

**BARRE SUPERVISORY UNION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**
Barre Supervisory Union – Upstairs Conference Room
September 18, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

J. Guy Isabelle (SHS) - Chair
Jennifer Chioldi (BC) – Vice Chair
Michael Deering (BC)
Alice Farrell (BT)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:

John Pandolfo, Superintendent
Luke Aither, Assistant Principal (SHS)
Jason Derner, Assistant Director, CVCC
Erica Pearson, Assistant Principal (BTMES)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dotty Ricks (departed at 7:32 p.m.)

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Mr. Isabelle, called the Monday, September 18, 2017, meeting to order at 6:07 p.m., which was held at the Barre Supervisory Union Central Office in the Upstairs Conference room.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

Add Approval of June 19, 2017 Minutes to the October Agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 Approval of Minutes – August 21, 2017 Policy Committee Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. Chioldi, seconded by Mr. Deering, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the August 21, 2017 Policy Committee Meeting.

4. Review of BSU Policy Manual Index

A copy of the BSU Policy Manual Index (dated 09/18/17) was distributed. Mr. Pandolfo advised regarding the three policies (F9, F33, and H3) which will be put before the SU Board for Second and Final Reading (and ratification). Policies E11, F28, and G6 will be discussed this evening. The Challenge Policy (G6) has been taken out of the policy manual, as it does not relate to policy.

5. Discussion of Policies

Policy F28 – Considering potential Federal Food Guideline Changes

Mr. Pandolfo advised that he has contacted VSBA counsel regarding the Committee's concerns. The VSBA has advised that their model policy was prepared such that Federal Policy changes would not affect it. As the BSU uses a local policy drafted by the SHAC Committee, VSBA will need to perform additional research. The local policy will be reviewed by VSBA and their response should be available for the October meeting.

Policy G6 – Challenge Policy

Mr. Pandolfo advised that the Challenge Policy request originated with the SHS Librarian. The SHS library has a set of procedures, which include policy on the selection of library materials, including sensitive materials. Procedures are in existence and there is no policy needed.

It was noted that there may be a need to review and prioritize existing policies at the district level.

Mr. Pandolfo advised that he is confident that policies listed on each district schools' web site are accurate.

Policy DFB Scholarship Trust

A copy of the policy was distributed. DFB (Scholarship Awards Policy) is an SHS Policy relating to the Scholarship Trust. (DFA - Scholarship Funds Investment Policy is also an SHS policy that was rescinded on 02/02/17). A document titled 'Scholarship Funds Policy Proposal' was distributed. Mr. Aither provided an overview of the proposed policy and advised that it combines policies DFA

and DFB, and takes out the procedures. Mr. Pandolfo provided some historical information advising that the scholarship funds used to be under the direction of the school and the Board, but auditors recommended it be elsewhere, thus the formation of the Investment Trust. It was recommended that any new policy encompass all schools in the district, with distinctions where appropriate. BTMES has at least one known scholarship and there are also non-monetary awards. It is unknown what BCEMS may have for scholarships and non-monetary awards. It is not known if a policy is necessary for awards/non-monetary awards. It was reiterated that the Scholarship Trust Committee manages funds, not awards. It was noted that assurances need to be in place to see that scholarships are awarded in compliance with the requirements for each scholarship. Mr. Pandolfo suggested that a draft (in standard format) be presented at the October meeting, and after approval by the Committee, be presented to the BSU Board, as a First Reading. A review of practices at BTMES and confirmation of any BCEMS scholarships needs to occur. A new policy should distinguish between schools and awards, and include a section for non-monetary awards. The policy should be run by the VSBA prior to approval by the Committee.

