



FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 5, 2023
5:00 PM
501 Kings Highway East
Superintendent's Conference Room

In Attendance:

Ms. Jennifer Maxon Kennelly, Ms. Jennifer Jacobsen, Ms. Carol Guernsey, Dr. James Zavodjancik, Dr. Zakia Parrish, Superintendent Michael Testani, Mr. Mick McGarry (FEA President), Ms. Jennifer Racioppo (FEA Representative), Ms. Mary Hogue (PTA Representative), Ms. Kristen Hardiman

Call to Order: Ms. Maxon Kennelly called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Approval of October 30, 2023 Policy Committee meeting minutes: Approved with changes by a 3-0 vote.

Policy:

Vote for Policy Chairperson

Ms. Jacobsen motioned to nominate Ms. Maxon Kennelly as Policy Chairperson. Ms. Guernsey seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 2-0-1 vote.

Tentative 2024 Policy Calendar

The committee reviewed a tentative Policy meeting schedule for 2024. Ms. Guernsey requested the meeting start times be adjusted for the May 14th and June 4th meeting to 4:45pm due a conflict. Ms. Jacobsen and Ms. Maxon Kennelly agreed to a 4:45pm start time for those two meetings.

The Policy meeting calendar will be voted on at the January 30th Special Policy Committee meeting.

6111 – Student Calendar

The committee reviewed Ms. Jacobsen's recommended language to be added to this policy. Ms. Jacobsen stated her goal was to have the school start date and finish date stated in policy. Ms. Jacobsen would also like "full school week" to be defined in this policy. Ms. Jacobsen and Ms. Guernsey suggested adding language about building specific extenuating circumstances and their impact on the last day of school.

Ms. Maxon Kennelly recommended removing the specific holidays in paragraph two and replacing the language with "mandated holidays".

APPROVED 1/30/2024

Ms. Jacobsen stated she is comfortable with listing graduation on the calendar on the 182nd day of school. Ms. Guernsey agreed with Ms. Jacobsen. Ms. Guernsey stated families would appreciate knowing the graduation date ahead of time. Ms. Maxon Kennelly disagreed with Ms. Jacobsen and Ms. Guernsey due to the possibility of snow days extending the school year. Superintendent Testani recommended graduation be held on the 181st day of school so there is a “catch” day in case students need to go back to the school.

This policy will be on the agenda for the January 30th meeting to vote out of policy.

6146.1AR – Grading Regulations

Ms. Maxon Kennelly explained she added Grading Regulations to the agenda again after receiving feedback from staff. FEA Representative Jennifer Racioppo provided the committee with results from a staff survey conducted by the FEA on Reassessments.

Ms. Racioppo stated the FEA surveyed both middle and high school staff. Almost 71% of staff felt as though the new reassessment language was not working as planned. Ms. Racioppo explained they did not receive survey responses from some staff members because staff felt it did not affect them. Ms. Racioppo stated staff understands the spirit of the policy was to help low struggling students with an opportunity to improve their grade; however, teachers do not feel it is working.

Ms. Racioppo encouraged the committee to review the comments from staff in her handout. The most common feedback they received was that students are not preparing the first time around because they know they will have a second chance. Another common comment was that staff said reassessments took up a tremendous amount of their time causing disruption to teaching. Teachers stated they would like a better grading system, not a reassessment system. Ms. Racioppo stated the reassessment discord is affecting mostly Math, Science and Business teachers.

Ms. Maxon Kennelly explained the district currently does not have a Grading policy. At this time, the district has only Grading regulations which were written by staff, not the committee. Ms. Maxon Kennelly stated the only thing the committee asked for in the regulations was consistency among subjects. Mr. McGarry acknowledged that staff did create these regulations; however, this is the first time they have been implemented and staff believes they could use some revisions.

Ms. Jacobsen asked the committee when they will be writing the Grading policy. Ms. Maxon Kennelly stated the Grading policy will be added to an upcoming agenda with a target date of June 2024 and implementation date of next school year.

Open Discussion/Public Comment:

Ms. Maxon Kennelly stated the policy audit was received, and she will review the audit with Dr. Parrish.

Ms. Mary Hogue – PTA member – Ms. Hogue spoke about developing a Sustainability policy. Ms. Hogue stated she will research other districts for their Sustainability policy so Fairfield can use it as a template in developing our policy.

Adjournment: Ms. Maxon Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 6:56pm.