

Minutes

Policy Committee Meeting
Waterford Board of Education
15 Rope Ferry Road
October 24, 2016

Present: Ms. Benvenuti, Mr. Merriman, Ms. Nazarchyk

Absent: None

Staff: Mr. Giard, Superintendent; Mr. Powers, Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Nazarchyk established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

Motion: That the Policy Committee approve the minutes of May 16, 2016.
Benvenuti, Merriman: 3-0

Mr. Powers opened the meeting by reviewing the list of Policy Committee Work that may come up for review for 2016-2017. He stated that many of these policy revisions are due to updated general statutes and changes to legal references.

The committee reviewed Policy 1330 – Use of School Facilities. Discussion followed as to the definition of “Equipment” and Rec and Parks use of WPS facilities. It was noted that legal references have been updated in this policy.

Policy 1331 – Smoke Free Environment was reviewed and no changes were made to the policy besides the revision of legal references.

The proposed revisions to policy 1700 – Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property were reviewed and it was noted that legal references have been updated in this policy.

The changes to policy and regulation 4115.2 – Concussion Management and Training for Athletic Coaches was reviewed and shown that legal references were updated as well as links on the regulation.

Policy 4118.232/4218.232 – Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Free Workplace, Schools and Community was reviewed. Minor revisions were made to this policy in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The ESSA amended the Pro-Children Act of 2001, clarifying that smoking is not permitted within facilities used for early childhood education programs if such programs receive any federal funding.

The committee reviewed policy and regulation 4118.237/4218.237 – Employee Use of District’s Computer Systems and Internet Safety (Acceptable Use Policy). Legal references were the only revisions to this policy.

Revisions to Policy 5115 – Physical Activity and Student Discipline were reviewed and noted that only legal references were updated.

The committee reviewed proposed revisions to policy 5118.1 – Homeless Students. Changes to this policy reflect amendments to the McKinney-Vento Act made by the ESSA. Discussion followed as to the homeless population in WPS. Mr. Powers explained that Waterford students who attend the Waterford Country School are declared homeless so the number is higher than most expect.

Policy and regulation 5131.911 – Bullying and Safe School Climate Plan was reviewed. This revision included minor changes, including the deletion of obsolete timelines, insertion of additional statutory language, and an update of the legal references. Discussion followed as to bullying in Waterford. Mr. Powers stated that the instances are low and that WPS are commended for their great school climate.

The changes to policy 5141.4 – Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Powers brought to the attention of the Board that Public Act 16-188 changed the reporting hotline to the Child Abuse and Neglect Careline; the contact information for the Careline must be posted in a conspicuous location frequented by students in each school.

The committee reviewed proposed revisions to policy 5141.41 – Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Adults with an Intellectual Disability or Autism Spectrum Disorder. This policy was revised to reflect the requirement to include reports of suspected abuse of any person who receives funding or services from the Department of Developmental Services’ (“DDS) Division of Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Policy 5141.42 – Child Sex Abuse or Assault Response and Reporting was reviewed as a new policy. Effective October 1, 2016, Connecticut General Statutes § 17a-101q requires each district to adopt a child sexual abuse and assault response policy and reporting procedure as part of its obligation to implement the sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program developed by the Department of Children and Families in collaboration with the Department of Education and the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence. Connecticut General Statutes § 17a-101q also provides that parents/guardians may opt their children out of participation in the sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention program (already included in policy 6144.1). Mr. Giard stated that this policy is already in action and that Ms. Vallone has talked to the Administrative Team regarding this policy. He also mentioned that WPS has started to educate students about sexual abuse and they are in the process of searching for the appropriate material for educating students of all ages.

Motion: That the Policy Committee adjourn its meeting at 6:42 p.m.
Benvenuti, Merriman: 3-0

Respectfully submitted,
Ms. Nazarchyk, Recording Secretary