



FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 5, 2023
5:00 PM
501 Kings Highway East
Superintendent's Conference Room

In attendance:

Superintendent Michael Testani, Ms. Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly, Dr. Zakia Parrish, Ms. Jennifer Jacobsen, Ms. Carol Guernsey, Dr. James Zavodjancik, Ms. Karin Shaughnessy (left at 7:00pm), Ms. Kristen Hardiman

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

Approval of May 22, 2023 Special Policy Committee meeting minutes: Approved by 2-0-1 vote. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly abstained.

Policy:

6146.1AR Grading/Assessment Regulations Policy

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stated the committee agreed to edit the preamble language on Page 8. Ms. Guernsey stated she is interested in adding language to this preamble pertaining to equity.

Ms. Jacobsen asked Dr. Zavodjancik to edit language in the section titled "Guidelines for late work" on page 7. Ms. Guernsey requested the language be clearer so that students will know what will happen when their work is late. Superintendent Testani asked if there are teachers who are currently not accepting late work. Ms. Guernsey acknowledged that there are teachers who do not accept late work. Dr. Parrish stated she is not sure that changing the language in the regulations will necessarily change the teacher who does not accept late work.

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly recommended adding two bullet points under the section titled "Guidelines for late work" on page 7. One bullet point should pertain to the definition of "due date" versus "deadline date". The other bullet point should pertain to "zero" grades. Ms. Guernsey recommended the two additional bullet points be put into a separate category. Ms. Jacobsen agreed with Ms. Guernsey to have the additional bullets points in a separate category.

Ms. Shaughnessy stated staff at the middle schools have had many discussions regarding "zero" grades. Ms. Shaughnessy stated staff felt strongly that a grade of "50" should be the lowest grade a student can obtain. The reasoning behind this is staff felt that students would have trouble digging out from a "zero" grade.

Ms. Guernsey stated she is in support of a “zero” grade when a student intentionally skips class when an assignment is due.

Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stated she does not agree with giving a student a grade of “50” for not doing any work. Superintendent Testani agreed with Ms. Maxon-Kennelly. Ms. Jacobsen asked if the committee would agree to a “zero” grade if there is no effort made on the part of the student. The committee agreed with Ms. Jacobsen.

Dr. Zavodjancik will develop language for the two additional bullet points pertaining to “due date” and “deadline” as well as “zero” grading. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly requested staff input on these topics for the next meeting.

Open Discussion/Public Comment:

Ms. Jacobsen stated the State of Connecticut will be changing graduation requirements; therefore, the committee will need to open discussion on graduation requirements which affect in-coming students. Mr. Jacobsen recommended discussing this issue at the next Special Policy committee meeting on June 14th.

Ms. Shaughnessy spoke about the awards given out at graduation at the middle school level. Ms. Shaughnessy stated students are also recognized during the school year, for example, for student of the month awards, etc.

Ms. Guernsey stated she has not seen that kind of student recognition at Fairfield Woods Middle School. Dr. Parrish stated feedback they received from administrators was there was a population of students who did not get recognized which is why they stopped it. Ms. Maxon-Kennelly stated she is interested in having excellence recognized. Superintendent Testani stated administrators will come together to agree on a format for recognition that will be consistent at all three middle schools.

Adjournment: Ms. Maxon-Kennelly adjourned meeting at 7:26pm.