

MINUTES

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sue Cohen (chair of Policy)  
Rita Gedansky (chair of Curriculum & member of Policy)  
Christopher Collier (Policy, until 6:40)  
Thomas Hurley (Policy & Curriculum, at 5:30)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Maria Papaluca (P&C), Vincent J. Carrano (P&C), Howard Schachter (P), Joseph Abbatiello (C)

*Also Present:* John Brady, Pua Ford

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A joint meeting of the Policy Committee and Curriculum Committee was held in the Superintendent's office at 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday, September 28, 2006.

1. **Call to Order:** The members came to order at 5:20 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
3. **Continue Review of Policy Series 6000 (Instruction), with Focus on Curriculum Design, Revision and Evaluation**

a. Regulation 6141(a)-(d), Regarding a Curriculum Steering Committee

This regulation follows Policy #6141 (Instruction: Curriculum Design Development). Both currently exist in our Policy Manual, but the Steering Committee described in the regulation has not met for many years. John Brady said that it is needed and used as an example the Literacy Initiative that was developed over the summer.

The Steering Committee would be large, having about 20 members, with representatives from administration and staff from all three schools as well as one from the high school Student Government. It would be broken into several subcommittees as needed. It would include Board and parent liaisons. Superintendents from the elementary districts would be invited to become or designate *ex officio* members to the Steering Committee. Committee members worked over selection and duties of membership and chairmanship.

While the district is not large enough to have the specific position of Director of Instruction, the current Director of Curriculum and Staff Development covers the job. Since the change from junior high to middle schools, there are no curriculum coordinators for the lower grades. If the Board were to approve "subject leaders," stipended faculty positions, those people would be part of the Steering Committee.

Recommendations from the Steering Committee would go to appropriate Board committees (e.g., Curriculum or Finance) before going on to the full Board.

*Discussion*

Christopher Collier pressed the need for maintaining a vision, a larger picture for the district curriculum. Proposing new courses based only on current interests of faculty and students should not be enough for their approval. Goals and mission statement should be kept in mind. John Brady related how one teacher's course proposal was not approved by his peers in that Steering Committee in another district.

Christopher Collier further asked whether the district should consider a choice between more new courses or smaller class size. Our teachers contract currently states maximum class

sizes for the various levels; the upper level classes are usually the largest (27-28). Such class size clauses are not common in other districts.

John Brady cited the STARS study of class size in disadvantaged elementary schools in Tennessee; he believes there is no hard evidence of class size affecting outcomes in other economic circumstances or secondary schools. Tom Hurley recalled a study of class size in Japanese schools.

[Christopher Collier was excused from the meeting at 6:40 p.m.]

b. Other policies

- 6141.42 – Student volunteers in community service. Omitted. This should be encouraged but not made necessary for graduation. Our students already engage in prominent community service without a policy.
- 6142 – Family Life and Sexual Education. Deleted.
- 6141.5 – Advanced College Placement. Tabled for next meeting. John Brady will discuss this policy with staff first.

**4. Adjournment**

By consensus, the committee adjourned at 7:49 p.m. Next Policy Committee meeting will be scheduled later.

Respectfully submitted,

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Pua Ford, recording clerk