

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education Policy Committee met in Special Session on Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 4:00 PM in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Committee members present: Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore and Mrs. Petrella

Committee members absent: Dr. Darcy, Mrs. Hurlbert and Mr. Roraback

Board members present: Mrs. Dahlheimer

Administration present: Dr. Schuch, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Neubig, Director of Finance, Mrs. Keane, Director of Student Services and Special Education, Mrs. Stone, Principal of Coginchaug Regional High School and Mrs. Trainer, Assistant Principal of Coginchaug Regional High School

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Mennone made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to approve the agenda, as presented.

In favor of approving the agenda, as presented: Mrs. Dahlheimer, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore and Mrs. Petrella.

Approval of Minutes - June 5, 2024

Mr. Mennone made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to approve the minutes of June 5, 2024, as presented.

In favor of approving the minutes of June 5, 2024, as presented: Mrs. Dahlheimer, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore and Mrs. Petrella. Motion passed.

Review Use of Regional District 13 Properties 1330

Mr. Moore explained that they had last modified this policy in 2023 before lights and bathrooms existed at the field. Mrs. Neubig added that they just really needed to talk about the fee schedule. She added that they will need to add signage as well. Robin Golembieski did research to find out what surrounding towns are charging and found 13 different towns. Some towns charge for the turf, fieldhouse and lights separately and some charge a flat fee. Right now, the district charges \$150/hour for use of the field. The range is from \$250/hour to \$1,000/day, another was \$500 for four hours for out-of-town usage. In-town may be more reasonable.

Mr. Moore thought that in-town users do not pay the base fee. Mrs. Neubig explained that the district has two categories: A is resident groups and B is from outside of town. Category A does not pay for use of the district's buildings. The policy separates resident and nonresident for use of the track. Mr. Mennone

asked if there would be a separate fee for the lights and Mrs. Neubig noted that they could decide to do that. She has seen ranges from \$60/hour to \$100/hour for lights. Mr. Mennone asked what the charge is to use Falcon Field in Meriden. Mrs. Neubig noted that Meriden schools charge \$50 to \$100/hour for the turf field, and the City of Meriden charges \$95/hour Mondays through Saturdays, but Sundays are \$110/hour which includes a park worker, bathrooms, trash removal, and electricity. Mr. Mennone felt that could be a problem as Falcon Field will be one of the district's biggest competitors.

Mrs. Neubig asked if they want to consider renting the fieldhouse, the bathrooms and the concession stand. Mr. Mennone felt they would have to rent out the bathrooms for a full-day event. Mrs. Neubig added that they would charge an additional hour for custodial to clean them afterwards. Mr. Mennone felt that being a little more expensive gives the district the opportunity to be more selective, but Falcon Field is extremely busy and a lot of organizations are looking for fields.

Mr. Moore added that the policy states that vendors are not permitted on school grounds, but noted that there are vendors present. Mr. Mennone stated that the soccer club does have a food truck following, so they would need to check on that. Mr. Moore felt that there should be a charge for a vendor and Mrs. Dahlheimer added that they would need to have insurance.

Mr. Mennone suggested that they figure out how much the lights will cost on a monthly basis and hopefully offset that cost. Mr. Moore felt that the lights would be a separate fee. Dr. Schuch added that the more the field gets used, the sooner the turf will need replacement. Mrs. Dahlheimer asked who would be responsible if neighbors complain and Mr. Mennone stated that someone from the district will always need to be there. Mrs. Neubig stated outside organizations must have a custodian there, however, those responsibilities are different. One suggestion is to have an on-site manager that the renter would be billed for. Dr. Schuch felt that the groups would pay for the on-site manager.

Mr. Moore explained that the track and field is under direct control of the Board of Education or its designee, so they should designate someone to be in charge at some point. Mr. Mennone added that overtime is distributed on a rotating basis and one specific custodian should not be designated. Custodians get paid an hourly basis for events and it is voluntary.

