

Policy Committee Minutes

March 6, 2018

5:30 PM, SAU Offices

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| <p>Members</p> | <p>Rich Cahoon - Chair, Janine Lesser, Kristen Reilly, Stephan Morrissey, Kimberly Saunders, Ann Forrest</p> <p>Attendees: Policy Meeting: Rich Cahoon, Stephan Morrissey, Kristen Reilly, Janine Lesser, Kimberly Saunders, Myron Steere.</p> <p>Additional attendees: Cari Coates, Linda Quintanilha</p> |
| <p>I.</p> | <p>Meeting call to order: Meeting called to order at: @ 5:34 by Stephan Morrissey</p> <p>1) Approval of February 20, 2018 Minutes -- Motion to accept minutes moved by Janine Lesser and seconded by Stephan Morrissey. Minutes accepted as written.</p> |
| <p>2.</p> | <p>Policies to the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ IHBAD: Independent Special Education Evaluation -- this was a call-letter change only but this was pulled at the January and February Board meeting. <p>I have incorporated additional edits from Student Services. Submit again for a 2nd Read?</p> <p>Edit: customary market rate, not rate market. Carol will make this correction.</p> <p>Paragraph Item # 6. Linda Quintanilha spoke to this policy and would like to word smith this paragraph. What is the clause for under 3 years of age? There is no general education teacher as they haven't been in school yet. The intent of this paragraph is for the benefit of the evaluator...instructions for them. There are two different processes for an evaluation; an independent evaluator, or an evaluation done by the District. If done by an independent evaluator, they must share their findings with the District. This is to protect the District, we have IDEA that protects the parent. If we are paying for the evaluation, we would pay for the evaluator. Rich Cahoon suggests adding a separate sentence or paragraph with specific instructions for the District. Cari Coates is concerned that we don't always know the student is getting an evaluation, we would be obligated to pay for it.</p> <p>Cari Coates reminded everyone that this policy came from a Special Ed attorney and it was adopted back in 2004. She is concerned about the content and feels we should have someone look at this from the legal viewpoint. Rich Cahoon agrees with this. Linda Quintanilha spoke to this and stated our policies should reflect our community values. Cari Coates indicated that the policy clearly notes our process and believes it has assisted us. Linda Quintanilha feels that this policy is restrictive and allows for throwing out evaluations.</p> <p>Kimberly Saunders noted that school board policy is designed to say "this is our philosophy as a District" and to protect the District and is clearly designed to tell the</p> |

board how we run the district. Rich Cahoon indicated that this committee is responsible for presenting policies to the Board, it is the Board's responsibility to establish policies. Linda Quintanilha would like to see #6 removed from this policy. Stephan suggested using the term recommended, but others felt it is too weak a term. What is the close-case scenario? Ms. Saunders used a speech and language example: There may be a problem, but the child may be functional; however, that does not mean the child does not need support. The student may have their own system of coping.

If the district/parent trust is weak, the district might want pay for the evaluation. This policy is based on IDEA compliance...outlining what the evaluator needs to do. If the school district has already agreed to pay...should this be added to the policy (Linda Quintanilha)? What if a parent comes to the table with an evaluation from an outside source that has never communicated with teachers or specialists? Myron Steere asked when we find out when there is an evaluation. This policy is for before the evaluation occurs. What does IDEA cover...the team has to consider the outside evaluation? This policy says that we then make them aware of our policy. 2) We complete an evaluation and the parent does not like it so they demand an outside evaluation that we pay for. The IDEA says we pay for evaluations after the fact. Rich Cahoon thinks we need to rewrite Item #6 into 2 separate paragraphs. How do we get the District to determine a legitimate evaluation vs. a fly-by-night evaluation? We have a legal obligation if a parent refers a child to us, and there is a time constraint on this (60 days). We have to disposition our referral.

Linda Quintanilha stated that the IDEA protects the independent evaluation. Cari Coates indicated there are very few times that we deny evaluations all together. Diagnosis is different, they are the expert. We don't diagnosis. We can't agree or disagree. Modifications in the classroom vs. accommodations? Rich Cahoon is concerned on how can we accept independent evaluations from someone who has never observed in a classroom setting to identify what the child's support must be.

Stephan asked if we can tie payment to following the process. We cannot because it's part of IDEA. Janine Lesser thinks this lays the groundwork for the evaluation. Linda Quintanilha indicated someone must initiate a conversation between the teacher and the evaluator...hold the parent's hand. Waiver to speak to the parent? Do we want us to establish a window of time for assisting the parents during this difficult time? Rich Cahoon feels that #6 paragraph does not capture the intent that we want it to and suggests breaking it into two paragraphs.

Rich Cahoon does not want to bring this forward tonight. He asked Linda Quintanilha to supply a paragraph that she feels covers the concerns.

Paragraph #9: What is this saying? Cari Coates explained her interpretation of this paragraph. We are not able to look at the records until permission is received. Rich Cahoon feels this is all FERPA, yet there is no legal reference.

Linda Quintanilha and Cari Coates will inform this committee when they are ready to bring this policy back to this committee at a future date.

Policies for a 1st Read:

- ❖ EFAA: Meal Charging
- ❖ EFC: Free & Reduced-Price Lunch

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| 3 | <p>Policies to Back to Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ADD/EBB: School Safety – Presently we do not have these Recommended policies. (Pertaining to a discussion at our February meeting) ❖ EFDA: Overdue Accounts ❖ JIHB: Searches of Student Automobiles on School Property – never resolved. Also included is JIHB-R. |
| 3. | <p>Priority Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ EHAA/JICL: Internet Safety and Responsible Use for Students. ❖ GBCD: Background Investigation and Criminal Record Check. ❖ IHAMA: Teaching about Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco --- this policy requires a category change and additional legal references. ❖ IKFA: Early Graduation (this used to be an optional policy and we rescinded it). This packet contains the NHSBA version. ❖ ILBAA: High School Graduation Competencies --- our 2008 policy was never assigned a Category. This is a Priority policy. ❖ ILDA: Non-Educational Questionnaires, Surveys, and Research. ❖ IMBD: High School Credits for 7th/8th Grade Coursework --- we do not have this policy. ❖ JKAA: Use of Restraint, Seclusion, and Physical Contact – new clean copy and redlined copy both from Legal. |
| 4. | <p>Pending Policies: from NHSBA Spring 2017 Spring Policy Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ JICI: Dangerous Weapons on School Property – Kimberly will report back on this policy. ❖ JLD: School Guidance and Counseling Program – the category for this policy has changed from Priority to Recommended. Additional content has also been introduced. ❖ JLIF: Receipt and Use of Sex Offender Registry Information – this is an Optional policy that we do not have. ❖ EEBB: Use of Private Vehicles on School Business: EEBB was rescinded in 2013. NHSBA version is EEAG and is a recommended policy. <p>A Policies: for Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ AFB/CB/CBI-R: School Superintendent/Evaluation of the Superintendent and Goal Setting – update required. |
| 5. | <p>Strategic Plan Related Policies: Not in packet</p> <p>Below is our original list of Strategic Plan related policies from August 2016 with determination of committee ownership: Status Report?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Class size: IIB -- presented to Education Committee |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Communications: BHC, GBD; Communications Committee❖ Assessment: IGA, IHBH, IK, ILBA, IMBC; presented to Education Committee❖ Community Partnerships: KCB; Communications |
| 6. | Meeting called at 6:28 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Stephan Morrissey and seconded by Janine Lesser. Next Meeting: March 20, 2018 |

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Hills