



# FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Special Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

5:30 PM

501 Kings Highway East  
Superintendent's Conference Room

### **In Attendance:**

Superintendent Michael Testani (left at 6:21pm), Ms. Jennifer Jacobsen, Dr. Greg Hatzis, Dr. Zakia Parrish, Ms. Kanicka Ingram (left at 6:05pm), Ms. Courtney LeBorious (left at 5:56pm), Dr. James Zavodjancik, Ms. Jennifer Racioppo (FEA Representative), Mr. Mick McGarry (FEA President), Ms. Jennifer Maxon Kennelly (arrived at 5:47pm), Ms. Carol Guernsey (left at 6:21pm), Ms. Kristen Hardiman

**Call to Order:** Ms. Jacobsen called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

**Approval of May 14, 2024 Policy Committee meeting minutes:** Approved with changes by a 2-0 vote.

At 5:48pm, Ms. Jacobsen made a motion to reconsider editing the minutes. Ms. Maxon Kennelly corrected language in the fourth paragraph on Page #5. The minutes were approved again with changes by a 3-0 vote.

Policy:

### 5145 – Civil Legal Rights Responsibilities

This policy was approved with the recommended changes by a 2 -0 vote. This policy will be presented to the Board on June 11, 2024 for a “one & done” vote.

### 6146.1 – Grading

After discussion the committee agreed to edit item #1 on Page 17 to include “on-line portal”. The committee also agreed no additional sentence is needed in the last paragraph on Page 17.

On Page 18, after discussion with Dr. Hatzis, the committee agreed to add the sentence, “The unweighted grading scale should be on a 4.0 scale.”

Ms. Jacobsen stated on Page 18, there is no definition of “elective”. Ms. Jacobsen stated it will be difficult to provide the definition of “elective”. Dr. Hatzis explained the word “elective” is used in the Program of Studies and is meant to mean “extra class”.

Mr. McGarry stated elective classes are there to encourage students to take courses out of their wheelhouse. Dr. Hatzis explained there are some students who will not take an elective class because it may lower their GPA.

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Since the “elective class” is a graduation requirement, Dr. Zavodjancik and Dr. Parrish will work on the grading level of an elective class with the high school leadership team.

After further discussion, the committee recommended moving item “A” on Page 18 to another section.

On Page 19, item “C”, Dr. Hatzis stated that statement is not accurate and should say “Middle school courses taken for high school credit and counted in the high school GPA will be weighted the same as the corresponding high school course.”

The committee agreed to strike the last sentence in the first paragraph under “A” on Page 19. Ms. Maxon Kennelly provided language edits for the last sentence in the second paragraph under “A” on Page 19. The edited language will say, “Students and parents must select their option by the end of 9<sup>th</sup> grade from the following with option #1 as the default.”

On Page 20, item “B”, #4, Dr. Hatzis explained that any language which talks about range will have a negative impact and commentary. Ms. Jacobsen stated that language is old; however, she would like to keep the “opportunity” language in the policy.

Ms. Racioppo asked the committee to look at the Grading regulations because there is an overlap between the regulations and the policy and believes there is contradictory information.

#### 6151 – Class Size discussion

Ms. Guernsey stated she is okay with the pre-amble on Page 28.

Ms. Jacobsen stated there is a wide variety of opinions on this topic. Ms. Jacobsen stated the concern is about the timing of collapsing classes. Ms. Jacobsen also explained the drive is to be proactive rather than reactive, especially because of the difficulty of hiring staff.

The committee discussed not collapsing any classes the day before the first day of school. Ms. Guernsey stated she agrees with that as long as there is no trickery. Ms. Jacobsen stated she would like to strike the language about the superintendent making the decision to expand or collapse classes as of the end of the first day.

Ms. Jacobsen recommended changing the word “cap” to “threshold” in this policy and adding the word “primarily” to the second bullet point on Page 29 before the word “dedicated”. Ms. Jacobsen stated she is not okay with hiring the extra teacher only to have that person pulled to cover for another absent teacher.

Ms. Jacobsen asked Dr. Hatzis if he had any concerns with the secondary class size language. Dr. Hatzis recommended adding language about class size due to safety (labs, cooking).

#### 3542.22 – Food Service Personnel Code of Conduct

Ms. LeBoriosis provided two sample policies to the committee for feedback. Ms. Maxon Kennelly stated she prefers the CAFE sample policy. Ms. LeBoriosis will edit the CAFE policy for the committee to review at the next meeting.

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3542.42 – Food Service Finance

Ms. LeBorious stated she included sample policies from both Greenwich and Bethany. Ms. LeBorious will provide an edited policy for the committee to review at the next meeting.

**Open Discussion/Public Comment:**

Ms. Sara Goepfrich – FEA Representative

Ms. Goepfrich spoke about the class size threshold and summative work in the Grading policy. Ms. Goepfrich stated she would like language added to the Grading policy pertaining to the penalty for late work.

Ms. Lauren Kinsley – Fairfield resident and teacher at Stratfield School

Ms. Kinsley spoke about the Class Size policy and her concern about the number of students in each class.

**Adjournment:** Ms. Maxon Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 7:56pm.