

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, September 7 2023

7:00 PM

Location: SAU Finch Conference Room

Minutes

Committee Members: Katherine Heck, Michael Hoyt, Thomas Kirlin, Janine Lesser, Erin Pils-Martin

Present: Katherine Heck, Michael Hoyt, Janine Lesser, Erin Pils-Martin, Dick Dunning, Dr. Ann Forrest

1. Call to order

Katherine Heck called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Elect Committee Chair -

Mike Hoyt nominated Katherine Heck. Janine Lesser seconded. Unanimous.

Meeting Schedule -

In favor of keeping the meeting on the first Tuesday of every month at 5:45 p.m.

Katherine Heck said that she cannot get there at 5:45 p.m.

Dick Dunning suggested that the Policy Committee meet on the first Thursday of each month. Discussion took place.

The fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m. was decided. Tom Kirlin will be confirmed.

2. Approval of the August 8, 2023 Minutes

Janine Lesser moved to approve the minutes of August 8, 2023. Katherine Heck seconded. Unanimous.

3. Policy Review

- JICA: Student Dress Code

The committee confirmed that the policy, as presented, should move for a first read at the next School Board meeting.

- JBAB: Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Procedure

42% of school districts have a transgender policy. The remainder use their non-discrimination policy.

ConVal has a procedure. It is believed that the administration wants a policy.

Other school district policies were noted for review.

A statement that we support our administration and the procedures they develop was suggested.

Referring to AC and ACAC was suggested. It could be modified as laws and rules change.

This topic has transformed and changed rapidly over time. Flexibility should be provided to allow for this moving forward.

In the absence of policy, procedure can be implemented.

Erin Pils-Martin shared her concern that there is not a lot of voice for students, especially older students, in the procedure. If we are putting a policy in place we need to do our absolute best to protect our students.

Katherine Heck that it was developed by legal counsel and we would need to bring them in if we were going to look at the procedure.

Janine Lesser said that language could be reviewed by the Superintendent and she might choose to share it with legal.

Erin Pils-Martin said that if a student voices an objection a note should be placed in their file to note that an objection was voiced.

Michael Hoyt asked what the NHIAA's stand is on this. It was stated that the NHIAA states that a student would play on the team that they identify with.

Federal laws provide protections as well.

Following ACAC was in place to assure non-discrimination.

Procedure addresses implementing a plan for the student as well.

Dick Dunning said that when a teacher asks a student what their pronoun is could set kids up. He said that it is more appropriate for the student to approach the teacher.

The policies from other districts should be looked at as well as ConVal's procedure.

The ConVal procedure should be reviewed.

- IKFC: Alternate Diploma

There is not a current policy. This is pending the Director of Special Education's input.

How many students are taking the alternative test? This policy says that unless you take a test, one is not eligible.

- AC: Non-Discrimination, Equal Opportunity Employment and District Anti-Discrimination

NHSBA and ConVal's policies were reviewed.

Terms "gender" and "gender identity" appear differently in each of the two policies.

Does ConVal have a procedure developed "District Anti-Discrimination Plan"?

It was noted that AC and ACAC have some similar components.

The complaint procedures in ACAC are specific to sexual harassment. AC is broad harassment.

References to policies as a result of one or more being eliminated factors into the NHSBA update.

In Monday.com, it stated that this policy update is pending legal review.

This policy will return to Policy Committee.

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

None.

5. Policy Status Update:

Scheduled for Next School Board Agenda:

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:

- IHBAA: 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) - should go to the administration.

Policies that would normally go to committee will now appear on School Board agendas three times e.g. review and discussion, first read, second read. Input and direction will be important for the board.

Ann Forrest reported that previous discussion on this policy resulted in administration's thought that the policy was not needed. Things may have changed. The discussion is important.

Dick Dunning asked how one would write a policy for K-12 to address this. Would it be better to address it in the school handbooks or in policy?

Katherine Heck said that a statement of policy sets a tone of the high expectations in the handbook as a procedure.

What it means to have integrity around your work could be the focus rather than being told not to use (AI) as an example.

- 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 8:11 p.m. Erin Pils-Martin seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok