

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Policy Committee met in Special Session on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 5:30 PM at Central Office, Durham, Connecticut.

Committee members present: Mrs. Booth (arrived late), Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mr. Roraback, and Mr. Yamartino.

Committee members absent: Mrs. Caramanello and Dr. Taylor

Mr. Hicks called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to approve the agenda, as presented.

In favor of approving the agenda, as presented: Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes - December 9, 2019

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roraback, to approve the minutes of December 9, 2019, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of December 9, 2019, as presented: Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

Review of the following policies:

A. Confidentiality and Access to Education Records

Mr. Hicks explained that this policy was not printed as it is 49 pages. The new details added to the policy are due to student data privacy that the administrators are following. Mr. Hicks explained that the state is very particular about this issue. Mrs. Booth asked who enforces these policies and Mr. Yamartino felt that it was the superintendent's job or her delegate. In general, the changes seem to be all about contractors and the internet.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Yamartino, to bring the Confidentiality and Access to Education Records policy to the full board for approval.

In favor of bringing the Confidentiality and Access to Education Records policy to the full board for approval: Mrs. Booth, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Child Sexual Abuse and Assault

Mr. Hicks explained that this is basically a new policy, but the procedures have been followed previously regarding investigating, reporting and providing support and resources.

Mr. Yamartino asked what the district would do if one parent was suspected of abuse and Mr. Moore felt that they would call a lawyer and ask what to do. Mr. Roraback felt that this policy seems to overlap with the mandated reporter requirements. Mr. Yamartino felt that the onus for these investigations lies with the safe school climate specialist and the policy does not say to refer to the appropriate authorities. Mr. Hicks felt that that may be covered somewhere else and Mr. Moore stated that child abuse and neglect goes directly to DCF and law enforcement.

It was agreed to hold this policy until they know where the reporting will go and if the district has a safe school climate specialist as well as how this interacts with other district policies.

C. Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Adults with an Intellectual Disability or Autism Spectrum Disorder

Mr. Hicks explained that this is a completely new policy with reporting procedures to the Department of Developmental Services which are similar to reporting procedures to the Department of Children and Families. This policy primarily has to do with MTA.

Mr. Yamartino felt that the district needed to be sure that training is provided to all employees relative to this policy. There is now an obligation for non-mandatory reporters to report any abuse within 48 hours to a mandatory reporter. Mr. Moore asked what the definition of intellectual disability is. Mrs. Booth read the definition from the Mayo Clinic, "below average intelligence and set of life skills present before age 18," and from the American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, "intellectual disability is a disability characterized by significant limitations, both in intellectual functioning, reasoning, learning, problem solving and in adaptive behavior which covers a range of everyday social and practical skills. The disability originates before the age of 18." Mr. Hicks would like to know how the State of Connecticut defines intellectual disability.

It was agreed to hold on this policy until they receive a clear definition of intellectual disability.

D. Section 504/ADA (Personnel)

This policy is new to the district, but has been followed in terms of providing necessary accommodations for staff with correct documentation and contract information is kept online following relevant student data privacy requirements.

Mr. Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to bring the Section 504/ADA (Personnel) policy to the full board for approval.

In favor of bringing the Section 504/ADA (Personnel) policy to the full board for approval: Mrs. Booth, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students)

Mr. Hicks explained that this is a new policy, but it has been previously followed. This policy would cover school grounds, school buses and all school activities. Mr. Yamartino likes the administrative procedures on the new one and the references to the websites and feels this policy needs some more of the new and the old. Mr. Moore suggested amending this policy by adding 5150 language to it.

Mr. Yamartino made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to bring the Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) policy to the full board for approval with the suggested amendment.

In favor of bringing the amended Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Student) policy to the full board for approval: Mrs. Booth, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Equity policy discussion

Mr. Moore explained that this policy is an example from other schools for the committee members to review. Mr. Hicks stated that Dr. Serino would like the committee to review this policy and explained that many districts are standing behind equity work with Board of Education policies.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Roraback, to adjourn the meeting.

In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Booth, Mr. Hicks, Mr. Moore, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Yamartino. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

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