

APPROVED MARCH 7, 2023

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 7, 2023
5:00pm
501 Kings Highway East

In attendance:

Ms. Jennifer Jacobsen, Ms. Carol Guernsey, Ms. Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, (joined at 5:05pm), Dr. Zakia Parrish, Mr. Angelus Papageorge (left at 5:35pm), Ms. Courtney LeBorious (left at 5:45pm), Dr. James Zavodjancik, Ms. Kristen Hardiman

Call to Order - Ms. Jacobsen called meeting to order at 5:02pm.

Approval of January 23, 2023 Special Policy Committee meeting minutes – Approved by 3-0 vote.

Policy:

4118.6/4218.6 Cell Phone Use

Mr. Papageorge stated the district recently switched cell phone carriers and, in doing so, he noticed our current policy needed updating.

Mr. Papageorge recommended striking the language in item #2, under section “Cell Phone Usage” regarding personal use. Mr. Papageorge explained this line is no longer necessary since the current district plan does not charge for minute usage.

Mr. Papageorge stated employees who are issued district-owned cell phones are encouraged to use them and are permitted to use them for personal use. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly asked Mr. Papageorge if employees are told their district-owned cell phone is subject to the Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Papageorge stated he is not aware of employees being told their cell phones are subject to the Freedom of Information Act; however, he could develop language to be given to each person who receives a district-owned cell phone. Ms. LeBorious suggested adding a fourth item to this section of the policy which pertains to this subject. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly agreed that additional language should be added to this policy which explicitly states district-owned cell phones are subject to Freedom of Information requests.

Ms. Jacobsen questioned Mr. Papageorge as to who receives a district-owned cell phone. Mr. Papageorge responded saying district-owned cell phones are issued to those individuals who need them to perform their job. Mr. Papageorge stated currently the district has issued just over 100 district-owned cell phones.

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Ms. Maxon-Kennelly asked Mr. Papageorge if temporary district-owned cell phone are issued to staff for use during field trips, for example. Mr. Papageorge stated the district does not issue district-owned cell phones on a temporary basis because the district would be paying for the phone which would not be used often.

Ms. LeBorious recommended changing language in this policy from “Operations” office to “Business” office. Ms. LeBorious explained contracting and distribution of district-owned cell phones is normally a function of a Business Department in other districts, not an Operations Department.

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly asked Mr. Papageorge and Ms. LeBorious to work together on the recommended language changes so this policy can be discussed again at the next policy meeting on March 7, 2023.

5141.71 Exertional Heat Illness

Dr. Parrish stated she added language from CABA which included definitions to this policy. Dr. Parrish also stated she replaced the language “governing authority” with “Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference CIAC”.

The committee recommended several grammatical edits to this policy.

Policy was approved with changes by 3-0 vote. This policy will be presented to the Board on February 13th for a “first read”.

5141.72 Emergency Action Plans

Dr. Parrish stated she spoke with Shipman and Goodwin regarding the posting requirement of the Emergency Action Plan. Dr. Parrish explained our attorney confirmed the Emergency Action Plan is required to be posted at ALL facilities, not just Fairfield Public Schools’ facilities. The committee expressed concern over this requirement being possible at facilities such as a golf course. Dr. Parrish stated the Athletic Directors provide a written copy of the Emergency Action Plan to all coaches in their “athletic equipment bag” so the Emergency Action Plan is present at all athletic events.

Policy was approved with changes by 3-0 vote. This policy will be presented to the Board on February 13th for a “first read”.

6146 Requirements for Graduation

Dr. Zavodjancik stated he removed the original Roman numerals I & II after discussion from last month’s meeting. Dr. Zavodjancik also stated he made the committee’s recommended changes to page 16 under the columns “English/Social Studies” and “Science/Math”.

After lengthy discussion the committee requested Dr. Zavodjancik make grammatical corrections and language edits to this policy so it can be presented to the Board on February 13th for a “first read”.

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6161 Textbooks

Dr. Zavodjancik stated he added a paragraph to this policy to include “supplemental resources” which the committee discussed at last month’s meeting.

The committee expressed concern with the last bullet point on page 19 pertaining to “other materials”. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stated she likes the vagueness of that bullet point since it would give the teacher or school flexibility in choosing resources. Ms. Guernsey agreed with Ms. Maxon-Kennelly.

Ms. Guernsey asked Dr. Zavodjancik how the change to this policy helps the district and the students. Dr. Zavodjancik responded by saying the changes provide less variation between classes. Dr. Zavodjancik further explained our current policy is too broad.

Dr. Zavodjancik stated the district does not need to revise this policy at this time. We can leave the current policy in-tact if the committee is not comfortable making changes at this time.

This policy will be put on the March 7th agenda for further discussion.

3280 Gifts, Grants, And Bequests – There was no discussion on this item due to time restraint.

1324 School-Sponsored Fundraising – There was no discussion on this item due to time restraint.

Open Discussion/Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Adjournment - Ms. Maxon-Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 7:32pm.