

Minutes of the Policy Committee of the Board of Education
Regional School District 14 www.ctreg.org
Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Start: 5:44pm End: 7:00pm

In attendance were: Maryanne Van Aken, John Chapman, George Bauer and Pam Zmek arrived at 6:00pm. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dr. Anna Cutaia, Carol Ann Brown, Kim Culkin, Woodbury resident Paula Paolino, and BOE Clerk, Natascha Schwartz.

The meeting was called to order at 5:44pm

John Chapman requested to add a motion to add policy 1312 to the agenda. Seconded by George Bauer. Motion carried.

Dr. Anna went over the following policies forward as a 1st read to the BOE:

- 3281 School Fundraiser – Dr. Anna recommended using CABE’s sample New Milford’s policy as it’s quite specific with a few minor adjustments.
- 3511 – Compliance with 504 regulations - Chrissy Fensore suggesting to make small change from PPT to 504 team and 504 meeting and to check with CABE moving forward.
- 4118.211 – retaliation & whistle blowing - Dr. Anna recommended to be adopted as stated (page 2 & 3).
- 4134 – Tutoring - Need tutoring policy in place. Committee went over proper wording to change the CABE sample policy.
- 4222 – Teacher Aids/Paraprofessionals – new policy and to add wording in the first line as recommended by the Superintendent.
- 4222.1 – Title 1 Paraprofessionals – not being added as we do not have Title 1 paraprofessionals.
- 5112.4 – Disenrollment – recommends keeping sample policy as is.
- 5114.12 – Student Handbooks – to add wording to the last sentence to read: “The handbook shall be made available to students and facilities no later than the first week of each school year and to new students when they enroll”.
- 5122 – Assigning Student to a Teacher & classes in Grades K-12. Changed some language. Removed 1st line and last line of the 1st paragraph.
- 5141.27 – Use of Automatic External Defibrillators - Dr. Anna recommended sample policy with slight change in language. To use R14’s internal form.
- 5141.28 – Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention - recommend optional language and adopt the rest of the policy. To verify with Ms. Greene regarding appendix 1.

- 1312 – Public Complaints - Mr. Chapman advised that this is specifically as it related to public complaints and wanted to address 2 issues:
 - A) State Statute CGS10-238 clarification - Question is regarding the state statute CGS10-238 which is referenced in our policies for public petitions. Discussions were had with CABA and our legal counsel to obtain a written legal opinion from CABA as to if this statute applies to a regional school district as well as a municipal school district. Based on discussion with legal counsel, CABA is not comfortable giving a written opinion and asked us to defer to district legal counsel. Based on discussions with both CABA and District counsel advised that due to the express wording it applies only to Boards of Education for municipalities and not for regions. The education statutes were revised in or around 1978 to substitute school district for town and to make changed where local and regional districts needed to be differentiated. This statute was not amended to add language of local and regional thus the rationale behind the interpretation of the statute.
 - B) The goal of policy 1312 is to provide members of the public with guidance in process for proper channels of communication of appeal for complaints for which specific resolutions are provided. It is a suggested reference, but not a required one. The policy is a method of a municipal BOE to allow the public to seek to be heard but not an exclusive avenue. Mr. Chapman looked at the reference policy of Region 5 and it mirrors concerns in a typical chain of resolution. Region 5's reference policy states that there are four ways to get a hearing from BOE:
 - Residency is being challenged by the district
 - Transport disputes not resolved
 - expulsion,
 - District doesn't allow a student to enroll

The reference to 10-238 is not substantive and is not a legal proceeding. It is at the BOE's discretion in deciding to take or not take action.

Mr. Chapman asked the committee if we amend policy to remove the reference to the 10-238 or leave it in. Ms. Van Aken stated that if 10-238 pertains to municipalities, then she believes that there isn't any point in keeping it in. She also stated that she will respect what the committee decides and legal counsel. Ms. Zmek recommended to remove it. Mr. Chapman recommended that the committee modify to strike the reference of 10-238 from the policy. To be sent to the BOE for a 1st read for next regular meeting.

Public comment – Ms. Paolino had several comments including referencing the privilege of the floor part of the regular BOE meetings. She believes that with some of the more complex issues people have raised during public comment that people are being cut off and doesn't believe that 3 mins is enough. She also stated from BOE minutes from quite a few years ago, that CABA came in to talk about how to conduct a BOE meeting and that one of the suggestions brought up was to if it was something that was more involved, that the BOE would answer the following week/BOE meeting. She believes that the BOE has not been consistent in doing this as a practice. Mr. Chapman responded that in certain circumstances it is a challenge to have the answers. Ms. Paolino said that many times people will ask her what the answers were to her questions and she said that she'd rather refer them to the minutes rather than having to be the spokesperson. Ms. Paolino is looking for consistency and suggests that have full BOE to review the questions and have them answered publicly. She would like to have it put as an agenda item on the following meeting for the full BOE to discuss. Mr. Chapman said that he would give it consideration and mentioned that some of the lengthier questions require getting all of the facts together and requires a lot more involvement on

many occasions in order to make a full and thorough response that addresses all of the questions completely. Ms. Paolino was in agreement and is just asking for the information to be made available to the public for consistency.

Ms. Paolino also pointed out that some districts use the CAFE policy book right online and that right in that policy it states that 10-238 that no member of the public will be denied the right to petition the BOE. She feels that the mere fact that our BOE decided to take the verbiage that was most advantageous to us is concerning. Mr. Chapman advised that the verbiage was not selected based on reviewing all of them.

Ms. Paolino wanted to know if the BOE files any budget information to the towns to which MR. Chapman responded that he will look into it, but that the region does submit the audits to the towns at the end of the fiscal year.

Lastly she wanted to know if state statute 10-222 applies to Region 14.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "N. Schwartz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Natascha Z. Schwartz

Regional School District 14 Board Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Natascha Z. Schwartz, Board Clerk, 5/22/2018