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Minutes

Meeting of the Region 14 Board of Education
Policy Committee

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

06:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ctreg14-org.zoom.us/j/95957661582>

Meeting ID: 959 5766 1582

Phone: (646) 558-8656

Committee Members Present:

Tikva Rose, Chair

Jim Crocker

George Bauer

David Butkus

Absent:

N/A

Also Present:

Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations

Sandy Snabaitis, Nurse, Nonnewaug High School

Patricia Paige, Board Clerk

Patricia DiSarro, Communications Specialist (Zoom)

Call to order

Ms. Rose called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Committee Member, George Bauer, began the meeting by providing the group with a brief recap. Previously, the committee was performing a review of lower priority policies termed “packet four”. The initial assessment was completed by CAFE and had been done in conjunction with the board’s attorney whereby a review of all the policies was undertaken and categorized as urgent, moderate, general updates or considerations.

There were four topics slated for this evening’s meeting;

- Use of School Facilities (Policy 1330) and the related fee structure;
- School Volunteers (1212);
- Fields Trips; and
- Health Assessments and Immunizations (Policy 5141.3)

Discussions began with the later. Ms. Sandy Snabaitis, the school nurse at Nonnewaug High School, was available and was there for clarification with regards to Policy 5141.3 speaking specifically to verbiage in the 5th paragraph, “Parents wishing their children exempted or excused from health assessments must request such exemption, on religious grounds, to the Superintendent of Schools in writing. This request must be signed by the parent/guardian”.

Ms. Snabaitis was aware of the immunization exemption for religious justifications, but not health assessments for the same purpose. This was the first year she received an exemption form citing Section 10-208 of the Connecticut General Statutes requesting such.

The policy, in its current form, does not address how the school nurses would handle a situation for a student who is exempt from medical examinations, nor does it speak to how to protect nurses from liability if they are not able to provide additional assistance because of the exemption.

Mr. Bauer will have Attorney Sommaruga review and assess if applicable and ask to provide some guidance on how to handle this type of occurrence.

Discussions moved to the Covid 19 vaccinations for students and how it came to be that the school district is involved. Who is offering and administering? Several members were surprised that discussions were not brought to the full board for initial approval in light of what occurred four months ago. Why is Region 14 the communication tool for the Pomperaug Health District?

Ms. Tanguay explained that Superintendents are being encouraged to share the information regarding the clinics and it was highly recommended that they do so.

Building Use and Fee Schedule

Ms. Tina Tanguay, the Director of Finance and Operations, prepared a fee schedule for the committee for review and consideration. Although there are not many, for profit organizations requesting facility usage, there is a need to have a fee schedule in place. Some of the monies collected will be set aside for future repairs. It was suggested that the fee schedule be addressed and updated annually.

There was also discussion regarding utilizing a rate card and a recommendation made to raise the liability/property damage insurance from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000. Ms. Tanguay noted that she will follow up with the insurance company. There was an additional request to add field lighting to the fee structure.

Ms. Tanguay indicated that she would like to have something in place for July 1st.

The schedule will be brought to the full board at their meeting on Monday, May 3rd for a first read.

School Volunteers and Field Trips

Ms. Rose asked to have the policy placed on the agenda as it relates to Covid. Are people being allowed back in the building and with the number of end-of-year events, how would the district proceed? Ms. Tanguay suggested waiting to see what the state guidelines dictate. May 19th is the official date that restrictions can be lifted. The committee would like an update at their regular meeting scheduled for May 18th from Acting Superintendent Wayne McAllister as to what would occur in district on May 19th.

Several committee members made an inquiry if the district staff followed what was outlined in the policy noted as 1212 with regards to background checks for volunteers. Ms. Tanguay noted that the district does perform background checks, as mandated by the state. Discussions ensued regarding the definition of a volunteer and who the policy actually addressed. Mr. Bauer suggested looking at other school districts' policy to see if they distinguish between volunteers and visitors and what background reviews would be performed for each category.

Adjournment

A motion was made by David Butkus and seconded by George Bauer to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m.; all in favor; none opposed; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Paige". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Patricia Paige
Board Clerk

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