

BARRE UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Via Video Conference – Google Meet
April 26, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Parker, Chair (BT)
Tim Boltin (BC)
Andrew McMichael (BC Community Member)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Abigayle Smith, Vice-Chair (BC)
Jon Valsangiacomo – (BT Community Member)

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Spaulding

ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF PRESENT:

David Wells, Superintendent – joined at 6:13 p.m.
Luke Aither, SHS Assistant Principal

GUESTS:

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Ms. Parker, called the Monday, April 26, 2021, meeting to order at 5:46 p.m., which was held via video conference – Google Meet.

2. Additions and/or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting

Mr. Aither advised that on 04/18/21 he forwarded policies F26 (Security Cameras) and B22 (Public Complaints About Personnel Policy) to the Superintendent to be vetted by counsel. Mr. Aither has not received a response. Mr. Aither believes that the decisions for him to have the policies legally vetted (under Agenda Items 6.4.1 and 7.1) were discussed again later in the meeting and that it was agreed that the Superintendent would pursue legal vetting of policies. The video will be reviewed to look for this information and it will be added to the Minutes if it was included in discussion. Approval of the Minutes will be tabled until the next meeting and the video will be reviewed.

5. New Business

5.1 Review of BUUSD Policy Manual Index

A copy of the BUUSD Policy Manual Index dated 04/19/21 was distributed.
The list presented does not include any actionable items for this evening and is being presented for informational purposes.

5.2 Review of VSBA Model Policy Index

A copy of the VSBA Model Policy Index was distributed.
Mr. Aither advised that VSBA has updated Policy B5 Employee Unlawful Harassment and he believes the updated policy is more current than the currently adopted policy. This policy will be added to a future agenda.

5.3 Policies to Discuss

Copies of policies referenced in Agenda Items 5.3.1 through 5.3.3 were distributed.

5.3.1 Security Cameras Policy (F26) (Recommended)

Mr. Aither advised that the VSBA policy is a nice template, but he does not believe it will work well at the BUUSD. Policies related to security cameras vary widely throughout the state. There are 3 related policies; the VSBA Model Policy (F26), Policy F41 (an older version from the high school), and the version of F26 that is included in the packet. Mr. Aither recommends rescinding policy F41 and moving forward with a local version of F26. The local version of this policy needs to be vetted by legal counsel. It was

suggested that the policy be amended to stress that video surveillance assists with student safety. Other minor modifications were discussed and agreed upon. VSBA Model Policy F26 is not included in the packet. The policy in the packet labeled F26 is locally written. Mr. Aither provided additional information relating to the policy, including privacy rights, levels of viewing (live monitoring vs. viewing of previously recorded video), retention and storage of video surveillance, and sharing of video surveillance with law enforcement to investigate criminal activity (sometimes this requires a warrant). **It was agreed that Mr. Aither will amend the policy as discussed, forward the policy to Mr. Wells for his review and review by legal counsel. This policy, once amended and reviewed by legal counsel, will be presented to the Policy Committee for a final review (in June), prior to being sent to the Board for a First Reading.**

Clarification was provided regarding statute for policy adoption. A policy can only be approved/adopted with one reading if it is warned 10 days prior to a Board Meeting. As BUUSD Agendas do not get posted 10 days in advance, every policy requires two readings at the Board level. A First Reading, and a Second and Final Reading with adoption. If a First Reading does not get approved, the policy goes back to Committee and the Board approval process needs to start over.

5.3.2 Student Activities – Elementary Policy (C22) (Recommended)

Mr. Aither recommends not adopting Policy C22, as he believes student activities can all be covered under Policy C23. C22 has never been adopted by the BUUSD. It was noted that the Board should take official action to go on record to accept the Committee's recommendation not to adopt a policy. Lengthy discussion was held on policy C23 (Agenda Item 5.3.3), including discussion of eligibility for participation, and faculty/staff presence/responsibilities at non-sponsored clubs and activities. The Committee agreed that the changes to this policy do not need review by legal counsel.

On a motion by Mr. McMichael, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend to the Board, that it vote not to adopt Policy C22 (Student Activities – Elementary).

5.3.3 Student Clubs and Activities – Secondary School Policy (C23) (Recommended)

Discussion was held under Agenda Item 5.3.2.

On a motion by Mr. McMichael, seconded by Mr. Boltin, the Committee unanimously voted to direct Mr. Aither to make the agreed upon amendments, share the revised version with Mr. Wells and Mrs. Gilbert, and to have Policy C23 (Student Clubs and Activities – Secondary School) presented to the Board for a First Reading.

6. Old Business

6.1 Public Complaints About Personnel and Instructional Materials Policy (B22) (Recommended)

A copy of the policy was distributed.

Mr. Aither advised that much wordsmithing was performed to the policy, mainly rearranging wording. Mr. Aither provided an overview of the new editing procedures. It was noted that the policy title presented, has been altered from the VSBA Model Policy to include “& Instructional Materials” (which should be underlined as added wording) and is missing the word ‘Public’. Mr. Aither provided a brief overview of the policy. Brief discussion was held, including whether or not instructional materials should be included in this policy, as there is a separate policy (D32) relating to instructional materials. It was agreed that instructional materials should not be referenced in this policy. It was agreed that revisions to policy B22 do not need to be reviewed by legal counsel and that the Committee does not need to review the amended version prior to presentation to the Board.

On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mr. McMichael, the Committee unanimously voted to have Mr. Aither make amendments as discussed, and forward Policy B22 to Mr. Wells for presentation to the Board as a First Reading.

6.2 Policy Priority Review

An undated document titled ‘Policy Review Priority’ was distributed.

Mr. Aither advised regarding the process used for prioritization. The Committee should review the list and decide which policies should be added to future agendas.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Future Agenda Items

Regular agenda items: Review of BUUSD Index and Review of VSBA Index

- C29 – District Equity Policy (Recommended) – May
- C44 – Anti-Racism Policy (new Local Policy) - May
- B5 – Employee Unlawful Harassment (Required) – June
- B21 – Professional Development (Recommended) – June
- D32 – Selection of Instruction Materials and Sensitive Issues (Consider) – June
- F26 – Security Cameras (Recommended) – June

- Review of Prioritization List - June

Discussion was held regarding adding C7 (Student Attendance), and C42 (Searches, Seizures, and Interrogation of Students by Law Enforcement or Other Non-School Personnel) to a future agenda.

Given recent discussions (by the Finance Committee) and procedures being written regarding Recognition Awards and Retirement Gifts, should F20 (Fiscal Management & General Financial Accountability), and F24 (Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Procurement) be added to a future agenda, or should the Committee discuss the creation of a new policy on this issue (Recognition Awards and Retirement Gifts). The new procedures may fall under existing policies and/or may or may not require a policy. The Superintendent recommends that the Committee not pursue a new policy at this time, as the Finance Committee is continuing to work on procedures.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Monday, May 17, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via video conference.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Boltin, seconded by Mr. McMichael the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Poulin