

APPROVED 6/6/2022

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FAIRFIELD, CT

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 17, 2022
5:00 PM

In attendance:

Dr. James Zavodjancik, Mr. Walter Wakeman (until 6:37pm), Dr. Jennifer Swingler (until 6:37pm), Ms. Courtney LeBoriosis (until 6:49pm), Ms. Jennifer Jacobsen, Ms. Carol Guernsey (until 6:45pm), Ms. Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly (joined at 5:45pm), Ms. Kristen Hardiman

Call to Order -Ms. Jacobsen called meeting to order at 5:05pm.

Approval of May 3, 2022 meeting minutes – Approved with changes 3 – 0 vote.

Policy:

Clarification of Edits for Policies 3280, 1324, and 1230

Policy 3280 – Ms. LeBoriosis reviewed language changes recommended by Ms. Jacobsen and Ms. Guernsey. Ms. Guernsey suggested using the same threshold amounts for gifts to elementary and secondary levels. Ms. Guernsey asked Ms. Jacobsen if she was comfortable with changing the threshold amounts to be the same. Ms. Jacobsen agreed to those changes.

3280AR – Ms. LeBoriosis discussed recommended changes to the regulations. Ms. Guernsey stated she would like the regulations to encourage parents, not discourage them from gift giving. Ms. Jacobsen expressed concern with Section III, “Guidelines to Resolve Equity Issues”, item (b). Ms. Jacobsen questioned why this section singles out only one organization, the PTA. Ms. Jacobsen recommended changes to this section to include other organizations. After further discussion, the committee agreed to strike this section from the regulations.

There was no discussion on Policy 1324 or Policy 1230. These policies will be discussed at a future meeting.

Discussion – 6172.1 Gifted and Talented Students

Dr. Zavodjancik stated he received two versions of this policy from CABE and he felt this version had the appropriate language. Dr. Zavodjancik stated he did add some additional language to this policy that he thought was needed. Dr. Zavodjancik asked the committee members for feedback on the policy language.

Mr. Wakeman stated the last time the Gifted program was revised was in 2009 when two different testing models were brought on board. Mr. Wakeman explained gifted students at the elementary level receive 2 hours per week instruction using the “pull-out” model. Mr. Wakeman explained testing students for the Gifted program is done in Grade 3. Ms. Jacobsen asked Mr.

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Wakeman if there was another time to test students. Mr. Wakeman stated data has shown there is no significant change when testing a 3rd grade student and a 7th grade student. Mr. Wakeman explained all new students to the district are tested for the Gifted program.

Dr. Swingler stated middle school gifted students receive 1 hour per week instruction using the “pull-out” model. Dr. Swingler stated using the “pull-out” model has not been a concern of students and parents.

Ms. Guernsey asked how many students from elementary school to middle school remain engaged in the program. Dr. Swingler stated students remain engaged in the program at the middle school level by not being pulled out of class at the same time every day, so they are not missing the same class consistently. Ms. Guernsey stated she would like to know how many students are actively engaged in the program because the program might have worked for them in elementary school but not necessarily in middle school.

Ms. Jacobsen suggested a language change in the first paragraph of 6172.1 to remove the word “promoting” and replace it with the word “serving”.

Ms. Jacobsen questioned the language in paragraph five and asked Dr. Zavodjancik what “accelerated placement options” are offered in the district. Mr. Wakeman stated this language refers to the accelerated math classes. Mr. Jacobsen suggested the language be changed to “accelerated course options”.

Discussion – 6141.51 Advanced Courses or Programs

Dr. Zavodjancik explained the language in this policy is standard language from CAFE, although he did make some changes and additions to the language.

Discussion – 6141.52 Challenging Curriculum

After reviewing this policy, the committee noticed redundancy between this policy and policy 6141.51. Ms. Jacobsen asked Dr. Zavodjancik if the two policies could be combined into one policy. Dr. Zavodjancik stated he will check with the State to verify that it is permissible to have one policy instead of the two separate policies. Dr. Zavodjancik stated if the State does allow the combination of these policies, he will edit and reformat these policies into one policy.

Discussion – 5118 Non-Resident School Attendance

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

Open discussion/public comment –

Ms. Jacobsen stated she will research the last revision date of our current Title IX policy.

Adjournment – Ms. Maxon-Kennelly adjourned the meeting at 8:03pm.