

Frank Todisco, Board Chairman called the special virtual meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Members present were Farouk Rajab, Gordon Lord, Craig Esposito and Jack Morehouse. Members Absent: Alisa Morrison and Heidi Simmons, Board of Ed Secretary. Also present were, Ana de Oliveira, Recording Secretary, Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent of Schools and Mary Anne Butler, Assistant Superintendent, Jen Bausch, Secondary Curriculum Specialist, Marika Heughins, Stonington Middle School Reading Interventionist, and Teaching Coach and Jean Bradanini, Stonington High School Instructional Coordinator.

Curriculum Review – First readings – Mary Anne Butler, gave an overview of the Grade 8 English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Citizens in Action, Stonington High School Band, Honors Band, Honors Jazz Ensemble and Grade 6-8 Physical Education curriculum. Jen Bausch, Marika Heughins and Jean Bradanini further answered the Board's questions regarding the curriculum.

Policy Review 9000s – Chairman Frank Todisco explained that the 9000 Policy Series pertains directly to the Board of Education. He noted that all Board members received a binder containing the entire series of both the current Board of Education approved policies, suggested CAFE model language policies, and updated drafts that Mrs. Butler drafted for the Board's review. Chairman Frank Todisco proposed that the series be split into sections with two or three Board members grouped to review each section. He proposed having each section be completed in thirds in April, May and June. He commented this would allow time for the Board to review, draft and bring to the full Board for approval, since these policies govern what the Board of Education does. His goal is to have the series completed in time for the new Board coming in November. Craig Esposito voiced his concern regarding some of the CAFE policies and their language concerning removal of Board members. He believes it is against town statutes and is concerned of how many other CAFE policies follow this pattern. Farouk Rajab asked for an electronic copy of the CAFE policies. Mr. Esposito asked if this procedure could be turned over to a third party or if the Board could get help going through them. Mrs. Butler assured that most of the policies are easy to review and revise. Chairman Frank Todisco will meet with Mrs. Butler to identify those policies that need Board discussion and those that require few changes of a word or two. Mr. Rajab offered to take a section of the policies for review. Dr. Van Riley noted in the past the Leadership team has taken sections of other policy series to review and revise and this method seemed to work well. He added he receives emails from CAFE regarding updates to policies and forwards them to the appropriate staff for review, along with Neal Curland who has taken on the policy review process now.

Policy 5141 – Student Health Services/School District Medical Advisor – Mary Anne Butler reported this is a policy that we do not have a current policy of. Gloria Murray-DeBiasi drafted one a few years back but since then it has had some updates. It is on the agenda for the Board's review. Dr. Riley explained Allison Van Etten and Mrs. Murray-DeBiasi based this policy on CAFE's standards and we need to have this policy in place. Chairman Frank Todisco asked if there are any changes to CAFE or is Mrs. Murray-DeBiasi suggesting it is in line with what should be implemented. Dr. Riley will get that information to the Board before the April meeting so that it is ready for approval. Board members did not have any questions regarding the policy which will be on the Board agenda for the April 8th meeting.

Board Comments/Concerns - Farouk Rajab thanked Dr. Riley and administration for the opening of schools and for the advisory council. He noted he watched the meeting on YouTube and there was good conversation and thanked the committee for their work and also thanked the teachers. Chairman Frank Todisco also thanked Dr. Riley and administration for the partnership with Ledge Light for opening a COVID vaccine in town at the high school. He recognized we are one community and this is how we pull together as one.

Adjournment

The following motion was made by Farouk Rajab and seconded by Craig Esposito.

Motion 1: To adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

All: Aye


Heidi Simmons, Board Secretary