

Approved 3/15/2022

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Policy Committee Minutes
Tuesday, March 1, 2022
5:00 PM
501 Kings Highway East

In Attendance:

Mr. Michael Cummings, Dr. James Zavodjancik (until 6:16pm), Dr. Zakia Parrish (until 6:16pm), Ms. Courtney LeBoriorous, Ms. Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, Ms. Jennifer Jacobsen, Ms. Carol Guernsey, Mr. Paul Cavanna (until 6:16pm), Ms. Digna Marte (until 6:16pm), Ms. Kristen Hardiman

Call to Order – Ms. Maxon-Kennelly called meeting to order at 5:06pm.

Approval of February 1, 2022 meeting minutes – approved with changes; 3-0 vote.

Policy:

Discussion – Grading Policy

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly suggested using a one-page grading policy document developed by leadership to use until a more comprehensive grading policy can be developed.

Ms. Guernsey stated if the one-page document is used, then she would like it to be in the form of a policy so that it is a formal document while the rest of the policy is being developed.

Mr. Cummings stated if the one-page document is developed, then he would like input from the administrators.

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stated the vision of the one-page grading document is that it will carry the weight of policy; however, the actual pulling together of the policy will take place at a later date. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly also stated the one-page document will achieve almost everything we want but without the actual approved policy because that is not ready yet.

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Ms. Guernsey stated she is frustrated the draft grading policy has been circulating for two months and nothing has moved forward yet. Ms. Guernsey stated she is not on-board with the one-page grading policy document.

Ms. Jacobsen stated she is not on-board with the one-page grading document idea. Ms. Jacobsen expressed concern about a school district the size of Fairfield not having a grading policy in place. Ms. Jacobsen asked, “How can we operate without a grading policy?” Ms. Jacobsen also stated she is frustrated this policy has not been completed yet.

Mr. Cummings explained the delay in developing the grading policy was due to the fact that he did not get the draft until January and then we were in the midst of COVID and mid-terms.

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stated her “end game” is for this policy to be created in a polished fashion and be ready for next school year. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly also stated that staff is working on this policy at the school level.

Mr. Cavanna stated he believes we can find a common ground with staff on this policy without being over-prescriptive.

Ms. Jacobsen asked Mr. Cavanna, “What is missing in this policy and what are we waiting for?”

Mr. Cummings responded to Ms. Jacobsen’s question stating they are waiting for feedback from staff including such things as how do the pieces fit together to have consistency with expectations. Mr. Cummings stated there is a meeting with school staff on March 14th so he should be able to provide feedback to the committee at the March 15th policy meeting.

Ms. Marte stated there is adaptive work which still needs to be completed. Ms. Marte emphasized that each teacher has their own philosophy of how they teach and grade.

Mr. Cavanna asked the committee what the five most important items are that they would like to see in the grading policy.

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stated the items are:

- Timing and posting of grades
- Consistency and Expectations
- Retakes/Zeros/Make-up work
- Homework
- Communication to Parents

Mr. Cavanna stated he will discuss these items with staff at the meeting on March 14th in order to prepare a raw draft for the policy committee meeting on March 15th.

Mr. Cummings stated the timeline for the grading policy is that it is operational for August 2022.

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5141.3 Health Assessments & Immunizations

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly proposed that policy 5141.3 Health Assessments & Immunizations become C19.12, part of the COVID-19 policies.

Approved with changes; 3-0 vote.

C19.12/5141.3 will be presented to the Board of Education on March 8th for approval.

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stated all COVID policies can be removed from the FPS website except for policy C19.1 and policy C19.8.

Discussion – 3280 Gifts, Grants & Bequests

Ms. LeBorious stated the language from this policy was taken from Westport Public Schools and Greenwich Public Schools to be used as a starting point in developing our policy.

After further discussion with the committee, Ms. LeBorious will develop another draft of this policy for the next meeting.

Discussion – 1230 Booster Clubs/Fundraising

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly asked about the fundraising meeting with the Athletic Directors. Mr. Cummings stated that he and Ms. Deasy met with the Athletic Directors several months ago, but nothing has been done since that time.

Ms. LeBorious stated she will work on developing the draft of the Booster Clubs/Fundraising policy.

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly asked the committee if they thought the Booster Clubs policy and the Fundraising policy can be combined. The committee agreed the two policies could be combined.

Ms. Guernsey requested that future policy committee meeting agendas be more descriptive so the committee will know what will be discussed at the meeting.

Discussion – 5118 Non-Resident School Attendance

Ms. Jacobsen stated the draft distributed at the meeting is not the most recent draft of this policy. Mr. Cummings stated he worked from a Google document draft of this policy which may not have been the most recent version and, therefore, did not include the changes previously made to this policy.

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Ms. Jacobsen requested that language be added to this policy which includes non-residents and their participation in extracurricular activities.

Ms. Jacobsen requested a corrected draft of the policy for the next meeting.

Open Discussion/Public Comment – There were no comments from the public.

Adjournment - Ms. Maxon-Kennelly adjourned meeting at 7:33pm.