

MINUTES

Policy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 16, 2022; 6:00 p.m.
Mitchell Elementary School/Flanders Room

Committee Members Present:

Tikva Rose, Chair
Jim Crocker
George Bauer
David Butkus

Absent:

N/A

Also Present:

Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent
Tina Tanguay, Director of Finance and Operations
Donna Marcinek, Director of Student Services
Mark Sommaruga, Attorney for the Board (via Zoom)

Patricia Paige, Board Clerk

I. Call to order

Tikva Rose called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Masks

Governor Lamont's statewide mandate requiring that masks be worn in school will disappear on February 28th. The COVID vaccination/testing for unvaccinated staff is no longer required starting on February 15. Wayne McAllister, Acting Superintendent, heard from many individuals, who reached out with their comments and concerns surrounding this issue; all were received and appreciated.

Region 14 currently has policy in place for the Operations of Schools While Addressing Covid 19. This policy authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to make modifications regarding protocols, subject to further action by the Board at a subsequently-convened meeting. Mr. McAllister stated that he believes in freedom of choice and will recommend to the board, at their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, to remove the mask mandate in school and have them as optional; however, students will still be required to wear masks on school buses under the current federal mandate. He also stated that with freedom comes responsibility of respect for the choices of others.

III. Title IX Policies

Two new policies were brought before the committee for review, which addressed Title IX Sexual Harassment for Personnel and Students. Attorney Sommaruga and Ms. Marcinek were available for additional comments. The committee will review and bring to the full board as a first read at their meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

IV. Food Policy

A question was posed on whether or not food from outside sources could be brought into schools. The board has adopted the state's Healthy Food Certification, which outlines specific nutritional guidelines; it is voted on by the board annually and has been policy for some time. The state audits the program to ensure adherence. Snacks are available for students; however, a supply chain issue persists. Parents will be notified when classroom celebrations can resume.

V. Visitors in School

The district does not allow for visitors in schools under the current Covid policy. With the anticipation of mask removal in the coming week, Mr. McAllister stated that he would advise for a period of time without the masks before allowing outside persons into the buildings.

VI. Field Trips

Field trips at all grade levels are occurring. If the Board agrees with the Acting Superintendent's recommendation to remove masks, participating students and staff will still be required to adhere to mask guidelines established at field trip sites.

The background check procedure for volunteers and visitors was revisited. The volunteer information/forms will be disseminated again to parents after Tuesday's board meeting. The district utilizes the Raptor system for the occasional visitor.

VII. Elementary Report Cards

Tikva Rose proposed reviewing the elementary report card template; the number grades are not reflecting achievement and the language is obsolete. Mr. McAllister indicated that the Director of Teaching and Learning is currently looking at the document; Mr. Bauer noted that when the revamping process begins, the task will be brought before the entire board; there is no need to create policy.

VIII. Privilege of the Floor

Thea Alfes

Concerned about the jurisdiction the federal government has over state

Kathy Velkey

Asked the board to get rid of the cages; concerns about the 6' social distancing and the damage the government has done to the children.

IX. Adjourn

Tikva Rose made a motion; seconded by David Butkus; to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 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, looped initial "P".

Board Clerk

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