Policy VSBA F33 – HIV/STI Pregnancy Prevention

A draft policy titled ‘HIV/STI and Pregnancy Prevention Policy (dated 02/03/17) was distributed. A copy of a memorandum from the Vermont Agency of Education (dated 11/22/16) titled ‘Comprehensive Sex Education and Condom Distribution Programs’ was also distributed. Mr. Aither has been performing research relating to SHS HIV/STI Pregnancy Prevention policies. SHS Policies/Procedures JHCE, JHCE-R and GBEB were rescinded by the SHS Board on 02/01/16. Mr. Pandolfo provided an overview of the memo from the AOE. SHS currently has Health and Wellness classes. Parents receive a copy of the syllabus, for classes that include sensitive issues, and can request that their children opt out of the class. Research shows that the number of high schools who distribute condoms is very low. Given the memo from the AOE, SHS may wish to look into this further. Are students informed that condoms can be obtained at Planned Parenthood (which is located a short distance from the school)? It was noted that sexual education needs to be taught to children at an earlier age. Mr. Pandolfo feels that condom distribution discussion should include discussion regarding how to convey information to students. It was suggested that a copy of the letter from the AOE be sent to parents as part of a thoughtful, educational campaign. Mr. Pandolfo has spoken with the VSBA regarding this topic. The VSBA policy was last revised in 2009. Mr. Pandolfo would like to hear more from the VSBA regarding their perspective on this topic. Discussion of adding a school based ‘health center’ was suggested. It was noted that the draft policy is in the very early stages of development and has not been reviewed by the VSBA. Mr. Pandolfo will add a copy of the AOE memorandum to each district board packet.

SHS Policy JFG (rescinded policy) – Student Interrogation

Copies of Policies Search and Seizure of Students by School Personnel (F3), Search, Seizure, and Interrogation of Students by School Personnel (F4), and Searches, Seizures, and Interrogation of Students by Law Enforcement Personnel or Other Non-school Personnel (F5) were distributed. Policies F4 and F5 are policies of the Chittenden South Supervisory Union. A copy of rescinded policy JFG – Interrogation or Searches of Students by Law Enforcement Personnel or Other Non-school Personnel was distributed. Copies of Vermont Statute 33 V.S.A. § 4915, 4915a, and 4915b were distributed. A copy of a document titled ‘Guidelines for Interviews of Students at School by Law Enforcement Authorities’ (Revised January 2015), (by the Illinois Council of School Attorneys), was also distributed.

Mr. Aither provided background information relating to questioning and interrogation of students by outside personnel. Interrogation occurs with and without parental/administrative notification. Administrators have explained school procedures to DCF, but feel that something more formal needs to occur. It may be necessary to create a ‘Memorandum of Understanding’ and/or a policy. Mr. Aither expressed the importance of the school retaining parental trust.

Mr. Aither would like to revise policy F3 to include electronic devices. Policy F4 (from CSSU), does address electronic devices and documents who, and under what conditions, may review electronic devices. Mr. Deering and, Ms. Ricks, advised they are opposed to the search of electronic devices without parental consent or search warrant. Mr. Aither advised regarding circumstances where parental notification/consent (for both searches and interrogations), can impede investigations. Though it is believed that the CSSU policy has been reviewed for legality, Mr. Pandolfo recommends seeking opinions from VSBA and school counsel.

Ms. Pearson requested a legal opinion also be sought for ‘patting down of student clothing’, and any required training relating to ‘pat down’ procedures. Ms. Ricks would like clarification regarding acceptable practices for ‘pat downs’ by both school and non-school personnel. It was noted that the SRO (school resource officer), is not considered school personnel. The SRO is involved only in matters where it is believed that criminal activity has occurred. The SRO cannot ask administrators to search any student.

Regarding policy F5, Mr. Aither advised that the SRO has a copy of the guidelines. Mr. Aither provided a brief overview of the statutes distributed and advised that DCF personnel are coming into the school to interrogate students (without parental consent). Mr. Aither wants a policy to assure that parents have assurance that non-school personnel do not have access to their children. Though a member of school personnel can act as a ‘disinterested party’, school personnel may also refuse to act as such. Mr. Aither believes that loss of parental trust may result in a child not being allowed to attend school. Ms. Ricks believes that the CSSU policy should replace ‘should’, with ‘will’ in the ‘Interrogation’ and ‘Arrest’ sections (relating to parental notification).

6. Other Business

Mr. Aither would like to add ‘Students Driving During the School Day and to School Events’ to a future agenda.

In response to a query, it was noted that SHS does not have a policy relating to public displays of affection.

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Deering, seconded by Mrs. Chioldi, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin