

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

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, September 26 2023

6:45 PM

Location: SAU Board Room

Minutes

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

Present: Katherine Heck, Michael Hoyt, Thomas Kirlin, Erin Pils-Martin, Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Ben Moenter

1. Call to order

Katherine Heck called the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m.

2. Approval of the September 7, 2023 Minutes

Mike Hoyt motioned to approve the minutes of September 7, 2023. Erin Pils-Martin seconded. Unanimous.

3. Policy Review

- JBAB: Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Procedure

The District has provided a procedure and the administration would like to have a policy to join it. A decision on what direction the committee would like to go to bring to the full board is needed. Erin Pils-Martin said that she preferred the NHSBA version.

Katherine Heck said that it is an old version and has been pulled because it does not comply with the new federal compliances. Our attorney recommended having procedures in place.

Katherine further said that a statement that directs one to the procedure is suggested.

Kimberly Saunders said that when we spend time and money having an attorney develop something like this, we follow it because they are the one that provides support to the district. It is better not to have a policy or procedure rather than have one and not follow it.

Kimberly Saunders said that a statement that says that the procedure will be updated in accordance with current law as it moves forward is preferred.

Katherine Heck said that a procedure can be updated immediately.

Further, Katherine said that the purpose statement in the NHSBA policy could be used. We would not get into the procedural aspects at all.

Katherine Heck asked for input and thoughts.

Mike Hoyt agreed that this needs to go with what the attorney said and leave it that way.

Wordsmithing the purpose section was asked of Kimberly Saunders. Confirmed.

Erin Pils-Martin asked where one would direct questions about the procedure. She said that she liked the language in the privacy section. Protection not to share transgender information was her preference.

Kimberly Saunders and Katherine Heck said that that language is the reason why the policy was pulled.

Kimberly said that it starts from a deficit thinking space that a parent will not support their child. Should it be believed that the child would receive physical or emotional trauma with a parent, information would not be shared. Children who are under 18 do not have privacy rights. Having a procedure that is consistent is important. This procedure is designed to support the student and the family.

We want to make sure that we do everything as prescribed by law.

Erin Pils-Martin asked about the definition of “transgender” on page 2. Why use “assigned sex” rather than “assigned gender”?

Kimberly Saunders said that it is trying to recognize the difference between a social assignment and biological assignment.

Kimberly said that this procedure will be reviewed annually.

- IKFC: Alternate Diploma for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

Ben Moenter said that there are 4-6 students who have utilized the alternative diploma pathway.

Most students walk at graduation with their peers and will continue on with services and schooling up until age 22. It is a policy that we need but is not used frequently.

This is related to a certificate or diploma received by a student with significant cognitive disabilities.

Ben Moenter asked about the age 16. Katherine Heck said that it is based on federal law.

ConVal does not have a policy. We are doing this in practice because we have a procedure.

Mike Hoyt said that the State says that we have to participate in it but not that we have to pass it.

Do we need a policy? The policy is the board’s expression to the administration and public of what is expected.

The NHSBA policy will be reviewed and a ConVal policy may be drafted.

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

ConVal’s policy was adopted in 2020 and is outdated. Pulling pieces from the sample policy, including pieces about gender identity and non-discrimination language have occurred. What is left is for the committee to confirm what they want and send it to legal review. Pg. 13-16 is the preferred policy in place of that on page 17.

Absent significant changes after legal review, it will be ready for a first read of the full board.

- BDE: Committees and School Board Member Special-Duty Assignments

Kimberly Saunders said that we must have a Food Service/Wellness Committee. This policy is currently suspended.

Katherine said that a committee is not needed but the discussion is necessary.

Kimberly said that it would be in the best interest to have a Food Service/Wellness Committee that meets quarterly.

Katherine Heck saw no issue with the special duty list. Strategic Planning might be moved to a special duty because it is periodic.

Equity Committee is no longer a ConVal committee. Rather, a position is in process to look at data and report to the full board.

Standing committees are Budget & Property, Policy, and Selectmen’s Advisory.

A recommendation for the realignment of committees, both standing and special duty, will be brought to the board.

Adding a statement, under special duty procedures, stating that the Strategic Planning is a committee that will meet during the process as necessary.

Erin Pils-Martin asked about the timing of adding or dismissing committees at the School Board organizational meeting after the election.

- JKAA: Use of Restraint, Seclusion, and Physical Contact

Ben Moenter said that there have been legal changes to this policy in the past month. Seclusion used to be considered closing the door on a student who has escalated. It now relates to the child's perception that they are secluded. A co-regulator would have to be in the situation to monitor regulation strategies. Another change is that Division of Health and Human Services are creating a form that districts need to submit upon the use of restraint or seclusion.

Discussion about the perception of seclusion or seclusion took place.

Katherine Heck asked that Ben Moenter, Cari Coates, and Kimberly decide what direction should be pursued. Should physical contact be kept in this policy? It will likely have to go to legal for review.

The School Board Association has sent out their fall update list of policies that take major legislative changes in consideration among others.

This committee will start with those required by law.

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

Under review by School Board Committee:

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

Mike Hoyt motioned to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Tom Kirlin seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok