

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Policy Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Policy Meeting type: Regular
Date of Meeting: 10/22/25 Place of Meeting: Zoom
Members present: Amy Johnson, Kimberly LaTourette, Samantha Mannion
Members absent: Kathy Baker
Other attendees: Ken Craw, Kris Woleck, James D'Amico, Paul Gouveia, Kathy Hanley, Dominic Cipollone, Sue Huwer, Ed Sbordone
Minutes submitted by: Kim LaTourette
Meeting Access: Policy Subcommittee (10/22/25 at 7:00 p.m.) Web:
<https://zoom.us/j/92763608606> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 927 6360 8606

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 24, 2025

Motion: To approve the minutes of September 24, 2025, as presented

Made by: Amy Johnson

Seconded by: Kim LaTourette

Recording of Vote: All in favor

III. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Policy 5131.6 – Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco – Dr. Craw mentioned a concern by a parent in regard to a vaping incident and we wanted to be responsive and discuss this policy here. Kris shared a presentation and Kathy Hanley from the Coalition joined our meeting as well. Members of NFPS staff met with the Western CT Coalition to examine our context and current research regarding student/underage vaping and tobacco use. There was an attitudes and behavior survey given in 2023. There had been some positive trends with percentage of use in the last 30 days, perceived risk, parents feeling that vaping is wrong, friends feeling that vaping is wrong. We did see at that time though that 65% feel that it is easy to get a vaping device. This was an increase from 22% in 2019. They may access them from friends, vape/smoke shops, family members.

We want to see what we can do to enhance our prevention and education efforts. Kathy Hanley spoke about her program and how funding has been increased to help prevention with youth (under 21 years of age). Our data is similar to the surrounding towns. Youth continue to be marketed with these products by the retail industry and unfortunately, they are widely available. Almost 50% of kids who are vaping also say that they want to quit - it is important to give them resources to help them quit.

Kris Woleck shared information about what we are currently doing in our curriculum to help prevent students from using nicotine. Standards apply to content beginning in 3rd grade. Lessons are happening in Health education, as well as providing students with counseling services. We have supervision and monitoring in place. We do have interventions and resources available for students and families in need.

James D'Amico also attended the meeting and shared information about disciplinary action that may be taken in regard to our Code of Respect and Responsibility. We have policies in place and would like to enhance them to provide more resources for families and build that into our disciplinary actions. There was a discussion about installing sensors and their efficacy. Paul Gouveia and Kathy Hanley shared data that they have collected over time. Kim made comments in regard to needing students, parents, and community members saying something when they see something and having a shift in mindset from "ratting someone out" to "reporting an unsafe situation" where someone may be harming themselves or hurting someone else. Sue asked what

happens to a student who is caught vaping - 1st offense includes counseling, restrictions on the PASS system, possible suspensions. Multiple violations will result in more consequences. It is very important to find the "why" behind the usage of drugs.

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

Ken mentioned that this is on the agenda because of a request from the board, as well as a community member, to discuss naming a field after one of the coaches. Samantha shared that we had approved this policy in June. She said that it states we will not be renaming fields. Kim stated that we put into place the Rebels Hall of Honor, that we would need to hear from the public and then discuss with the Superintendent and board to recognize athletics, theater and arts. Most of the members agree that if a facility is named after someone, there needs to be clarity on criteria and process. Some members do not agree with naming facilities at all - that coming up with criteria will be very difficult, and we would run out of facilities to name. It was agreed upon that this policy may be incomplete as far as naming facilities. A member of the community, Anthony, asked if there is a need to name a facility and how that need can come from a variety of different places/reasons. He mentioned a family that has dedicated three generations contributing to the baseball program - youth and high school programs. The Garbowski family has created an aspiration to be a part of the baseball program. Anthony spoke about how the field could always be renamed if need be in the future. Braden Quinn mentioned that the HS field doesn't currently have a name and shared his thoughts as to why the field should be named after the Garbowski family. Pat Toth also shared his thoughts and mentioned some other contributions that the Garbowski family has made for the baseball program.

C. Policy 1321.2 – Public Videotaping of Educational Activity

Two changes were made to this policy, after discussing it with our attorney, in regard to videotaping in public that may create a safety and security risk. There was a brief discussion requesting that an individual ask for permission if they are unsure if videotaping is approved or not.

Motion: To have the administration make the changes discussed

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kim LaTourette

Recording of Vote: All in favor

Motion: To bring this policy to the full Board with the changes being made

Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Amy Johnson

Recording of Vote: All in favor

IV. OTHER – none

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Samantha Mannion

Seconded by: Kim LaTourette

Recording of vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at: 9:07 p.m.