

**MINUTES**  
**Policy Committee**

Monday, January 11, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94081490984>

Meeting ID: 940 8149 0984

Phone: (646) 558-8656

**Committee Members Present:**

Janet Morgan

Jim Crocker

Pam Zmek

**Absent:**

George Bauer

**Non-Participating Board Member:**

Carol Ann Brown

**Also Present:**

Dr. Joseph Olzacki, Superintendent

Mark Harutunian

Patricia Paige, Board Clerk

Attorney Mark Sommaruga

**Call to order**

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

**Discussion of Policy:**

Attorney Sommaruga developed a draft Covid 19 Vaccination policy for the committee to review and discuss. The current version establishes the message that there is a serious risk from Covid and presumes that there is a general mandate to be vaccinated. It was also developed to address both students and staff members.

At this time, the committee felt it was inappropriate to mandate students and would address student vaccination when it was proper to do so and when a vaccine was developed and studied for that particular group. The focus of their discussions addressed employees and what were the options if

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they choose not to be vaccinated. Can the district accommodate that person? What would that look like? Were they comfortable having them in a classroom?

Some expressed difficulty in supporting a policy that mandates. Others expressed concerns having students in a room where a teacher was not vaccinated.

The policy speaks to exemptions for disability and religious practice or belief. Attorney Sommagura suggested a third category for those who can be vaccinated, but choose not to and the outlined the steps for that classification.

A suggestion was brought forward to have doctors explain the pros and cons of the vaccine with hopes of enticing more staff to be vaccinated than not.

In summary:

Attorney Mark Sommaruga, Mark Harutunian and Dr. Olzacki were asked to revise the policy and remove any language as it relates to students.

The word "mandate" will be removed and replaced with tempered language, such as encouraged or recommended.

A third provision for those who opt not to be vaccinated and accompanying protocols to be included.

A meeting to review and discuss the revised policy is planned for Monday, January 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Would like to formally present the policy at the regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, the 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Jim Crocker, seconded by Pamela Zmek to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 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

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