revisited at the February meeting.

Motion: To continue suspension of Policy 1250.1 and revisit it at the February Policy Sub meeting

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

Recording of Vote: All in favor

D. Policy 3517.3 - Site Access/Closed Campus – This is the monthly review of the COVID policies. They will be revisited at the February meeting.

Motion: To continue suspension of Policy 3517.3 and revisit it at the February Policy Sub meeting

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

Recording of Vote: All in favor

E. Policy 6162.4 - School Volunteers - This is the monthly review of the COVID policies. They will be revisited at the February meeting.

Motion: To continue suspension of Policy 6162.4 and revisit it at the February Policy Sub meeting

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

Recording of Vote: All in favor

F. Policy 3517.1 - Identification Badges - Dr. Pat said that this is a by-product of the safety and security meetings. Under acquired identifications, employees will display ID badges in plain view. We may want to put "on school buses." Dr. Pat said each student would have to display their lanyards during the day at school and on the school buses. Samantha said that they must retain their ID cards and show them when needed. Kathy asked if students would receive a new card each year. Dr. Pat responded that the students would receive a new card each year. If students or staff lose a badge, the first time the district will provide one free of charge. If students or staff lose remaining IDs, then the ID cards will be \$4. Kathy said that at her company the lost badges are \$25. Amy said that a reasonable cost is \$10. All were in agreement to have the replacement cost at \$10. Sarah Roy said that in the policy, we start off saying "ID cards" then later in the policy refer to them as "badges." We are going to re-work the policy to say "badges" throughout the policy. Kathy said badges refer to that which we display. Stephanie asked if we could call them ID badges. All were in agreement.

G. Policy 4111.3 - Minority Recruitment Plan - Samantha said that we have to make changes in the language of the legislature. Samantha had to read it twice. She said that you can hire people after their residency, but you don't have to. Dr. Pat said that it is one of the goals of the state. At this point we are not utilizing the program. Dr. Pat said we have been expressing to the state that we don't want to pay \$60,000 to have this program. Stephanie asked if there are any recommendations when a minority candidate leaves when conducting exit interviews. Dr. Pat said we hired two minority candidates and they both left mid-year. One was a reading teacher and another high school position. They left for other opportunities. Dominic mentioned that exit interviews may be helpful to conduct. Amy asked if the district conducts exit interviews. Dr. Pat said we do not. Dr. Pat said many of people leave due to the pay not being good. Stephanie said that there may be another reason they are leaving.

H. Policy 4118.232/4218.232 - Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace - Samantha said the major change in this policy is on the last page. There is mention of CBD and many of those products are mainstream. Samantha said the language is unenforceable. The other issue is who is going to walk around testing products to see what is in them. We cannot enforce that. The policy we have is pretty specific, referring to bad products that are prohibited. Stephanie said that CBD does not cause intoxication. Kathy said that she thought the change in policy was because cannabis is now legal in the state. Dr. Pat said that she is fine with keeping our current policy. Stephanie said the products that would have THC in them are purchased for recreational use at a dispensary. CBD does not have mental effects on people. We are sticking with our policy. Samantha made a motion to continue with our policy and not adopt this policy, Kathy seconded. All in favor.

I. Policy 5131.6 - Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco - Kathy said marijuana is the same as alcohol in terms of punishment. Dr. Pat said that if you have marijuana in school, you get

suspended. Stephanie said that we are clarifying now. We will adopt this change. Samantha is going to move this one with the rest of them.

J. Policy 6140 - Curriculum - Dr. Pat said that we support this change. Samantha said that we have to do this because it is the suggested replacement from the state.

K. Policy 6142 - Basic Instructional Program – Kathy said world languages can include ASL. We do not currently offer ASL. Sarah Roy said that Danbury High School offers ASL and has a part-time teacher instructing it. She said that it is very popular. Stephanie said that she wishes ASL was offered, especially for children with special needs. Kathy said it may be easier for children to learn ASL rather than a written language. Sarah Roy said that if we get remote options in the future, it may be easier for us to find someone to teach ASL. Samantha said that there are three ASL teachers to cover twelve community colleges. Kathy said she likes the idea of the remote option for ASL if we were able to do that. Samantha agreed. Dominic said that it is almost criminal that we have so many children who are hearing impaired and so few teachers who sign up for them. Dr. Pat said that we do have an influx of students that are hearing impaired. Stephanie said that there are different paths for the hearing impaired. Maureen Kenny said that last year, she had a student who was ELL. He had a Para and had someone come in and meet with the student. She gave Maureen a bunch of books and the state was very great and very responsive. Stephanie said that she thinks they changed the certificate to become a hearing-impaired teacher for special ed. Kathy said that it makes you more empathetic.

[illegible]

Recording of Vote: All in favor

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - none

V. **OTHER** - Samantha said that we have a lot of work to do on the Bylaw 9327 - Electronic Communications Among Board Members. Kathy said we want more structure. Dominic said that we would need to workshop it. Samantha said we cannot "reply all" and send that response because that constitutes a meeting. Samantha said that individual board members cannot respond to emails. Dominic said that we need to work out the kinks in how we respond to emails. Your response has to be incredibly diplomatic. Ed mentioned that other boards have a section "Correspondence" and the board will review any emails that come in. Samantha said that there are a lot of moving parts to responding to the emails. Dr. Pat did say that we have our FOIA training with Natalia on February 2nd. Samantha said that Vince mentioned speaking with Karen Fildes on making an automatic response - "Thank you for contacting the Board of Education" - when an email came into the NF BOE email address. Kathy asked Ed to cover policy meeting in February for her, and he agreed. Kathy mentioned that she wants to review what Brookfield is doing for high school graduation and how they handle valedictorian at graduation. Dominic said that it would be a way to celebrate a student's excellence. Ed said to attach the article and bring it up at curriculum subcommittee meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Kathy Baker

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 8:23 p.m.