Dr. Schuch asked Mrs. Stone if she felt any teachers would be interested in this and she felt that only hourly employees would be interested. Mrs. Dahlheimer added that there are some employees at Strong that know Coginchaug pretty well. Mr. Moore summarized that the fee for the lights is missing from the policy and Mrs. Neubig asked if they wanted to increase the charge for the turf as well. There would also be an additional rate for the bathrooms and the press box.

Dr. Schuch felt that, once the porta potties are gone, the bathroom would need to be rolled into the price. Mrs. Neubig stated that they will always need to have one or two porta potties out there as the bathrooms can't be left open. Mrs. Petrella asked what happens if there is damage and Mrs. Neubig stated that the group renting the facility would be charged.

Mr. Moore summarized that, right now, it would be \$600 for someone from out of town, plus a light charge. He asked if they would be pricing themselves out of the market if they raised that price. Mrs. Neubig verified that it is \$300/hour with a two-hour minimum, and \$50/hour after that. It was agreed to keep the price the same, have the lights at \$100/hour and the bathrooms at \$50/hour for each bathroom and raise the maintenance fee as well.

Mrs. Dahlheimer stated that there is a local softball organization that holds tournaments, doesn't pay to use the fields yet every team pays to enter the tournament. Mrs. Neubig felt that that would fall under category B. Mr. Moore suggested that they add baseball and softball fields to the policy as it is only the track and field right now. Dr. Schuch also mentioned heavy vehicles on the track and Mrs. Neubig felt they should just prohibit vehicles on the track. Mr. Mennone stated that they put wood across the track in Meriden when vehicles are brought in.

Mrs. Neubig asked about the concession stand and Mr. Moore felt that that didn't belong to the district. The building belongs to the district, but the equipment doesn't. It was agreed that the concession stand cannot be used by outside organizations. It was also agreed that no one will use the fieldhouse. Mrs. Neubig will also include the conditions of the agreement regarding ending times.

Review New 4000 Series Shipman Model Policy: Title IX Sex Discrimination and Harassment (Personnel)

Mr. Moore explained that this new policy is the prohibition of sex discrimination and harassment under Title IX. It adds the new laws and definitions. Mrs. Keane noted that it was very similar to what currently exists and her recommendation was to adopt this new policy. Mrs. Dahlheimer added that it aligns with CABA's policy as well.

Review of 5000 Series Policies (Students)

Mr. Moore began with the policy on administration of medication in schools and noted that it adds Narcan as an option. Mrs. Keane clarified that they do want Narcan in the policy for the nurses and trained EMTs as well as the SRO on an emergency basis only. Mr. Mennone mentioned that Narcan is free through Rushford and to be careful because they expire. It was felt that every building should have it. Mr. Mennone added that the trainer should also be trained in Narcan administration. Mrs. Stone added that they also need to be sure that there are CPR, first aid and Narcan-trained representatives at events. Discussion continued about having defibrillators and Narcan in the fieldhouse. Mrs. Stone noted that the trainer does bring a portable defibrillator to the field.

Moving to policy 5151, Child Sexual Abuse and Assault, it was recommended to keep what exists and not adopt the Shipman policy. Dr. Schuch explained that the existing policy is actually Shipman's policy. Mr. Moore felt that the policy on Concept and Roles in Student Policies is a feel-good policy. Mrs. Dahlheimer noted that that policy has not been revised since 1998. It was agreed to delete this policy.

Looking at Dress and Grooming, Dr. Schuch reiterated that their position is that the current policy is much more in line with current practice and what they would recommend than the Shipman policy. He felt that the Shipman policy pertains to a much larger, crowded environment. Mrs. Stone felt that the more restrictions there are, the more issues there are. She added that they address issues on an individual basis. Mrs. Stone noted that each classroom can have their own rules regarding hats and hoodies and added that they did not have one teacher refer a kid to the office for a dress code violation last year. Mr. Mennone felt that the level of comfort has taken away from some of those issues. Mrs. Keane added that she had parents ask to go back to a dress code so they don't have to fight with their kids. Mrs. Stone felt that they can stress that certain things are not safe and therefore not allowed.

It was recommended to keep policy 5128, Grading. Dr. Schuch added that they would like to add the word “weighted” as it applies to weighted grades at the high school. Staff has recommended replacing policy 5127, Graduation Requirements, with the Shipman policy. Dr. Schuch added that the district can make more rigorous requirements than what the state requires, but cannot go below that. Mr. Moore felt that this policy should be reviewed by Student Achievement and Mrs. Stone was willing to do that, but she felt that the counselors gain more flexibility with the Shipman policy. Dr. Schuch suggested adopting the Shipman policy as a placeholder to comply with the state, but to still have Student Achievement review it. Mrs. Stone added that NEASC will be looking at this as well. It was agreed to wait to adopt this policy until Student Achievement has reviewed it.

It was recommended to keep policy 5141 as is. Both the previous policy and the proposed policy list FAFSA as a graduation requirement, but that is also a burden on the district to work on the rates of FAFSA completion. Mr. Moore wondered why someone would want to fill it out if they were not going to college. Mrs. Stone explained that the spirit of the law was to help underprivileged students be more aware that money is available for them to go to college. Dr. Schuch stated that they would not keep anyone from graduating because they didn’t fill out the FAFSA.

Moving to policy 5118, Non-Resident Students, Mr. Moore felt that the only controversial part is the charge for tuition. Dr. Schuch stated that they currently charge the per pupil expenditure rate which is why no one does this. He noted that they preferred CABA’s version 2 of this policy. He asked if the committee wanted to consider lowering that charge. Mr. Moore stated that they could remove capital costs, bonding and transportation from the per pupil cost. Dr. Schuch stated that other districts will let students in on a selective basis if there was room in a grade level. Mr. Moore added that the policy states that the district cannot hire another teacher just to bring in students from outside the district. Mrs. Stone stated that an out-of-town student in Glastonbury has to pay extra for special ed. Dr. Schuch has also heard of provisions for children of full-time employees that acts as an employee retention type of thing. Mr. Mennone felt that that would attract great teachers and he would strongly encourage that. It was agreed to have Mr. Brough look into this further.

Policy 5122 has been edited to state that students cannot fail two courses, rather than one course. Mrs. Stone explained that the CIAC’s policy is less restrictive than the district’s. Mr. Mennone felt that all students should have to maintain a C- average in order to play sports. Mr. Moore noted that they also need to eliminate the fee. Dr. Schuch felt that this policy strikes a nice balance and the probationary period is a plus. Mrs. Dahlheimer wants to be sure things can be flexible in extenuating circumstances.

The administration has recommended keeping the current Policy 5144, Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Students. It was recommended to use the new Shipman policy on Search and Seizure. Mrs. Stone reported that the SRO has told her that they are no longer training dogs to search out marijuana. Mr. Mennone stated that that is not true. Dr. Schuch stated that they recommended not including dogs or breathalyzers because they are not currently using them. Mrs. Stone asked what a dog would do if a child lives in a home with marijuana users and Mr. Mennone stated that the dog would point out the kid. He did not feel that would mean a search would happen unless it was felt that the kid had the intent to sell. Mr. Mennone went on to explain how they handle it in Meriden. It was agreed to keep the current policy and reinstate the dog searches.

Policy 5142, Section 504 ADA, has been recommended to keep as is. The policy concerning Sunscreen Application in School is a new policy from Shipman that requires parental permission for the students to

apply it themselves. The Title IX policy is pretty much identical to other policies. Administration has recommended to keep the current Wellness policy which is mostly about food. Mr. Moore asked if the board has actually established an Advisory Council and Dr. Schuch will check. Mr. Moore also pointed out that it is Mrs. Keane who does the oversight of this policy.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Mrs. Dahlheimer made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Petrella, to adjourn the meeting.

*In favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Dahlheimer, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore and Mrs. Petrella.
Motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

Debi Waz
Alwaz First