



FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Special Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 20, 2023

4:30 PM

501 Kings Highway East
Superintendent's Conference Room

In Attendance:

Ms. Jennifer Jacobsen, Ms. Carol Guernsey, Ms. Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, Dr. Zakia Parrish, Dr. James Zavodjancik, Ms. Courtney LeBorious (left at 5:13pm), Mr. Robert Mancusi (arrived at 6:22pm), Ms. Kristen Hardiman

Call to Order –Ms. Maxon-Kennelly called meeting to order at 4:34pm.

Approval of March 28, 2023 meeting minutes – Approved with changes by a 3 – 0 vote.

Policy:

3000 – Policy

Ms. Guernsey stated she likes Brookfield's policy as a starting point for developing our policy. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly agreed with Ms. Guernsey. Ms. Jacobsen recommended changing the language in the last sentence of Brookfield's policy. Mr. Jacobsen also recommended language changes to the first paragraph of Brookfield's policy.

After discussion by the committee and additional edits, a new draft of this policy will be included in the policy packet for the May 2nd policy committee meeting.

6140 – Curriculum

The committee agreed to remove the first sentence in the last paragraph in this policy. Changes to this policy were approved by a 3 - 0 vote. This policy will be presented to the Board at the May 9th meeting for a "first read".

6142 – Basic Instructional Program

The committee voted in favor by a 3 – 0 vote to delete this policy. This policy will be presented to the Board at the May 9th meeting for a "recommendation for deletion".

6163.33 – Service Animals/Therapy Dogs

APPROVED 5/2/2023

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly asked Mr. Mancusi why he provided a combination policy for Service Animals and Therapy Dogs. Mr. Mancusi explained that our attorneys strongly advised against just having a Therapy Dogs policy. Mr. Mancusi further explained the attorneys recommended a combination policy if the district was intent on creating a Therapy Dogs policy.

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly asked Mr. Mancusi to develop a very concise Service Animals policy which states the District complies with all laws related to the American Disabilities Act. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly also requested the remaining part of the policy should focus on Therapy Dogs. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly requested explicit language for Therapy Dogs with specifics such as the areas they are permitted in, clean-up requirements, etc.

Mr. Mancusi stated he will have a revised draft of this policy for the next policy meeting scheduled for May 2nd.

5118.1 – Homeless Student Policy

Mr. Mancusi stated the changes to this policy were recommended by Shipman and Goodwin. Changes to this policy were approved by a 3 – 0 vote. This policy will be presented to the Board at the meeting scheduled for May 9th for a “first read”.

6161 – Textbooks

The committee reviewed and discussed each person’s recommended edits to this policy. Changes were approved by a 3 -0 vote. The revised policy will be presented to the Board at the April 25th meeting for a new “first read” under “New Business”. The previous version of this policy will be listed under “Old Business”.

Grading Policy

There was no discussion on this item due to time constraints.

Open Discussion/Public Comment

Mr. Mick McGarry – President-Elect of FEA

Mr. McGarry commented on the discussion of the Textbooks policy. Mr. McGarry stated teachers are worried that what happened at our public library, in regards to banning books, could happen in the schools.

Adjournment - Ms. Maxon-Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 7:31pm.