Policy Sub
Tuesday, May 13, 2014
School Administration Building

Opened at 5:38PM. Attendees: Matt Stuck; Jay O'Hara, Steve Lamarche, Melissa Stafford, Cyndy Beaudoin, Sharon Moore, C. Ryan Barber (*Cape Cod Times*).

1. Accepted Minutes from 1/14/14.
2. Discuss BMS Dress for Success Program Proposal. BMS BBTLT presented their work investigating a 'Dress for Success Program' at BMS. The Student Handbook would need to be revised and approved by SchComm as it does each year. The current handbook dress code is prohibitive, not proscriptive, difficult to enforce & time-consuming distraction from learning environment. The 7th and 8th grade Career Day, at which students 'Dressed for Success' was extremely well-received by staff and students. The Lawrence School (grade 7-8) in Falmouth was used as a model. Lawrence School experience: cafeteria behavior seemed to improve, school community improvement, supply closet stocked with clean and recycled clothing, focus on college and career readiness. Pushback from a community activist. The BBTLT polled staff, students and parents to learn support levels; staff (48), & parents (199) were extremely positive; students had some reservations. Cost seems to be very inexpensive relative to the costs for other pre-teen and teen fashions. More public outreach will be necessary, including a hearing held at BMS, prior to implementing any changes. Motion: To support the Dress for Success program to the SchComm as part of the BMS 2014-15 Student Handbook change beginning by attending a public hearing before June 4th. Motion approved.
3. Review Class Size Policy. BEA contract includes language surrounding class sizes in the aggregate (40 teachers per 1000, and so on) by grade level; BPS meets or exceeds the CBA ratios. Neither MASC nor MASS has an exemplar for a class size policy. Class size may complicate fiscal planning and contractual issues. At this time Policy Sub does not recommend pursuing a class size policy.
4. Fingerprint-based CHRI Checks. Steve handed out a DESE policy (reflects the law requiring fingerprint checks and a School Policy.) New staff must be printed by 1 July, all others within 3 years & every 7 years after. As with licensing requirements, the cost must be borne by the employee ($35-55). Policy Sub will review in anticipation of considering a policy in advance of the 2014-15 SY. MASS and MASC have not yet recommended policies re: fingerprinting.
5. Student Discipline Regulations. A new discipline law will be in effect for students as of July 1st, 2014. Steve shared a MASS-drafted legal note summarizing the law and its likely impacts. In short, districts must do more around expanding 'due process,' including additional comms w/ parents, before a child is suspended (opportunity for a hearing before suspension takes effect, and so on). More to follow at the next meeting.
6. Discuss proposal for policy regarding disposal of unneeded materials and equipment. Reviewed several district policies surrounding policy disposal. Has come up largely due to the transitioning of the HS wood shop to the R & D Studio. Under MGL 30B, districts are required to have policies for items over $5K. The law requires that town Boards of Selectmen also approve property disposal policies.
7. Reviewed Policy IG. Tabled to next meeting.
8. Future agenda items: IG, Property Disposal, Student Discipline Law, Fingerprinting Requirement.

Adjourned at 6:38PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 6/17/14 at 5:30.