

**BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT**  
**Policy Subcommittee Meeting**

Name of Subcommittee: Policy Meeting type: Regular  
Date of Meeting: 2/22/23 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, Tim Blair, Dom Cipollone, Kim LaTourette  
Minutes submitted by: Kathy Baker  
Meeting Access: Policy Subcommittee (2/22/23 at 7 p.m.)  
Web: <https://zoom.us/j/99539757595> Dial In: (929) 205-6099  
Meeting ID: 995 3975 7595

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. December 14, 2022 - Regular

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of December 14, 2022, as presented

Made by: Stephanie Strazza

Seconded by: Samantha Mannion

**Recording of Vote:** All in favor

**III. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Policy 3517.1 – Identification Badges – Karen Gruetzner spoke about ID badges. The middle school ID badges were kept in school and it created a hard time managing the badges. Students were leaving them at home or not having them consistently. Karen wanted guidance. Samantha shared that we arrived at having the policy in place with students wearing the lanyards because of an incident in Ridgefield involving a non-student from Ridgefield who was on campus for several hours and no one noticed. Ken mentioned that the policy asks the student to display the badge. Samantha recalled that when our subcommittee voted and revised the policy, the language said students are required to wear and display the badge. James D'Amico said the students have to show their IDs to get into the building. They also have to display it in the library, cafeteria and other "high traffic areas." James reported that students were out of practice with having their IDs. At the high school, if students don't have their IDs, they have to get a temporary badge. James said the part of the policy they struggle with is the "bus piece." James is not sure if students are showing their IDs when they get on and off the buses. Compliance at the high school is pretty good. Samantha said the understanding was that the students would have to show their IDs in order to ride the bus, and someone without a district ID should not ride the bus. Kim agreed that the high school should have the ID, but the middle school is different. Dom said that the responsibility is on the administrators to enforce the ID policy. Ken said that there is a significant management piece with the IDs. Brookfield is piloting an online ID card. The online cards would not replace the hard cards. Stephanie said that it is possible the students could have two IDs, one for in school and one for the bus. (Public comment - Resident Don Hensley commented that safety is important.) Amy said that the ID should be required for the bus and to get in to school and Kathy agreed. Kim would like to not have middle school kids take out their phones. Kim said that we need to think about what is the most appropriate policy for our children. (Public comment - Don Hensley says that risk cannot be mitigated, but we can cope with this.) Stephanie said that the middle school students are going through a transition already and that maybe we can have a less disruptive way to enforce this. Ken reminded the committee that Karen brought up that she needed guidance. Samantha would like to add "required to have them," and it doesn't necessarily have to be displayed at all

times. Stephanie said that some middle school students cannot be left at a bus stop and not picked up and that is a safety concern. Dom agrees. Ken will adjust the language to reflect that the students in 6-12 need to have an ID available and ready to show when riding the bus. Paul Gouveia says the glare on the picture on an ID will not scan, if students take a picture of their ID.

**Motion:** To table Policy 3517.1 and 6141.321 pending the corrections and additions as discussed

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

**Recording of Vote:** All in favor

B. Policy 4118.5 – Acceptable Computer Network Use - Ken provided some context concerning both acceptable use policies. This is a discussion regarding electronics, interaction, coaching and sports standpoint. We did have the one recent off campus incident, and it was concerning for everyone in the community. We want to make sure students and parents are aware to protect them at school. Ken and other administrators see concerns regarding social media and that appropriate boundaries are being held to. Samantha said both policies do not leave a lot open to interpretation. James said that there is the rebel logo. He said that we want a policy for social media. Samantha said we can add something that states they cannot use the logo without permission. Stephanie agreed that staff should never communicate with a student outside of the school sources/approved app. Samantha asked Ken to check with Gail to see if there is a sample CAFE policy for social media and report back to the board. Ken said there are parent workshops in March regarding Internet Safety. Ken reached out to Pat Del Monaco and Steve to get assistance regarding social media and internet safety.

**Motion:** To table Policy 4118.5 pending the corrections and additions as discussed

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

**Recording of Vote:** All in favor

C. Policy 5118.111 – Tuition for Students of Staff Members - It has been a while since the subcommittee discussed this. Since the SROs are a part of the school community and work in our buildings, it was requested that they be included in this policy. The number of seats we have available is always taken into account. Kathy is in favor of the amendment. Amy is against it, adding that the SRO is not a BOE employee. Amy says that this could potentially open the floodgates for other town employees to want to be added, and Tim agreed. The suggested language will be posted on BoardBook. Samantha said that we reference the Sherman tuition rate, and what we need to say is "pursuant to the contract." (Public Comment - Don Hensley mentioned soft dollar compensation and said it has to end somewhere. Amanda Lombard says teachers came out in support of this policy.)

**Motion:** To move Policy 5118.111 to the full Board for consideration

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Stephanie Strazza

**Recording of Vote:** All in favor

D. Policy 6141.321 – Computers: Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy

**Motion:** To table Policy 3517.1 and 6141.321 pending the corrections and additions as discussed

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kathy Baker

**Recording of Vote:** All in favor

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS - none**

**V. OTHER**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn: Made by:** Samantha Mannion

**Seconded by:** Stephanie Strazza

**Recording of vote:** All in favor

**Meeting adjourned at:** 8:40 p.m.