

**Attendance:**

Laura Roche, Board of Education  
David Freedman, Board of Education

Kathy Hamilton, Board of Education

- **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Education policy subcommittee meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

- **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

- **APPROVE MINUTES OF January 21, 2014**

Mr. Freedman made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/21/2014. Ms Roche seconded. All in favor.

- **COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS - REVIEW AND UPDATE STATUS OF OPEN ACTION ITEMS:**

**High School Graduation Requirements (Newtown 7-302/CABE 6146)** – *policy updated and will be presented to the full board at the March 4<sup>th</sup> board meeting for a first read.*

**BOE Committee Descriptions** – *Reviewed and modified proposal. This will be presented to the full board at the March 4<sup>th</sup> board meeting. It is the recommendation of the committee that these descriptions are not held as policies but rather be posted on the district website’s area for BOE committees. Also, it is the recommendation of the committee that the website be updated with current assignments & descriptions not limited by only the standing committees but to include ad-hoc committees with their charge and other ancillary assignments.*

**Review and Update Status of Open Action Items** – *All action items, except the completion of policy 6146, carried forward*

- **NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSS AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON NEXT SET OF POLICIES TO REVIEW:**

The policies below were not discussed. Carry forward as new business.

<b>Newtown Policy Number</b>	<b>CABE Equivalents</b>	<b>Policy Content</b>
8-300	6141.328, 6141.321, 6141.322, 6141.323	Acceptable Use of Technology
8-605	5131.911, 5131.91	Safe School Climate (Bullying/Hazing)

- **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - No public participation.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Ms. Roche and seconded by Mr. freedman was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 pm. All in favor.

**Action Items:**

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Committee	Approve for first read by the BOE policies: 4000.1, 5131.111, 6114, 6114.1, 6114.3, 6114.7, 6121, 6121.1, 1331		Next Meeting
Ms Hamilton	Continue Review and Update of comments received from Dr. Reed and David Abbey	Policy #s: 5125, 5136 (Use of privately owned technological devices by students)	2/27/2013
Dr. Gejda	Review and Approve Title IX policies: 4000.1, 4111, 4111.1, 4118.11, 4118.113, 5145.5, 5145.51, 5145.52, 5145.6, 6121, 6121.1	Carried forward - In review with Dr. Gejda	2/27/2013
Dr. Gejda & Principals	Review & Approve policy 5114 (Newtown policy 7-401)		2/27/2014
Dr. Reed	Review & Approve policy 4118.231/4218.2 (original Newtown policy 4-701)		2/27/2014
Ms. Hamilton	Combine CAFE policy 3524/3524/1 with Newtown policy 3-900 (Pesticide Application)	Carried forward: Review any proposed changes with Mr. Faiella	2/27/2014
Dr. Gejda	Consider adding policy for online learning		2/27/2014
Committee	Add changes to incorporate new legislation for recess (8-704/6142.101)		2/27/2014
Committee	Consider Weston Policy #4118.35 (Employee Use of the district's computer systems and electronic communications)		TBD
Committee	Consider Weston Policy #4118.5 (Personnel – Social Networking)		TBD
Committee	Superintendent Review Process: 2-103, 2-103.1, 2-103.2	Begin work in conjunction with new Superintendent	TBD
Committee	CABE policies: 3432, 3433 (Budgeting and expense reporting)	For Future Thought	TBD

Submitted: Kathy Hamilton, Policy Committee Chair

## REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

In order to graduate from the Newtown Public Schools, students must earn a minimum of twenty-~~two~~ ~~three~~ (2223) credits in ~~seven~~ ~~eight~~ (78) areas of the curriculum and demonstrate competency in spoken communication, written communication, problem solving, and information literacy. ~~Beginning with the class of 2016 students must complete a course in Personal Financial Literacy, resulting in 1½ credits in Fine and Applied Arts and 6 credits in electives.~~ Beginning with the class of 2018, students must complete 1 credit of World Language.

In addition, also beginning with the graduating class of 2020, the Board of Education will provide adequate student support and remedial services for students beginning in grade seven (2014-2015 school year). Such student support and remedial services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high school graduation requirements, previously listed, or end of the school year examinations, if such student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or exams. Such student support and remedial services shall include, but not be limited to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in summer school or through an on-line course; (2) allowing students to enroll in a class offered at a constituent unit of the state system of higher education, allowing students who received a failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an end of the school year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and (4) allowing those students whose individualized education plans state that such students are eligible for an alternate assessment to demonstrate competency on any of the five core courses through success on such alternate assessment.

The Board of Education shall grant a student credit towards meeting high school graduation requirements for (1) completing a world-language course provided by a non-profit organization and (2) passing a subject area proficiency test identified and approved by the Commissioner of Education. Up to four credits for a private non-profit world language course shall be granted if the student achieves a passing grade on a test prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. In other subject areas, credit shall be granted, based upon successful passage of the subject area proficiency tests prescribed or identified and approved by the Commissioner of Education.

The Board of Education shall award a high school diploma to any World War II veteran, veteran of the Korean Hostilities, or a Vietnam-era veteran requesting such diploma who left high school for military service as defined in the statutes.

### **Credit Distribution Requirement:**

The following credits must be earned:

Area I	English – 4 credits including English I, English II, and a course that includes American literature.
Area II	Social Studies – 3 credits including 1 in American Studies or American History, ½ in American Government, ½ in Economics, ½ in Western Studies, and ½ in an Area Studies course
Area III	Math – 3 credits
Area IV	Science – 3 credits
Area V	Physical Education – 1-½ credits

Area VI	Fine and Applied Arts – 1-½ credits, including ½ credit in Personal Financial Literacy
Area VII	Electives – 6 credits
Area VIII	World Language – 1 credit

All courses to satisfy local and statutory requirements in Areas I-VIII must be earned between the beginning of grade 9 and the end of grade 12.

Students classified as ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade must enroll in a minimum of six courses each semester. Twelfth-grade students must enroll in a minimum of five courses each semester. Only students with a minimum of 15 credits will be designated as seniors.

Students who earn high school credits in the middle school cannot apply them to required units in Areas I-VIII.

Students must attend a minimum of six (6) semesters of high school (grades 9-12) to qualify for graduation.

**Demonstration of Required Competencies:**

~~(These requirements begin with the class of 2006)~~

Each student will demonstrate competency of the required standards in written and spoken communication, problem solving, and information literacy. Through classroom performance, students will successfully complete a task in each of the standards. The tasks will be scored against a district approved analytical rubric. Students will be given at least two opportunities each year beginning with the sophomore year to meet each standard through classroom performance until the standards are met. Students can also meet the standards of written performance and/or problem solving through performance on identified portions of the **statewide mastery exam (CAPT)**. All standards in the following areas must be met unless waived through a Planning and Placement Team process to develop an Individual Education Plan or using 504 procedures:

**1. Written Communication**

- a. Critical thinking – The student takes and supports a position on information and ideas.
- b. Written performance – The student conveys information and ideas in a variety of written formats such as narrative, expository, or descriptive.

Note: The alternate method to meet the written communication requirement is to reach state goal on both the reading and writing portions of the **statewide mastery exam (CAPT)**.

**2. Spoken Communication**

- a. Spoken performance – The student conveys information and ideas to others in a presentation using spoken language, non-verbal language, and multi-media.

**3. Problem Solving**

- a. The student uses inquiry strategies and applies appropriate procedures to solve and communicate an authentic problem or situation.

Note: The alternate method to meet the problem-solving standard is to reach state goal on both the math and science portions of the **statewide mastery exam (CAPT)**.

4. **Information Literacy**
  - a. The student demonstrates strategies to identify, locate, and interpret information.
  - b. The student relates and applies new knowledge using a variety of sources including technology.

### **Notification**

1. Students – Students who have not met the standards will be notified in writing as part of the scheduling process at the end of the sophomore and junior years. Seniors who have not met the standards will be notified in person by their guidance counselor in September, January, and April of their senior year.
2. Parents – Parents of students who have not met the standards will be notified in writing at the end of the sophomore and junior years. Parents of seniors who have not met the standards will be notified in September, January, and April of the senior year.
3. Teachers -- At the beginning of the school year teachers will be given a list of the students who need to meet the performance standards showing the particular standards that need to be met.

### **Exception for Transfer Students**

If a student transfers into the Newtown Public Schools after completing at least three years in a high school out of state, he/she may be exempted from Newtown's Competency Standards for graduation. If a student transfers into the Newtown Public Schools after completing at least three years of high school in Connecticut, Newtown will accept the completed standards from the sending district.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-14n **Statewide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination. Limitation on use of test results.**

10-221a **High school graduation requirements. (As amended by P.A. 00-124, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II, P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation, P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses and Other Subject Areas, and P.A. 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut and P.A. 11-135, An Act Concerning Implementation Dates for Secondary School Reform.**

10-233(a) **Promotion and graduation policies. (as amended by PA 01-166)**

Adopted 6/12/79

Modified 1/11/83, 2/13/85, 3/12/96, 7/9/02, 6/12/07, 2/7/12, 2/?/14 (renumbered from 7-302)

# Board of Education Standing Committees

The following are standing committees of the BOE, expected to make regular reports to the BOE as a whole. Meetings will be posted and will be open to the public. Each committee will elect a chairperson and secretary. The committee chairperson will be responsible for calling meetings, setting agendas, and moving committee work forward. The committee secretary will write up brief minutes and post in a timely manner consistent with FOI requirements. The Board Chair, with the approval of the Board, may also appoint additional standing committees as may be needed.

## **CIP/FACILITIES/FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **1) Financial Responsibilities**

- a) Review monthly line item expenditure report from the BOE Business Director;
- b) Review all budget transfers between line items and, when required, make recommendations for such transfers;
- c) Review financial reporting mechanisms and yearly budget documentation for clarity and content and present any recommendations;

### **2) CIP/Facilities Responsibilities**

- a) Review capital expenditures and proposals for the Town's five year capital improvement plan (CIP) in accordance with the CIP regulation timeline;
- b) Review quarterly, building and maintenance needs with the Building and Grounds Facility Director;

## **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

- 1) Work with the Superintendent and the board to communicate effectively with the education community and the community as a whole about school matters
- 2) Review annually school communication strategies

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

- 1) Review and propose revisions to Board policies as needed to ensure consistency with the District mission statement, best practices and for compliance with state and federal laws;
- 2) Develop new Board policies as appropriate.

## **CONTRACT NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE**

- 1) Develop a consistent body of expertise regarding union contract negotiations at the Board level.
- 2) Committee members will split specific union negotiations among themselves, and members should reflect a variety of skills and length of term on the Board;