

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Policy Committee met on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library at Coginchaug Regional High School, 135 Pickett Lane, Durham, Connecticut. Committee members present: Mr. Yamartino, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback, Mrs. Geraci  
Committee members absent: Mr. Hicks, Mr. Augur  
Other board members present: Mr. Moore  
Administration present: Dr. Veronesi, Superintendent of Schools

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Comment**

Chuck Stengel reiterated his concern regarding the upcoming budget and cautioned the committee about putting limitations on the class size policy that would “box in” the board in terms of making decisions about class size in the future.

**Approval of Agenda**

*On a motion made by Mr. Yamartino and seconded by Mrs. Petrella the agenda was unanimously approved.*

**Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2017**

*On a motion made by Mr. Yamartino and seconded by Mrs. Petrella, the minutes of January 17, 2017 were approved. Mrs. Geraci abstained from the vote.*

**Continued discussion of non-board members on board subcommittees**

The policy proposed by Mr. Yamartino was reviewed. Mr. Yamartino reiterated his intention for suggesting the policy that he would like to see piloted for the remainder of this year and next. He feels this would:

- allow members of the public to help “lift the load” of the ten board of education members who serve on two to three committees
- each and these individuals could serve as ambassadors of sort in the community
- the experience could be a form of orientation for members of the community who may later chose to run for the board of education

Suggested changes to the proposed policy include:

- nomination by a member of the committee
- appointed by the board of education chairman
- voted on by the full board
- invited into executive session (if one is held after a committee meeting) if invited in by the board of education chairman
- cannot be counted to cause a quorum
- given committee orientation by the superintendent and board of education chairman
- possible committee participation would be on the following committees: Utilization, Policy, Student Achievement, and Educational Resources

There was discussion about whether the individual should have voting rights on the committee and it was decided that the proposed policy with the changes be shared with the attorney.

Mr. Yamartino also shared with the committee Sec. 156 regarding the establishment of a finance committee by regional boards of education. The committee discussed the possible implications if this wording is adopted. Dr. Veronesi will check with Attorney Littlefield or Ritter.

### **Discuss BOE guideline language on Class Size policy**

The committee determined that no changes are necessary at this time and that the existing language allows for interpretation from the board of education.

### **Review of policies**

- A. Employment Checks: A question was raised regarding the use of the term “Board” rather than “Superintendent” in the policy. Questions about the liability of the board were raised where the term board is used when it is actually not the specific responsibility of the board. Additionally, questions were raised about the board being allowed access to information if the term board is used i.e., “*The Board may require that an applicant provide the Board with a user name and password...*” Dr. Veronesi indicated that she will check with the attorney, but is confident the use the term does not expose the board to liability.

*On a motion made by Mr. Yamartino and seconded by Mrs. Petrella, the committee unanimously agreed to send the policy to the full board for a first read.*

- B. Use and Disclosure of Criminal Justice Information: this was not discussed as the most recent update from Shipman and Goodwin indicates that this model administrative regulation has been discontinued.
- C. Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees: Mrs. Geraci shared information that she heard that Board Certified Behavior Analysts are not mandated reporters. Discussion was held regarding the accuracy of this information and whether the board should specifically identify BCBAs in section 4 of the policy. Dr. Veronesi will discuss with Mrs. Emory.

*On a motion made by Mr. Yamartino and seconded by Mrs. Petrella, the committee unanimously agreed to send the policy to the full board for a first read.*

- D. Chemical Health Policy for Student Athletes: A question was raised about whether e-cigarettes or vaping should be added to this policy. Dr. Veronesi will review the policy and make suggestions in terms of where to insert that language.

*On a motion made by Mr. Yamartino and seconded by Mrs. Petrella, the committee unanimously agreed to send the policy to the full board for a first read.*

- E. Homeless Children and Youth: We should change the language in this policy to reflect Director of Pupil Personnel Services rather than Director of Special Education.

*On a motion made by Mrs. Petrella and seconded by Mrs. Geraci, the committee unanimously agreed to send the policy to the full board for a first read.*

- F. Confidentiality and Access to Education Records: Mr. Yamartino had a question about sections VII C. 6 and 12 regarding the availability of records to DCF or the Juvenile Justice system. Dr. Veronesi reviewed the process for sharing of records. Mr. Yamartino questioned whether section XII regarding HIV-related information was also covered under HIPAA. Dr. Veronesi indicated that it was and Mr. Moore indicated that he thought this was language that was specifically included for HIV relative to student records.

*On a motion made by Mr. Yamartino and seconded by Mrs. Petrella, the committee unanimously agreed to send the policy to the full board for a first read.*

- G. Wellness: Dr. Veronesi will work with the Committee on Well-Being to add regulations and the suggested section on “Measuring the Implementation of Wellness Policy”.

*On a motion made by Mr. Yamartino and seconded by Mrs. Petrella, the committee unanimously agreed to table review of the policy.*

- H. Title One Parent Involvement: Dr. Veronesi will review current protocol for parent involvement to determine if original policy was developed jointly with parents and school personnel.

*On a motion made by Mr. Yamartino and seconded by Mrs. Petrella, the committee unanimously agreed to table review of the policy.*

- I. Restraint and Seclusion: A question was raised about whether the regulations should now include pre-K as it states K in the existing regulations. Dr. Veronesi will change.

*On a motion made by Mrs. Geraci and seconded by Mrs. Petrella, the committee unanimously agreed to send the policy to the full board for a first read.*

- J. Social Media: The question about the use of “Board of Education” rather than “Superintendent” was raised again. There was conversation about crowd funding and how it should be indicated in the regulations. Dr. Veronesi will work with the Curriculum and IT departments to update regulations to the Acceptable Use Policy to include the Social Media policy information.

*On a motion made by Mrs. Petrella and seconded by Mr. Yamartino, the committee unanimously agreed to send the policy to the full board for a first read.*

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Adjournment**

The next meeting date was set for Monday, December 18th at 6:30 p.m. pending Mr. Hicks’s availability.

*On a motion made by Mrs. Geraci and seconded by Mrs. Petrella, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.*