

BOE Policy Committee Minutes
Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Municipal Building, BOE Conference Room
3 Primrose St, Newtown, CT 06470

CALL TO ORDER Meeting was called to order at 9:01 am

IN ATTENDANCE Dan Cruson, Deborra Zukowski, Janet Kuzma, Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue, Suzanne D’Eramo, Sarah Connell, 1 public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION None

APPROVE MINUTES Dan Cruson made a motion to approve the minutes of March 9, 2022. Deborra Zukowski seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action:

Item	Reports
<p>Policy 4111.1/4211.1 – Equal Employment Opportunity The committee did not receive any questions from the BOE. S. Connell will send this policy back to the BOE for a second read and possible approval.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Connell will send this policy to K. June for BOE second read and possible approval
<p>Policy 4111.3/4211.3 – Plan for Minority Recruitment The committee did not receive any questions from the BOE. S. Connell will send this policy back to the BOE for a second read and possible approval.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Connell will send this policy to K. June for BOE second read and possible approval
<p>Policy 4118.211– Retaliation / Whistleblowing Shipman and Goodwin provided a sample policy that states Newtown’s position on this topic and addresses all of the committee’s concerns. The committee agreed to move this policy to the 4000 series queue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. Connell will send this policy to the 4000 series queue.
<p>Policy 6172.6 – Distance Education – Virtual/Online Courses L. Rodrigue said that she is planning on working on this policy to align with the new State guidelines with K. Longobucco. The first suggestion would be to remove the first paragraph that states the mission of the Newtown Public Schools because the mission can change. The committee agreed that they like Wallingford’s policy sample the most and would take language from their policy when editing Newtown’s. J. Kuzma asked if this policy is only geared towards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Rodrigue and K. Longobucco will review this policy • S. Connell will invite K. Longobucco to the next policy meeting.

high schools students.

L. Rodrigue answered that it looks like it may be K-12 in the future, but as of now, it is 9-12.

D. Zukowski made some notes on the Wallingford policy sample. L. Rodrigue requested that D. Zukowski send them to her so she can review them with K. Longobucco.

L. Rodrigue made it clear that the point of VHS is not to replace a teacher or class but give the student an opportunity to take a class they do not have time for in their schedule.

Policy 4118.237/4218.237/5141.8 – Face Masks Coverings

L. Rodrigue, A. Dalton & S. D’Eramo reviewed this policy along with **Policy 5141.22 – Communicable/Infectious Diseases**. Together, they are recommending that we rescind Policy 4118.237/4218.237/5141.8 – Face Masks Coverings and add language into Newtown’s existing policy – Policy 5141.22 – Communicable/Infectious Diseases.

The sentence that L. Rodrigue, A. Dalton & S. D’Eramo suggested is:

“ In the event that a public health emergency (i.e. pandemic) is declared by the State of CT, the Board reserves the right to follow CDC and/or DPH guidelines in an effort to maintain a safe environment for all students.”

S. D’Eramo also made a suggestion to change the language “handicapped” to “disabled”. The committee agreed.

The committee agreed and had a discussion about possible edits.

D. Cruson has a concern about stating that an emergency has to be declared by the State and would like there to be flexibility to be on a more localized level and involve the local health department.

L. Rodrigue is pretty certain that the local health department does not make that decision. They follow the State’s or DPH guidance.

D. Zukowski has the same concerns as D. Cruson.

J. Kuzma understands that it comes from the state and does not see a reason to change the language but will support the sentence below.

- S. Connell will invite S. D’Eramo to the next meeting
- S. Connell will invite A. Dalton to the next meeting

The committee agreed to change the language to:

“In the event of a public health emergency, the Board reserves the right to follow federal, state and local guidelines in an effort to maintain a safe environment for all students.”

The committee also noticed that the Appendix may be outdated. S. Connell will send this to A. Dalton to review and make necessary edits.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action:

Policy 4-609 – Communicable Diseases

S. D’Eramo requested that the committee add language to Newtown’s current policy regarding the Board reserving the right to follow federal, state and local guidelines.

D. Cruson suggested adding language to Policy 5141.22 to make a dual Student/Staff policy. S. D’Eramo agreed and would include language to reflect staff.

- S. Connell will invite S. D’Eramo to this policy meeting

A motion was made by D. Cruson to move Policy 4118.211– Retaliation / Whistleblowing forward to the 4000 series queue. J. Kuzma seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

UPDATE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

No Superintendent Report

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Dan Cruson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. D. Zukowski seconded. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.