

MINUTES

Policy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 27, 2021; 5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Committee Members Present:

Tikva Rose, Chair
George Bauer
David Butkus

Absent:

Jim Crocker

Also Present:

Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Mark Sommaruga, Attorney for the Board

Patricia Paige, Board Clerk
Pat DiSarro, Communications Specialist (Zoom)

I. Call to order

Ms. Rose called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. Covid 19 Vaccination Policy and Exemptions

A policy has been drafted pursuant to Executive Order No. 13G, which, in part states, that all individuals working in a public or non-public PreK-12 school or Child Care Facility (“covered workers”), and any contract workers in these facilities must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, partially vaccinated with one dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine regimen and have a scheduled second dose appointment, prior to September 27, 2021; or be exempted from the vaccine requirement for reasons of medical contraindication or firmly held religious or spiritual belief.

The policy, with a few edits by Attorney Sommaruga, is expected to be brought before the entire Board for final approval at their next meeting, though the district has been adhering to the order without the formality of a policy and provides for weekly testing for those who wish to participate. Acting Superintendent Wayne McAllister provided the latest staff vaccine percentages; the district is 100% compliant with the order.

III. **Visitor Policy**

In an attempt to attain normalcy under the constraints of Covid, Ms. Rose surveyed the committee members and administration for their thoughts on allowing visitors back into the buildings, even if on a limited basis.

Mr. McAllister shared the latest Covid positivity rates, which depicts the Bethlehem community at 10%; surrounding towns are significantly lower. Given the high rate, he was not a proponent of opening the buildings at this time; staff and student safety was also taken into consideration. Mr. McAllister would like to see the rate down to 1-2% before allowing visitors into the buildings.

There was also discussion on whether or not to open some of the buildings, at the very minimum, to which equity was raised as a possible concern; Bethlehem Elementary parents were not allowed to access the building for open house.

A policy will be drafted and reviewed and ready to go at the appropriate time. The policy will be drafted to include language that differentiates between volunteers and visitors.

IV. **Controversial Topics**

Attorney Sommaruga was asked to draft a policy to ensure that the materials used in a classroom do not promote one's personal views, but rather follow the curriculum which is being instructed and that controversial topics are being presented without prejudice and age appropriate.

V. **Privilege of the Floor**

Patrick DiSarro

Spoke to controversial topics; where does one draw the line?

VI. **Adjournment**

A motion was made by George Bauer and seconded by David Butkus to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Paige
Board Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Patricia Paige, Board Clerk