

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

5:45 PM

Location: SAU Finch Conference Room

Minutes

Committee Members: Crista Salamy (Chair), Tom Burgess, Katherine Heck, Michael Hoyt, Thomas Kirlin, Janine Lesser

Present: Crista Salamy, Tom Burgess, Katherine Heck (6:02 pm), Michael Hoyt, Thomas Kirlin, Janine Lesser, Dick Dunning, Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Heather McKillop

Kimberly Saunders shared that Policy setting is a statutory obligation of the board. Policies are by statute, recommended, or optional.

It is better not to have a policy at all than not to follow those you have.

There are policies and procedures. Procedures are what administration writes describing how a policy will be enacted.

1. Call to order

Crista Salamy called the meeting to order 5:50 p.m.

Janine Lesser moved to nominate Crista Salamy as Policy Chair. Mike Hoyt seconded. Unanimous.

Crista Salamy shared how Monday.com works for this committee to track policies. Time was spent with committee members in Monday.com.

2. Approval of the March 7, 2023 Minutes

Katherine Heck motioned to approve the minutes of March 7, 2023. Crista Salamy seconded. Unanimous.

3. Policy Review

- EBCA: Crisis Prevention & Emergency Response Plans

Kimberly Saunders said that this is the blended NHSBA version and ConVal's as requested.

This policy is ready for a first read of the full Board.

- JICA: Student Dress Code

Kimberly Saunders asked for direction. Is this something that should be worked on with administration or simply left alone?

Mike Hoyt asked if it has been a problematic situation with the current policy. The response was that it has not been a problem.

Crista Salamy said that administration previously reported that things are going well and change is not needed. An inconsistency between the two middle schools was noted.

An ambiguity was seen as in place with hats allowed in one middle school and not in another.

The handbooks are a tool that can be used for this purpose.

At GBS hats and hoodies can be worn in the building and at SMS they cannot. The same holds true for the high school.

Janine Lesser said that administration reports that there have been no problems.

Katherine Heck said that this might not be on the radar but she has heard that the dress is not appropriate at the middle schools or the high school. Any time the board initiates policy that has less unambiguity it allows the board to take the heat.

Kimberly said that the line “.....is unsuitable for school wear” is something that needs consideration. We should simply say that a student is either in dress code or not in dress code. We do not judge what a student wears to school.

Crista Salamy said that meshing some of the NHSBA policy with ConVal’s was discussed in the past.

Katherine Heck said that the policy is not very clear, noting that the words “.....or causes a substantial and material disruption or substantial disturbance...” is subjective.

Janine Lesser said that this might give administration more work to police it. If the administration was coming to us saying that there was a disruption, she could see adding more specific language.

Katherine said that is a fair responsibility for administration in preparing students for the future.

Heather McKillop said that when students wear drug or alcohol print on their clothing it is addressed.

Janine Lesser asked Heather if it would help to use the language in NHSBA policy or not concentrate on student clothing.

Tom Burgess suggested tying it to language in the handbook.

Kimberly Saunders said that if a change is made to the dress code you should start with administration and the handbook. Then it should go to the community.

Katherine said that this process, if changed, would take time to implement.

Crista Salamy said that this could be put on the back burner if change in the upcoming school year is not anticipated. The principals have given their opinion. It could be revisited later.

A survey was suggested.

Dick Dunning suggested looking at what other schools are putting forward on dress code in their handbooks.

How kids come to school changes over time. Judgment calls have been made. He said that he is not in favor of midriffs showing or short shorts. Giving administrators flexibility is helpful.

Sometimes the more specific the language is the more difficult it is to manage.

Kimberly said that the issue is that dress codes are often focused on young ladies clothing; that can cause an issue.

Administrators were asked to gather information from other school district handbooks.

Kimberly said that she will bring this back on June 6th.

- KFA: Public Conduct on School Property

Work to align the policy with RSA Chapter 159-E is needed and RSA 193:13.

This should return to Policy on June 6th.

- JBAB: Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Procedure

This procedure was written by legal. Who makes the decision of whether or not to tell a parent? The School Principal in conjunction with counselors etc. It may become a non-issue and the requirement to tell the parent may move forward. The student’s age weighs in on student safety.

Katherine Heck recommends keeping the procedure in place and bringing it back once more is known. More to come on June 6th after more is known about HB272.

- IKFC: Alternate Diploma

ConVal does not have this policy. It is recommended. We do not have an alternate diploma; we have a certificate of attendance, but it is not a diploma.

More to come on June 6th.

- CM: School District Annual Report

Kimberly Saunders said that she would like to see what the NHSBA policy says first before moving forward. The Annual Report is a governing body report. The approval is the board's responsibility. More to come on June 6th.

4. Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (If Required)

None.

5. Policy Status Update:

Scheduled for Next School Board Agenda:

- ICA: School Calendar (Rescind)

Under review/revision by Administration:

- JJJ: Access to Public School by Nonpublic, Charter Schools, and Home Educated Students
- JLDBB: Suicide Prevention and Response
- JLCB: Immunization of Students (Reworded and Re-lettered)
- JLCA: Physical Exams

Under review by Legal:

- JLCF: Wellness
- IHBA: Evaluation Requirements for Students
- IHBG: Home Education Instruction
- AC: Non-Discrimination, Equal Opportunity Employment and District Anti-Discrimination Plan
- AC-E: Non-Discrimination

Under review by School Board Committee:

- Capital Plan Policy (Budget & Property)
- EG/KDA: Public Information Program (Communication)
- IKL: Academic Integrity and Honesty – (Education Committee)
- JLCF: Wellness

Under review with Nurses:

- JLCA: Physical Examination of Students

On Hold:

- DJB/DJB-R: Purchasing Procedures
- DJE: Bidding Requirements

Future Agenda Items:

- Fall Update Items

Janine Lesser motioned to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Katherine Heck seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok