



FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

5:00 PM

501 Kings Highway East

Superintendent's Conference Room

In attendance:

Ms. Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, Ms. Jennifer Jacobsen, Mr. Robert Mancusi (left at 6:20pm), Dr. Zakia Parrish, Ms. Carol Guernsey, Mr. Jeff Peterson (left at 5:56pm), Ms. Courtney LeBorious (left at 6:15pm), Dr. James Zavodjancik (arrived at 5:32pm), Ms. Kristen Hardiman

Call to Order – Ms. Maxon-Kennelly called meeting to order at 5:01pm.

Approval of March 7, 2023 meeting minutes – Approved by 2-0-1 vote. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly, Ms. Guernsey in favor; Ms. Jacobsen abstained.

Policy:

3280.1 - Booster Clubs

Ms. LeBorious provided a new handout to the committee to replace the Booster Club language in the policy packet. Ms. LeBorious stated her original documentation included in the packet was a combination of sample policies from other districts. Ms. LeBorious stated the Fairfield Warde High School Athletic Director provided the material in her handout. Ms. LeBorious stated the Fairfield Ludlowe High School Athletic Director has not reviewed this material yet.

Ms. Jacobsen expressed concern the language in this policy pertains only to athletics when there are booster clubs for non-athletic groups. Ms. Guernsey expressed concern about the Title IX piece of booster clubs. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stated she wanted the committee to see a reflection of what the booster clubs are currently doing.

The committee discussed whether this policy is needed at all if the Gifts, Grants and Bequests policy and the Fundraising policy are enhanced to include booster club funds. Ms. Jacobsen recommended developing a policy specifically for 501C organizations. Then all other non-501C organizations would follow the Fundraising policy. Ms. LeBorious explained if the District did develop a 501C policy, it should be a very concise policy defining 501C organizations. Dr. Parrish recommended adding a section within the Fundraising policy which covers the topic of 501C organizations.

APPROVED 4/20/2023

The committee agreed to review the Fundraising policy and the Gifts, Grants and Bequests policy for possible additional language pertaining to 501C organizations.

4118.6-4218.6 - Cell Phone Use

After discussion and edits by the committee, this policy was approved with changes by 3-0 vote. This policy will be presented to the Board at the April 25th meeting for a “first read”.

3000 – Policy

Mr. Peterson presented sample policies from neighboring and DRG B districts. Mr. Peterson explained he previously spoke with Mr. Cummings, (Superintendent at the time), and Ms. LeBorious about the implementation of this policy. Mr. Peterson stated neither of them was opposed to the creation of this policy. Mr. Peterson also stated he spoke with Superintendent Testani who was enthusiastic about the creation of Policy 3000.

Ms. Jacobsen asked Mr. Peterson about the title of this policy. Mr. Peterson recommended using the title “Goals and Objectives for Non-Educational Business Operations”. Ms. Jacobsen asked Mr. Peterson what “non-educational business operations” encompasses. Mr. Peterson explained that term applies to facilities, copiers, and other related items in business which support education.

Ms. LeBorious asked Mr. Peterson if he had a preference in the policy samples he provided. Mr. Peterson stated he liked Brookfield’s policy which had common sense principles. Ms. LeBorious stated she liked item #3 in Greenwich’s sample policy. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stated she also likes Brookfield’s policy since it appears to cover everything. Ms. Guernsey concurred with Ms. Maxon-Kennelly. Ms. Jacobsen stated there is some wording in Brookfield’s policy that she might want to change.

Ms. Jacobsen stated she is in favor of working on Policy 3000 and formatting it to Fairfield’s language. Mr. Peterson thanked the committee for placing this policy on the agenda for discussion. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stated Policy 3000 will be placed on the April 20th agenda for further discussion.

6148 – FAFSA Completion

Dr. Parrish explained the language added to this policy is required by law. Policy was approved by 2-0 vote. This policy will be presented to the Board on April 25th for a “first read”.

The committee discussed and agreed upon edits to the regulations of this policy.

6140 – Curriculum

Ms. Jacobsen stated she is opposed to listing areas of study in 10-16b since it changes every year. Ms. Jacobsen recommended referencing the state statute instead of listing the curriculum. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stated the list of curricula is also listed in policy 6142 Basic Instructional Program. Ms. Jacobsen recommended eliminating policy 6142 and changing the title of policy 6140.

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly ask Dr. Zavodjancik to find out what is required by law and whether these policies can be combined.

6163.33 – Service Animals/Therapy Dogs

Mr. Mancusi explained that neither a Service Animals or a Therapy Dogs policies is required by law. Mr. Mancusi further explained the District must comply with ADA compliance and, therefore, a Service Animals policy is not required. Mr. Mancusi stated our attorney, Shipman and Goodwin, does not recommend having a Therapy Dog policy; however, if the District wanted to implement that policy, Shipman and Goodwin recommends implementing a combined Service Animals/Therapy Dogs policy.

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stated she would like to implement a policy specifically for Therapy Dogs. Ms. Jacobsen recommended not having a Service Animals policy since it is addressed by law but having just a Therapy Dogs policy. Mr. Mancusi stated Shipman and Goodwin did not recommend that; however, he will follow up with them for an explanation.

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stated she would like a draft policy for the April 20th Policy committee meeting.

6010 – Instruction – General

This item will be moved back to future items.

6161 – Textbooks

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly explained this policy was voted out of policy and discussed at the previous Board meeting as a “first read”. Ms. Jacobsen asked Ms. Maxon-Kennelly if the Board provided feedback on this policy. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stated she did receive some feedback, so she met with Dr. Zavodjancik to develop new language in this draft for review by the committee. Dr. Zavodjancik stated he changed some language in this policy for clearer definition.

Ms. Guernsey stated she supported this policy when it was first voted out of policy; however, she is interested in reviewing it again. Ms. Guernsey stated she is no longer interested in policing trade books. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly recommended incorporating trade books into the curriculum documents.

The policy will be put back on the agenda for further discussion at the April 20th Policy committee meeting.

APPROVED 4/20/2023

Open Discussion/Public Comment

Mr. Mick McGarry – President-Elect of FEA

Mr. McGarry spoke about the concerns of staff regarding revisions to the Textbook policy. One of their concerns is about creativity being limited if the Textbook policy is revised and adopted. Mr. McGarry emphasized the joy of teaching is about creativity and having that ability to create.

Mr. Bob Smoler – President of FEA

Mr. Smoler stated at the Board meeting when the Textbooks policy was being discussed, staff felt as though the Board was “dipping their hands into the classroom”. Mr. Smoler recommended revising the administrative regulations to this policy to include an approval process for teachers to add a book to the curriculum. Mr. Smoler stated he and staff are happy the committee will take another look at the Textbooks policy.

Adjournment - Ms. Jacobsen adjourned the meeting at 6:57pm.