

MINUTES

Policy Committee

Monday, January 18, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99665289433>

Meeting ID: 996 6528 9433

Phone: (646) 558-8656

Present:

Janet Morgan
Jim Crocker
Pamela Zmek
George Bauer

Non-Participating Board Member:

Carol Ann Brown

Also Present:

Dr. Olzacki, Superintendent
Attorney Mark Sommaruga
Mark Harutunian, Covid 19 Liaison
Tina Tanguay, Assistant Director of Finance and Operations
Patricia Paige, Board Clerk
Pat DiSarro, Communications Specialist

Call to Order:

Janet Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Draft Covid 19 Policy – Continued Discussions:

Attorney Mark Sommaruga was asked to review his edits from the last meeting of the Policy Committee held on January 11th. One change addressed staff members who plan not to be vaccinated. Those wishing to be excused from receiving the COVID-19 vaccination may do so, according to the conditions outlined in the policy under each of the categories; Disability, Religious Practice or Belief and a new category, *Otherwise Exempted by the Superintendent*.

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The added category was devised because some of the committee members, though they felt strongly that staff members be vaccinated, opposed *mandating* them to do so. However, it was written in a way that if the board members change their mind in the future and wish to mandate, that category can be easily removed.

Discussions ensued on how to address a situation where as for example, a percentage of teachers, chose not to be vaccinated. Who will have the responsibility of monitoring that those individuals are following the proper protocols i.e. weekly testing as put forth in the policy? Some suggested that building administrators, under the direction of the Superintendent, assume that task.

It will be important to have knowledge of those staff members who opted out for monitoring purposes. Conversations were had regarding the use of medical presenters speaking on the benefits of the vaccine. If staff members still did not wish to be vaccinated, they would be asked to sign an opt out form as a means of tracking and follow up.

Members of the committee felt that it is important that staff members not be singled out if they did not receive the vaccine. They do not want to create a divisive environment. Mr. Bauer added that the current protocols, i.e. wearing masks, would not be relaxed and would remain in place even for those who did receive the vaccination.

The changes were recapped with Attorney Sommaruga and aside from several minor grammar corrections were noted as:

On page 4, section B, 1st sentence

Change the language to read

The Superintendent shall “provide additional resources” to engage.....

On page 4, section D

To include “add at least weekly testing”

Mr. Bauer was asked to disseminate the revised policy to all committee members to allow for final approval before sending out to full board. Anticipate a first read at tomorrow night’s BoE meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Paige
Board Clerk

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

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