

# **MINUTES OF THE WBOE POLICY COMMITTEE**

**February 10, 2020**

**District Office Conference Room**

**Beecher Road School South**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Genovese called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Maegan Genovese, Chair; Dan Cowan, Dr. Jeffrey Townsend (8:06 AM), Board of Education Members; Robert F. Gilbert, Superintendent; Cheryl Mammen, Special Services Director; Kim Franklin, WEA Representative; James Crawford, Technology Teacher and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

The Committee reviewed the following policies.

**Policy 5145.71 Surrogate Parent Program.** Language was modified to reflect the responsibility to notify parents of a child's suspension or expulsion is that of Administration, not the Board of Education. It was agreed this policy would be submitted to the Board for 30-day review at the February 24 meeting.

**Policy 6114.1 Fire Emergency (Drills) Crisis Response Drills.** Language was modified to reflect the responsibility to submit annual reports regarding fire drills and crisis response drills is that of Administration, not the Board of Education. It was agreed this policy would be submitted to the Board for 30-day review at the February 24 meeting.

**Policy 5148 Electronic Information/Technology/Media.** The suggested minor language modifications in this policy are the result of current practices. It was suggested this policy be incorporated into the 4000 series as it pertains to staff and not students as depicted in the 5000 series. CABE will be consulted to ascertain if a different number is required. It was agreed this policy would be submitted to the Board for 30-day review at the February 24 meeting.

**Policy 6141.321 Internet Acceptable Use.** No additional changes were made. It was agreed this policy would be submitted to the Board for 30-day review at the February 24 meeting.

**Policy 5000 Concepts and Roles in Student Policies.** A concern was again expressed for inclusion of suggested language modifications regarding gender identification, expression and genetic information. A member of the committee shared several responses from taxpayers that were contacted via email and their respective positions regarding inclusion of this specific language. It was noted that similar language appears in numerous other mandated policies. The suggested language is law which clearly defines protective classes and as a public entity that receives state and federal funding, we are required to be compliant. It was further noted that genetic information is generated through a myriad of methods and we cannot parcel out and discriminate against selective groups. Sentiment was expressed for not basing decisions on language inclusion on a personal bias nor belief. It was noted that if this policy is submitted to the Board of 30-day review in its current format, a request for extraction would be made to allow full Board discussion as this language is not necessary. Further, the various community members who shared their responses on this language will be invited to attend. It was agreed this policy would be submitted to the Board for 30-day review at the February 24 meeting.

Dr. Townsend left the meeting (8:53 AM).

**Next Meeting.** It was agreed the March 3 meeting would move to March 10 at 8:00 AM. It is anticipated policies pertaining to Pool Safety and Student Behavior will be on the agenda.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:58 AM