

**Suffield Board of Education
Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2019 at 5:30 pm
Central Office Conference Room**

Attendees: Board members Debra Dudack, Maureen Sattan (left at 6:12 pm), Jamie Drzyzga, James Mol (arrived at 5:35 pm), Sue Mercik Davis (arrived at 6:04 pm) and Superintendent Tim Van Tassel.

I. Call to Order: 5:33 pm

II. Policies for Review and Discussion:

1. **Policy #6146 - Graduation Requirements:** Subcommittee members discussed recent changes to this policy that eliminated credits for courses taken at the middle school. Superintendent Tim Van Tassel noted that recent changes to state statute did place restrictions in this area, however students are still allowed, at Board discretion, to earn one credit for courses taken during middle school. After further discussion, the subcommittee decided to recommend language to the full Board that would allow students to earn the one credit in middle school that is permitted under state statute. The subcommittee will also recommend additional small tweaks to language in this policy, including changing language from grades 9-12 to grades 7-12 for purposes of satisfying graduation requirements. This revised policy will be sent to the full Board for consideration on 30-day read. It will also remain as a standing item on future policy subcommittee agendas, to allow for ongoing discussion on topics such as online learning and learning at higher education institutions.
2. **Policy #6146.1 - Grading/Assessment System:** Subcommittee members discussed the pros and cons of allowing students to earn credits for online learning opportunities, transfer courses, and learning at higher education institutions. They also discussed the pros and cons of allowing such credits to be factored into class rank. The subcommittee decided to recommend that the full Board move forward with allowing credit to be earned for ASL courses that will now be taken online by high school students due to the resignation of the district's ASL teacher. The subcommittee also decided to recommend that transfer credits be better defined in the policy. The revised policy will be sent to the full Board for consideration on 30-day read. It will also remain as a standing item on future policy subcommittee agendas, to allow for ongoing discussion related to credits earned for online learning opportunities, transfer courses, and learning at higher education institutions, as well as discussion as to whether such courses should factor into class rank.
3. **Policy #5145.511 - Sexual Abuse Prevention Program:** Subcommittee members discussed different language options for this policy, which is a required policy under state statute. The language recommended to the full Board is based on suggested language from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education. The policy will now go to the full Board for consideration on 30-day read.

4. **Policy #6172.2 - Preschool Students with Disabilities:** Subcommittee members discussed different language options for this policy, which is a required policy under state statute. The language recommended to the full Board is based on suggested language from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education. The policy will now go to the full Board for consideration on 30-day read.
5. **Policy #6172 - Alternate Education Programs:** Subcommittee members discussed different language options for this policy, which is a required policy under state statute. The language recommended to the full Board is based on suggested language from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education. The policy will now go to the full Board for consideration on 30-day read.
6. **Policy #5144.4 - Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students:** Subcommittee members decided to table this policy for discussion at the next subcommittee meeting, due to time constraints.
7. **Bylaw #9230 - New Board Member Orientation:** Subcommittee members discussed adding this bylaw. The bylaw will now move to the full Board for consideration on 30-day read.

III. Adjournment

The subcommittee meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.