

Special Meeting
Board of Education
Policy Committee Meeting
September 17, 2024

Municipal Building
3 Primrose Street
Newtown, CT 06470
BOE Conference Room
5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Attendance:

Anne Uberti, Superintendent
Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Transition Administrator
Doria Linnetz, Policy Chair
Alison Plante, Board Member
Sarah Connell
1 Public

1. Call to Order

- a. D. Linnetz called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. Public Participation

- a. None

3. Approval of Minutes of July 15, 2024

- a. A. Plante made a motion to approve the minutes of July 15, 2024. D. Linnetz seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

4. Discussion and Possible Action

A. Uberti explained why the District is changing how the policy committee and Board of Education review and adopt policies. Newtown has been receiving policy samples from CABE since 2014 but found that the process was not efficient. Newtown will now work directly with Shipman and Goodwin on obtaining and maintaining policies. A. Uberti stated that being a Shipman & Goodwin Policy Subscriber will eliminate unnecessary legal fees because they found that they were reaching out for legal advice regarding multiple policies in the past.

A. Review Shipman & Goodwin Model Policy Index

- a. J. Paddyfote has been reviewing Newtown's current policies and comparing them with Shipman and Goodwin's policies. She found that many of Newtown's policies are not current or not needed and need to be updated.

B. Comparison of NPS Series 5000 Policies with Shipman & Goodwin Series 5000 Policies

- a. J. Paddyfote explained that Shipman and Goodwin's policy index has 34 mandatory policies in the 5000 Student series and Newtown currently has 56 policies.
A. Plante asked if there was a reason to have a policy that was not mandatory.
J. Paddyfote said that it depends on what the Board decides. She suggested that policies that are not required can become an Administrative Regulation. It will be easier to maintain and update as needed.

J. Paddyfote's recommendation is that the Board adopt the entire bulk on this agenda and then rescind the policies Newtown currently has that are associated. If not, the District is putting itself at risk of not being compliant.

D. Linnetz and A. Plante agreed.

D. Linnetz asked about the logistics of bringing the large volume of policies to the Board at once.

J. Paddyfote stated that the Board should receive them early enough to be able to review them but they will still have the standard 'two reads'. They can send their questions or concerns to D. Linnetz or A. Plante so they can discuss at the following policy meeting.

C. Review of Shipman & Goodman Model Policies in Series 5000, Students

- a. J. Paddyfote explained her reasoning for adopting each policy listed in the agenda. She also provided comments at the top of each policy for the Board's reference.
- b. D. Linnetz and A. Plante agreed that they need more time to adequately review the policies in this agenda. They will review them over the weekend and let K. June know which policies will be included in the next Board meeting's agenda.

1. 5110 *Non-Discrimination (Students)*
2. 5111 *Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age Five*
3. 5113 *Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism*
4. 5118.1 *Homeless Children and Youth*
5. 5126 *Student Privacy*
6. 5131.6 *Drug and Alcohol Use by Students*
7. 5133 *Education Stability Procedures for Transportation Coordination with the Department of Children and Families*
8. 5135 *Recess and Play-Based Learning*
9. 5141.25 *Management Plan and Guidelines for Students with Food Allergies, Glycogen Storage Disease and/or Diabetes*
10. 5143 *Chemical Health Policy for Student Athletes*
11. 5145.4 *Policy Regarding Students and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*
12. 5145.5 *Prohibition of Sex Discrimination, Including Sex-Based Harassment*
13. 6117 *Curricular Exemptions*
14. 6145 *Homework*

D. Items of Information

1. 5110 R *Administrative Regulations Regarding Discrimination Complaints (Students)*
2. 5111 R *Administrative Regulations Regarding Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age Five*
3. 5113 R *Administrative Regulations Regarding Student Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism*
4. 5118.1 R *Administrative Regulations Regarding Homeless Children and Youth*
5. 5141 R *Administrative Regulations Regarding Health Assessments/Screenings*

- and Oral Health Assessments*
- 6. 5141.3 R *Administrative Regulations Regarding Immunizations*
 - 7.. 5145.4 R *Administrative Regulations Regarding Students and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*
 - 8. 5145.5 R *Administrative Regulations Regarding Prohibition of Sex Discrimination, Including Sex-Based Harassment*
 - 9. 6145 R *Administrative Regulations Regarding Homework*

E. Policies Under Revision Recommended for Deletion Upon Adoption of Policies in Item C

- 1. 8-202 *Guidelines for Educational Assessment*
- 2. 8-203 *School Improvement Plan*
- 3. 8-204 *Instructional Assessment*
- 4. 8-301 *Media Centers*
- 5. 8-303 *Approval of Textbooks*
- 6. 8-303.1 *Selection of Textbooks*
- 7. 8-304 *Instructional Materials—Student Access*
- 8. 8-400 *Controversial Issues in the Classroom*
- 9. 8-401 *Religion in the Schools*
- 10. 8-402 *Holiday Programs*
- 11. 8-402.1 *Guidelines for Recognition of Religious Holidays*
- 12. 8-403 *Opening Exercises*
- 13. 8-404 *Homework*
- 14. 8-405 *Field Trips*
- 15. 8-406 *Photographs, Broadcasting or Videotaping Special School Activities*
- 16. 8-407 *Public Performance by School Musical Organizations*
- 17. 8-408 *Independent Study*
- 18. 8-500 *Comparability of Services*
- 19. 8-501 *Waiver for Site Initiatives*
- 20. 8-502 *Pupil Services*
- 21. 8-502.1 *Guidance and Counseling*
- 22. 8-502.2 *Special Education*
- 23. 8-601 *Promotion of Equity Among Students in the Newtown School District*
- 24. 8-602.1 *Section 504 Due Process*
- 25. 8-603 *Harassment of Students*
- 26. 8-604 *Hazing Prohibition*
- 27. 8-700 *Exemption from Aids/Sex Education Units*
- 28. 8-701 *Drug and Alcohol Education*
- 29. 8-702 *Career Education*
- 30. 8-703 *Performing Fine Arts*

F. Policies to Rescind Upon Adoption of Policies in Item C

- 1. 5111 *Admission/Placement*
- 2. 5112 *Ages of Entrance*
- 3. 5113 *Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal*
- 4. 5113.2 *Truancy*
- 5. 5118.1 *Homeless Students*
- 6. 5131.6 *Alcohol Use, Drugs and Tobacco (Including Performance*

- Enhancing Substances)*
7. 5141 *Student Health Services*
 8. 5141.3 *Health Assessments and Immunizations*
 9. 5141.25 *Life-Threatening Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease Management*
 10. 5145.4 *Americans with Disabilities Act/Section 504*
 11. 5145.5 *Sexual Discrimination and Sexual Harassment*

J. Paddyfote believes that if Newtown continues to review and adopt policies in this format, it will only take approximately a year and half to completely update the policies.

A. Uberti suggests that D. Linnetz and A. Plante explain to the Board members why they are going in this direction and why it is the best and only logical option.

G. Dates for Future Policy Meetings

The policy committee agreed to cancel the remaining policy meeting dates in 2024 and replace them with “special meetings”. These special meetings will take place at 5:00 pm or 5:30 pm on Tuesdays before each BOE meeting.

5. Public Participation

Deborra Zukowski, Cornfield Ridge Road, Newtown, stated that she was very pleased with the discussion in this meeting. She remembered in the past that Shipman and Goodwin policies were always legalistic. She stated that it is important to trust the policy committee, however, it is also important to verify. She is looking forward to reviewing the policies that are being presented.

6. Adjourn

A. Plante made a motion to adjourn the meeting. D. Linnetz seconded. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.

*These are draft minutes**