

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 3, 2022
5:00 PM

In Attendance:

Mr. Michael Cummings (until 5:28pm) Dr. James Zavodjancik (until 7:31pm), Ms. Courtney LeBorious, Ms. Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, Ms. Jennifer Jacobsen, Ms. Carol Guernsey, Ms. Katie Flynn – PTA Council President-Elect, Ms. Kristen Hardiman

Call to Order – Ms. Maxon-Kennelly called meeting to order at 5:03pm.

Approval of April 5, 2022 meeting minutes – Approved with changes 3-0 vote.

Policy:

Discussion – Grading Policy

Mr. Cummings stated high school staff is meeting on May 24th and also on May 31st, professional development day, to work on the reassessment piece of this policy.

Mr. Cummings suggested item II, (C) be changed to 10 school days instead of 5 school days for formative assessments to remain consistent with the language in item II, (B) for summative assessments.

Mr. Cummings would like the committee to look at the language in item III, (D1) regarding late work resulting from an excused absence. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stated this item will be revisited for a possible revision. Ms. Jacobsen suggested the Attendance Policy be referenced in this section since the section addresses absences.

Ms. Guernsey asked Mr. Cummings if a small group of students can be given the draft of the grading policy for feedback. Mr. Cummings stated this can be done the first week of June in the schools and will be arranged by school administrators.

Ms. Jacobsen stated there is no reference to extra credit opportunities in this draft. Ms. Jacobsen emphasized extra credit opportunities should be consistent across course sections. Mr. Cummings stated he will add extra credit opportunities to item III.

Discussion – 5118 Non-Resident School Attendance

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly asked Ms. LeBoriosis if the Finance Committee provided the figures on the Tuition and Fee Calculations page. Ms. LeBoriosis stated these figures are the published figures available. Ms. Guernsey asked Ms. LeBoriosis how these figures evolved. Ms. LeBoriosis stated she asked the Finance Committee for feedback and, initially, they wanted the figures to be high. Ms. LeBoriosis stated this is standard language used by other districts. Ms. LeBoriosis also stated she discussed percentages with the Finance Committee, and provided them examples of 20%, 25%, and 30%. Ms. LeBoriosis stated there was conversation around retention and attracting teachers; therefore, the Finance Committee felt this plan was sufficient. Ms. LeBoriosis stated the Finance Committee did not vote; however, they were all in agreement at the end. Ms. LeBoriosis also stated Finance Chairman, Mr. Peterson, provided samples from other districts and the 30% per pupil expenditure was right in the middle.

Ms. Jacobsen suggested the policy clarify language around incurring additional costs if the student participates in sports, extracurricular activities, including gifted students. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly suggested language be changed to include “The guardian will be charged any excess costs for programs and services provided beyond the general education curriculum and *extra curriculum offerings* in addition to the base tuition rate.”

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly also suggested language change to the sentence, “When a student is accepted into a *PPT determined* special education program.....”

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly will check with CABE to see if policies 3240 and 5111 are needed any longer since the topics of those policies are covered under this policy.

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly will work on formatting and correcting sections in this policy.

Ms. LeBoriosis stated she will work with Dr. Parrish to edit the regulations so they are ready for the next policy meeting on May 17th.

Advance Course Participation Data Review

Committee members reviewed the data provided by Dr. Zavodjancik pertaining to the participation in advanced courses.

Discussion – 6141.51 Advanced Courses or Programs

Dr. Zavodjancik explained this policy template and policy 6141.52 were just received late last week and are standard language from CABE. Dr. Zavodjancik stated he will edit these policies, so they are ready for the next policy meeting on May 17th.

Ms. Jacobsen requested additional language be added to this policy. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly asked Ms. Jacobsen to submit her requested additional language to Dr. Zavodjancik so he can include it in his edited policy for review at the next meeting.

Ms. Guernsey stated parental input is missing from this policy and would like it included in the edited draft. Ms. Guernsey also stated the word “race” is missing from this policy under the

APPROVED 5/17/2022

section Evaluation. Ms. Guernsey asked Dr. Zavodjancik if Ms. Marte could be included in editing the policy, so the correct language is incorporated in the policy.

Discussion – 6141.52 Challenging Curriculum

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stressed the need to work on these policies in the next two meetings. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly asked Dr. Zavodjancik to discuss these policies with staff prior to May 12th in order to have a draft policy ready for May 17th for approval.

Discussion – 6172.1 Gifted and Talented Students

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly asked Dr. Zavodjancik what the intent by the State was in changing this policy. Dr. Zavodjancik stated he believes the policy was amended due to the equitability piece leaving out a whole group of students.

Discussion – 3280 Gifts, Grants & Bequests

Committee members suggested language edits. Ms. LeBorious will edit this policy based on the committee's recommendations. Ms. Guernsey stated she would like to make sure this policy does not prohibit anyone from contributing gifts to the district. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly agreed with Ms. Guernsey and stated that the committee is not trying to set a policy in place to deny gift giving to the district.

Discussion – 1324 Fund Raising

There was no discussion on this topic due to shortness of meeting time.

Discussion – 1230 Booster Clubs

There was no discussion on this topic due to shortness of meeting time.

Open Discussion/Public Comment

Ms. Katie Flynn = President-Elect for PTA Council, expressed concern with the language in the draft policy for Gifts, Grants and Bequests.

Adjournment – Ms. Maxon-Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 8:32pm.